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ENG 1002C-014-027: Composition and Literature

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Description: This course introduces students to the major literary genres (poetry, fiction, drama), instructs them in generic distinctions, attempts to make them attentive and sensitive readers, and guides them in articulating—both in class discussion and in written discourse—a mature, informed reaction to literary research.

Guidelines: All students enrolled in 1002C should have passed 1001C or must have fulfilled the requirement through transfer credit or through the CLEP proficiency examination.

Graded Essays/Exams: Although you may be required to turn in a writing sample, preliminary drafts of essays and/or other writing assignments, you must produce three 4-6-page essays and one 7-9-page essay, involving research. You will take three exams.

Grades: Each essay and each exam will receive a letter grade: A, B, C, D or F. I will determine essay grades in strict accordance with the Standards for Evaluating Themes developed by the EIU English Department. Exam grades will be based on the percentage of points you earn out of the total points available on the various tests. The three exams that you take, including a comprehensive final exam, will be weighted equally and, combined, will be worth 40% of the total grade. The four essays you write will also be weighted equally and will constitute 50% of your total grade. Ten percent of your final grade will be based on class participation, effort, improvement and, mostly, my general impression of your work.

Note: English 1002C is what is commonly called an “A, B, C, No Credit” class. This means that you must earn a “C” to receive credit for the course. Since the grading system we are using in 1002C is the University’s 4.0 scale (an “A” is 4.0, a “B” is 3.0, and so on), basic math skills will allow you to determine your grade at any time; however, if you have a question about your grade, and, certainly, if you are performing below the “C” level, make appointments with me and/or the Writing Center (CH101) for private tutorials.

Late Work: Unless you have made prior arrangements with me, any late work will receive a failing grade. A student will automatically fail the course if he or she neglects to turn in all graded essay assignments and/or take all exams.
Class Attendance: Because the information provided in the classroom is a major part of 1002C, and because much of what you learn here about literature and writing involves analytic discussion, debate and reading aloud, failure to attend class will affect your grade. Any student missing more than five meetings without obtaining my approval will not receive credit for the course.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STATEMENT CONCERNING PLAGIARISM:

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 work" (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 assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

A note for students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

TEXTS: Crump, Writing Online, 2nd ed.
Griffith, Writing Essays about Literature, 5th ed.
Kennedy, An Introduction to Poetry, 9th ed.
Trimmer, Fictions, 4th ed.
Also, one novel chosen by you from the list provided in class

SYLLABUS
(subject to deletion or expansion)

A. FICTION (January 10-February 21)

- Chopin, "The Story of an Hour"
- Mason, "Shiloh"
- Carver, "A Small, Good Thing"
- Lawrence, "The Rocking-Horse Winner"
- O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"
- London, "To Build a Fire"
- Greene, "The Destructors"
- Erdrich, "The Red Convertible"
- Walker, "Everyday Use"

... plus related commentaries and selections from Fictions, Writing Essays, and The Blair Handbook
B. POETRY (February 23 – April 3)

Carpe Diem
Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress” 451
Housman, “Loveliest of trees, the cherry now” 435
Herrick, “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time” 431

Mothers and Children
Plath, “Metaphors” 120
Olds, “The One Girl at the Boys’ Party” 461
Heaney, “Mother of the Groom” 428

Fathers and Children
Roethke, “My Papa’s Waltz” 18
Heaney, “Digging” 427
Thomas, “Do not go gentle into that good night” 222

Desire
Cope, “Lonely Hearts” 67
Swenson, “Four-Word Lines” 346
Donne, “The Flea” 403

Elegies
Whitman, “O Captain! My Captain!” 348
Jonson, “On My First Son” 439
Housman, “To an Athlete Dying Young” 435

Sonnets
Browning, “How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways” 396
Shakespeare, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?” 115
Shakespeare, “When, in disgrace with Fortune and men’s eyes” 479

Protest
Blake, “London” 79
Hughes, “I, Too” 371
Rose, “For the White Poets Who Would be Indian” 304

C. DRAMA (April 5 – April 26)
Sophocles, Oedipus the King
Aristophanes, Lysistrata

Exam dates, essay topics and essay due dates will be provided in class. In general, however, prepare to turn in an essay and to take a test at the end of our discussion of each literary genre (see tentative dates above). You will work independently on the 7-9-page essay on a novel throughout the semester. Details, along with a book list, will be provided early in the term.