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ENG 1002G-016: Composition and Literature

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Course Description, Design, and Goals: English 1002 is a writing centered course designed to improve critical thinking skills through the reading of literary texts. We will be writing two longer essays, in addition to several shorter pieces of writing. This course incorporates in class writing, as well as literary discussions on the reading. The theme of this course explores the ideas of the personal myth, as explained by poet, Diane Wakoski. We will read texts with this theme in mind and create our own personal mythology in the form of a portfolio. The goal of this course is to produce a portfolio of writing in order to track the progression and quantity of writing throughout the semester. All in-class writing is due the following class period and can be revised once it is handed back.

Texts:

Poetry: an introduction—Michael Meyer

The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction—Ann Charters

Drama—Lee A. Jacobus

Requirements and Grading:

Essay One: 20%

Essay Two: 20%

In-Class Writing/Presentations/Participation: 30%

Portfolio: 30%

Course Policies and Resources:

I do not accept late work without a valid reason. If you have trouble completing an assignment for any reason, please contact me and we can work something out. Since the course is based in discussion, attendance is mandatory.

If you are struggling with a paper, please feel free to go to the EIU Writing Center: http://www.eiu.edu/writing/ or email me.

Plagiarism:

Just Don’t Do it.
Tentative Schedule:

January 9, Week 1: Introduction

Monday: Introduction to the course and to each other

Wednesday: Discuss Introduction “Reading Imaginative Literature” pgs.1-16 in Poetry (Meyer)

Friday: In-Class Writing: “My Writing Experience” (Literacy Narrative)

January 16, Week 2:

Monday: NO CLASS

Wednesday: Writing Center Orientation, finish, discuss, and turn in “My Writing Experience”

Friday: Introduction to Poetry and Literature: “Telling Ourselves Stories” (handout), in class activity

January 23, Week 3: Poetry

Monday: Read Bob Dylan’s “Desolation Row” (handout), in class discussion, fun writing exercise “MAKE YOUR OWN MYTH”

Wednesday: Continue “MAKE YOUR OWN MYTH” Discuss Dylan Thomas’ influence on Bob Dylan through reading “Do Not Go Gentle...” pg. 253 Poetry

Friday: More Dylan Thomas, In-Class Writing: Hunting for Poetry

Hand out Essay One Assignment Sheet (Analyze poem)

January 30, Week 4: Imagery in poetry

Monday: Discuss and present Hunting for Poetry with class

Wednesday: Read Diane Wakoski (handout) “Thanking My Mother for Piano Lessons”

William Carlos Williams “This Is Just To Say” pg. 652 Poetry

Ezra Pound, “In a Station of the Metro” pg. 130 Poetry

Friday: Work on Essay One in class: What is Analyzing Poetry?

February 6, Week 5:

Monday: Dickinson pg. 312-358 Poetry

Wednesday: work on Essay One in class, PEER REVIEW FOR ESSAY ONE

Friday: Haiku TBA In Class Writing: Haiku
February 13, Week 6: Political Poems: America

Monday: Leaves of Grass Walt Whitman

Wednesday: Langston Hughes 339-434 (Selection), work on Essay One in class

Friday: Wrap up Political Poetry with Allen Ginsberg, America (handout) and A Supermarket in California Literature (handout), Diane Di Prima (handout)

February 20, Week 7: Short Stories (and Stuff)

Monday: Essay One Due with PEER REVIEW

Wednesday: W.B. Yeats “The Second Coming” and Joan Didon Slouching Towards Bethlehem

Friday: Essay Two Assigned (Final Research Paper)

February 27, Week 8:

Monday: Brainstorming writing activity

Wednesday: James Joyce, Araby Literature 538

Friday: How to Make a Works Cited Page, A One Man Play

March 5, Week 9:

Monday: Work on Essay Two (Questions, Concerns)

Wednesday: “Personal Narrative Essay” Assigned

Friday: “Personal Narrative Essay”

March 12, Week 10: SPRING BREAK

March 19, Week 11:

Monday: Mystery Movie

Wednesday: Mystery Movie cont.

Friday: Discussion

March 26, Week 12: Conferences NO CLASS

April 2, Week 13:

Monday: Work on Final Paper in class

Wednesday: The Metamorphosis by Kafka 719-753, assign illustration

Friday: The Metamorphosis Illustration presentations in class
April 9, Week 14:

Monday: “Walking” by Henry David Thoreau

Wednesday: Work on Final Writing Portfolio in class

Friday: Cathedral by Raymond Carver 190-201

April 16, Week 15:

Monday: Virginia Wolf Kew Gardens 1395-1399

Wednesday: Work on Final Paper in class

Friday: Final Discussion/Wrap Up

April 23, Week 16: Final Paper Due In Class inside of Writing Portfolio

Essay Number One:

For this essay, please choose one of the poems that we've read in class and analyze it by exploring images, themes, or influences like we've discussed in class. You may also choose to write about two poems, comparing and contrasting them in the terms previously stated. This essay should be three to five pages long. Outside sources are optional. It is due in class on Week 6.

Essay Number Two:

For this essay, please choose one of the short stories or excerpts that we have read in class. You will use outside research (three to five sources) that relate to the topic of your choice. These essays should have a strong thesis stated clearly in the beginning of the paper and a logical argument that follows. This essay will be five to eight pages in length and include a Works Cited page at the end. If you wish, you could also expand your first essay and add research. If you are having trouble coming up with a topic, please see me or visit the Writing Center. This assignment is due the last day of class.

Final Writing Portfolio:

The Final Writing Portfolio should include all of the writing that was done in and outside of class during this semester. You may incorporate writing that you've done on your own, or for other classes. The purpose of this portfolio is so that you have something to take with you once you leave this class. Please keep all handouts inside of the portfolio. In order for the portfolio to be complete, you must have at least five pieces of writing that we've done in class, including your final research paper. The pieces you choose are up to you. This is something that you should be working on all semester long. I will grade these on the progress you have made according to the comments on your papers.

*If you have any ideas for your paper that are not listed here, please come and see me and we can work something out!