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ENG 1002G-009: Composition and Literature

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This is a course dedicated to reading, discussing, and writing about literature. We’ll be working with the book, *The Story and Its Writer*, which is a pretty decent collection of short stories from around the world, some old others new, a bunch of documentary and background pieces about the various writers and the issues they deal with, and some useful suggestions about what to look for when we read and write about short fiction. I’d also like us to think in general throughout the semester about the place of writing and storytelling in our lives today, so along with some papers directly about things you have read, I also ask you to do some personal and creative writing, some of which will be shared with the class as a whole.

Rules and regulations:

1. This is a discussion class, and participation and attendance count a lot. I expect people to be here most, if not all the time. I expect people to have done the reading, and come to class with a couple of opinions or observations or questions ready to be raised. I expect people to take part in the ongoing conversation of the class to the degree that they are comfortable. Your final grade will be based around 50% on the level of your class involvement.

2. Most of the papers for this class will be fairly short, 2 single spaced pages or so, and need to be turned in when I ask for them. If something comes up and you can’t make a deadline, talk to me and we can work something out. It’s a bad idea not to show up in class just because you haven’t finished your paper. It’s also a bad idea not to serious proofread anything you write before turning it in. Presentation counts as much as content, and a big part of my mission for this class is to get everybody writing to the absolute best of their ability in all aspects of the writing process. Around 50% of the final grade will be based on the quality and improvement in your writing.

3. I hate cell phones, texting, and laptops in the classroom, and you know why. I also don’t like people getting up and leaving in the middle of class. All these things are disruptive and usually not necessary. I will probably yell and be obnoxious when dealing with this kind of thing, which I’d prefer not to do.