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ENG 1002C-010-031-050: Composition and Literature

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Eastern Illinois University, Spring 2000
English 1002C, Composition and Literature
Policy Statement and Course Description

Instructor: Debra A. Valentino
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Office Hours:
M, W, F by appointment
T, Th 8:45—9:15 a.m.,
11 a.m.—12 p.m., 2—3 p.m.

Texts:
- Fictions, Trimmer & Jennings, 4th edition
- An Introduction to Poetry, Kennedy, 9th edition
- The Harcourt Brace Anthology of Drama, Worthen, 3rd edition
- Writing Essays About Literature, Griffith, 5th edition
- The Blair Handbook, 2nd edition, Fulwiler and Hayakawa
- Webster's New World Compact Dictionary, 3rd edition
- Writing Online, Crump and Carbone, 2nd edition

Supplies:
- Standard 8 1/2 x 11" loose leaf paper for in-class writing
- One double-pocketed folder (without internal brads) -- labeled on the front, right-hand corner with your name, course and section number
- One spiral bound notebook with 3-4 sections, and pockets, also labeled as above
- Access to e-mail and a word processor or computer
- (4-6) 3 1/2" high density diskettes

Course Description: A writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts, as well as a survey in the reading of literary genres including short fiction, drama, and poetry. We will also take a brief look at the film genre. Prerequisite: successful completion of English 1001C.

Course Objectives: To improve students' abilities to
- read and understand literary texts
- discuss and analyze literary texts
- write about literary texts
- demonstrate a close familiarity with a text
- write in standard edited English
**Reading Assignments:** All outside readings must be completed by the start of the class period for which they were assigned. Since this is a course that depends heavily on student participation, students will be expected to contribute relevant and insightful questions and comments to all class discussions. Students should come prepared to answer questions pertaining to all assigned readings in both written and oral responses. Reading quizzes can be expected throughout the semester, and may not be announced in advance.

**Homework:** Students can expect a reading or a writing assignment given every class period, to be due the following class period. Roughly speaking, this will work out to be a minimum of five hours of work outside of class per week.

**Attendance:** Because this is a course where reading, writing, and analytical skills are engaged and developed, student attendance, attention, and participation are of utmost importance. Regular attendance is expected; and two or more absences may adversely affect one's grade. Attendance will be taken, and it will be factored into one's final grade under class participation, which counts approximately 10% of the composite grade. When an absence does occur, the student is responsible for the material covered during the absence. Use the class phone list to consult classmates regarding missed material and assignments. (You may wish to check with more than one classmate.) Then, if you have specific questions regarding the assignment, visit, e-mail, or telephone the instructor. Also, if you are sick, you should telephone the instructor before class to say that you will be absent.

**Note:** E-mail is not always a reliable source of communication. Sometimes the server is down, or your instructor may not always be near a terminal. When it comes to attendance, use e-mail only as a supplemental form of communication. Also, do not assume that absences reported via voice mail are excused.

**Make-up Work:** No make-ups will be given for missed in-class quizzes or exercises, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. It is the absent student's responsibility to get all class information, including schedule modifications, from another class member. Missed essays due to excused absence(s) may be made up only at the instructor's discretion, but within two weeks (again, at the instructor's discretion) of the student's return to class.

**Essays / Deadlines:** All out-of-class essays will be due at the beginning of the class period on the date specified, and must be submitted in order to receive credit for the course. In-class essays will be due at the end of the class period. Essays are expected to be completed in a timely fashion and turned in on the date due. Late work will be penalized.
Theme Format: Papers should be neatly written or clearly printed on standard white 8 ½ x 11" paper. All papers should be double-spaced with one inch margins on the right, left, top, and bottom, unless otherwise specified. Writing should be on the front side of the sheet only. All essays must include:

- Student name, course number and section, assignment number and name, and due date on page one, the upper, left-hand side. Example:

  Your first and last name
  English 1002C.000
  Essay I – Diagnostic (In-class)
  January 13, 2000

- Proper pagination on all other pages -- blocked from the right margin, preceded by student's last name, ½" from the top. Example:

  Valentino 2

Note: Do not staple papers. Last name and page number heading on each page will suffice.

Reviews: In addition to contributing to in-class discussions, students will be required to attend a local play performance, as well as a poetry and/or fiction reading. From these experiences, students must submit a one-page review. Further details will be announced.

Reading Responses: In a diskette folder named “Observations” students will write several written responses to their readings throughout the semester. The instructor will often provide written prompts to focus students' analyses. Of these responses, the student will select entries to revise, polish and edit. These responses will then be submitted for credit.

Grading: This course is graded on a scale of A, B, C, N/C (No Credit.) In order to pass the course and receive credit, you must receive a C or better. Students receiving points totaling a D, F, or N/C must retake the course. Grades will be evaluated in accordance with the English Department's handout "Guidelines for Evaluating Writing Assignments in EIU's English Department" (attached), and averaged as follows:

Grading Scale:  
90—100% = A  
80—89.9% = B  
70—79.9% = C  
below 70% = N/C
Grade Distribution: Students will write one diagnostic and two polished research essays this semester, a mid-term, and a final exam (each of which will include essay writing, as well as short answer and objective questions.) The distribution for class work will be roughly as follows:

Essay I – Diagnostic (In-Class) .................. 10 pts.
Essay II – Fiction (Research/Analytical) .......... 25 pts.
Mid-term Essay Exam ................................ 50 pts.
Essay III – Poetry (Research/Analytical) .......... 25 pts.
Reading Response Journal Entries .............. 10 pts.
Play Review ........................................ 10 pts.
Poetry Review ...................................... 10 pts.
Group Presentation (Individual Grade) .......... 20 pts.
Group Presentation (Group Grade) .............. 20 pts.
Poetry Recitation .................................. 20 pts.
Final Essay Exam ................................... 50 pts.
Miscellaneous ..................................... 50 pts.
  (reading quizzes, written exercises,
   class participation, conferences, attendance)
Totaling Approximately ......................... 300 pts.

Conferences: One conference per semester is mandatory. It is a good idea, however, to come to talk with me about your work periodically throughout the semester.

Plagiarism: Students must familiarize themselves with the English Department's statement on plagiarism. If the student has clearly plagiarized and not given appropriate credit to his/her source(s), the instructor reserves the right to award the essay in question a grade of N/C (No Credit).

According to the standards set by the Eastern Illinois University Department of English, the policy for plagiarism is as follows:

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR GRADE WITH AN ACT OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY!
If you are having difficulty integrating your research, set up a conference.
Writing Center: The writing center is across from the computer room (CH340) in CH 301. Students of Comp 1002C should feel free to take their writing concerns and problems to this center at any time during the semester. This is not a proofreading or editing service, but rather, a place where confusion and uncertainty can be remedied. Also, if you are having particular problems with grammar and the mechanics of writing, this is the place (other than your handbook) to turn to for help.

Hours for Spring 2000 are:

**Monday – Thursday**
9 a.m. — 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.

**Friday**
9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

In addition, you may receive Free Tutorial Help at 581-5929.

The Writing Center web address is:

http://www.eiu.edu/~writing

Students with disabilities: Any student who has a documented disability and wishes to receive academic accommodations should contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

The final exam for this course is scheduled for