Spring 1-15-2009

ENG 1002G-010-048-049: Composition and Literature

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Description and Guidelines
This course is designed to improve critical thinking and writing skills through the study of poetry, fiction, and drama. All students should have passed 1001G or fulfilled this requirement via transfer credit or the CLEP proficiency exam.

Attendance
Each student is allowed two unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence thereafter will lower the student's final grade by 5%. Students are responsible for all material covered in class, including all lecture material and changes in the syllabus. I encourage you to exchange contact information with another class member so that you can stay on top of class material you may have missed due to an absence.

Quizzes may not be made up, but only the ten best quiz scores will be counted. Exams may be made up only if the absence is excused and/or with prior arrangement in special circumstances.

If you belong to a university organization (sports team, theater, etc.) that requires you to miss class, please inform me in advance, both in writing and in person, so that arrangements can be made to have work completed and turned in on time.

With the exception of spring break, no holidays affect the Tuesday/Thursday schedule. If you rely on someone else for your travel, or need to use the train or bus, please make your plans in advance so as to avoid unwanted absences.

Late Work
Papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. Late papers will be penalized by one letter grade per day the paper is late (including weekends).

Papers
Papers must be typed and double-spaced with standard fonts and margins appropriate to academic writing. Papers should be stapled or paper-clipped. The student's name, instructor's name, date, assignment and paper title should appear in the upper left corner of page 1.

Plagiarism
Department policy states that any instructor who discovers an act of plagiarism is obligated to give the appropriate penalty, which includes an immediate NC for the course as well as a report to the Judicial Affairs Committee.
Students with Disabilities
If you are a student who has a documented disability and wishes to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (6583) as soon as possible.

Assignments and Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poetry Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiction Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (paper)</td>
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The course will be divided into three segments: poetry, fiction, and drama. A detailed course calendar will be available on 1/15.
A Study of Reading Habits

When getting my nose in a book
Cured most things short of school,
It was worth ruining my eyes
To know I could still keep cool,
And deal out the old right hook
To dirty dogs twice my size.

Later, with inch-thick specs,
Evil was just my lark:
Me and my coat and fangs
Had ripping times in the dark.
The women I clubbed with sex!
I broke them up like meringues.

Don’t read much now: the dude
Who lets the girl down before
The hero arrives, the chap
Who’s yellow and keeps the store
Seem far too familiar. Get stewed:
Books are a load of crap.

- Philip Larkin

1. How is what the speaker says different from what the poet means? Where is the irony?
2. How do you imagine the speaker in each stage of the poem? How has his life progressed?

The Toy-Maker

A toy-maker made a toy wife and a toy child.
He made a toy house and some toy years.

He made a getting-old toy, and he made a dying toy.

The toy-maker made a toy heaven and a toy god.

But, best of all, he liked making toy shit.

- Russell Edson

1. Is there a metaphor in this poem? Where?
2. How would you describe the tone? Does it change anywhere, and why?
FICTION SEGMENT 2/10 - 3/12

READING LIST:

A Hunger Artist, Franz Kafka, SF 635
The Metamorphosis, Franz Kafka, SF 642
Good Country People, Flannery O'Connor, LTHE 120
A Good Man is Hard to Find, Flannery O'Connor, SF 904
What We Talk About When We Talk About Love, Raymond Carver, LTHE 1037
The Swimmer, John Cheever, SF 215
A&P, John Updike, SF 1110
Guests of the Nation, Frank O'Connor, SF 915
The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien, SF 891
Memento Mori, Jonathan Nolan, SF 850
A Clean, Well-Lighted Place, Ernest Hemingway, LTHE 107
Patriotism, Yukio Mishima, SF 820

Also read the introductory section in SF, pp. 1-41.
Other sections may be assigned along the way.

Once again, budget your time to be able to read the selections carefully, twice if possible. You will be responsible for any discussion questions I provide and for leading class discussions either individually or in assigned groups.

Fiction Paper Due 3/12

Quizzes Daily