ENG 1002G-028: Composition and Literature

Dagni Bredesen
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2008
Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2008/32

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2008 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2008 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
Course Description and Objectives: Welcome to English 1002, a course that focuses upon writing about literature. In this class we will be cultivating our capacity to read, analyze, enjoy, and, perhaps, even create different genres of literature: fiction, poetry, and drama, so that you can continue to read and enjoy intellectually and culturally enriching literature throughout your life.

A basic premise of this class is that sophisticated reading and writing are closely related undertakings. Writing, reading, analysis, and cultural understanding, these things are at the core of a college education, the things that make college different from a vocational school. This course is one in which you should be able to see yourself becoming a better educated person. That means the course may sometimes seem hard. In the end, I hope you will find it rewarding.

Through your own writing about literary texts, you will extend those skills of critical engagement and communication (written and oral) you may have acquired in 1001 or in other composition courses, skills that will be applicable throughout your university studies and subsequent careers.

Texts (available at TRS):

- *Fiction 100: An Anthology of Short Fiction* edited by James Pickering
- *A Reader's Guide to the Short Story* by James Pickering
- *Introduction to Poetry* edited by X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia
- *Writing about Literature* by Kelley Griffith
- *The Shipping News* by E. Annie Proulx
- *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare

Other Required Materials:

- A Good College-Level Dictionary. You will be tested on vocabulary

Disability Information: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Participation and Attendance: This class is based upon individual and collaborative work; therefore, daily involvement is an essential and a significant part of your grade. You are expected to be here both mentally and physically, and to contribute actively to all group work and in-class discussions and presentations. Credit only can be earned by completed work; this work includes your presence in class. Missing a class does not excuse you from coming to the next class unprepared; it is your responsibility to obtain any assignments you may have missed. To that end you will want to establish a connection with at least two other 1002 “Study-Buddies.” Just showing up every day won’t give you full credit in this category either. I am looking for thoughtful comments or questions that contribute to class discussion.
Two or fewer unexcused absences will not be penalized in this course. The final grade for the course will be reduced by one full letter grade for each absence beyond two. Those reductions are down to and including NC (no credit).

**Deadlines and Late Work:** Homework and papers are due in class (or before class on the dates specified. If you miss class, in-class assignments cannot be made up and I reserve the right to give no credit or reduced credit for late homework or papers that were due in class. (You can, however, turn homework or papers in BEFORE class and receive full credit).

**Course Responsibilities:**
- *Four papers with portfolios (70%)*
- *One cumulative final exam (10%)*
- *Two Reviews of Literary Reading or Play attended (10%)*
- *Attendance and Participation (10%)* This category includes memorizing and reciting a poem of 14 lines or longer

Most of the writing assignments will require revision. Because this class strongly emphasizes revision, that is, a "re-thinking" or "re-seeing" of an earlier edition, you will have the opportunity to revise three of the papers. Additionally, you will have several in-class papers, as well as other writing assignments, peer critiques and self-assessments. In short, some kind of reading and/or writing homework will be the rule rather than the exception. You cannot pass this class without handing in ALL the writing assignments so save everything.

**Office Hours and Conferences:** I will be in my office and available to consult with you at the hours I have specified on the syllabus. You do not need to make an appointment if you wish to come by and talk with me during office hours. If my office hours are not convenient for you, I am also available by appointment; let me know if you want to make an appointment, and we’ll agree on a time that is convenient for us both.

In addition to optional visits during office hours, I will require that you meet with me individually twice during the semester. We will schedule conferences individually to suit your schedule and mine. Once the conference is scheduled it is your responsibility to contact me if you need to reschedule. If you fail to schedule or attend conferences, this will have a serious negative effect on your participation grade and will count as an unexcused absence.

**Saving your files:** You will need to revise and/or correct much of the work you do over the course of the semester. I advise you to save your work both on your computer, your usb drive, and to back up your work by emailing it to yourself. It is really important that you do this all the time. Otherwise, you will end up wasting your time retyping (or rewriting) assignments you have lost for one reason or another. “The computer ate it” is not an acceptable excuse for not having an assignment ready to turn in. Backing up files in multiple locations is the only way to be sure you won’t lose a file.

**The English Department’s Statement on 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.”

**My Statement on Plagiarism:** Early in the semester, we will discuss plagiarism and complete an exercise to ensure you understand how to avoid it. After that point, I will not accept anyone’s claim that “I didn’t
understand!” If I discover an act of plagiarism (or any other academic misconduct), all of the appropriate penalties will be applied. Why? Because I believe universities should not harbor or condone dishonesty; because plagiarists are not learning anything and therefore are subverting the purpose of taking the class; because it is not fair to other students to allow plagiarists to earn passing grades; and because academic dishonesty is an affront to my own commitment to higher education.

Overview of the Course (subject to change)

Week One:
1/8 Intro to class, to genres, Intro to Short Fiction: “The Story of an Hour”
1/10 HMWK: “Reading and Studying the Short Story” and “The Historical Development of the Short Story” in The Reader’s Guide (Pickering) Joyce Carol Oates’ “Where are you going? Where have you been?” (1083) and James Baldwin’s “Sonny’s Blues” (37)

Week Two:
1/15 Discuss Oates and Baldwin
HMWK: Charlotte Perkins Gilman “The Yellow Wallpaper” (574) and William Kinsella’s “Shoeless Joe Jackson comes to Iowa” (840)
1/17 Gilman and Kinsella
HMWK: Read Donovan Stories distributed in class

Week Three:
1/22 Discuss Donovan Stories
GERARD DONOVAN READING 4pm Lumpkin Auditorium
1/24 Grammarama: Commas etc.
INTRO TO FIRST PAPER

Week Four:
1/29 1.1 paper due/ in class assessment
1/31 Revision Strategies

Week Five:
2/5 1.2 paper due/ in class assessment
2/7 Intro to poetry

Week Six:
2/12 Poetry: Sonnets
KWAME DAWES READING
2/14 Poetry: Sonnets continued

Week Seven:
2/19 Poetry: Villanelles
2/21 Intro to Second Paper Paper Strategies

Week Eight:
2/26 2.1 Due Revision Strategies
2/28 Revision Strategies

Week Nine:
3/4 2.2 Due
Intro to the Novel and Third paper
Read: The Shipping News
3/6 Novel discussion continued FINISH READING OVER SPRING BREAK

March 10-15th Spring Break

Week Ten:
3/18 Shipping News continued: Quotes Due
   Paper writing strategies
3/20 Paper writing strategies

Week Eleven:
3/25 3.1 due
3/27 Revision strategies
   HMWK: Read “A Jury of Her Peers” by Susan Glaspell in Fiction 100 and
   “Trifles” to be handed out in class.

Week Twelve:
4/1 3.2 due Intro to Drama/ Discuss short story and play
4/3 The Tempest by William Shakespeare

Week Thirteen:
4/8 The Tempest
4/10 The Tempest

Week Fourteen:
4/15 The Tempest
4/17 Postcolonial Reading

Week Fifteen:
4/23 Poco reading
4/25 Final writing assignment due Friday, 4/26 by 4pm

Final Exam: Thursday, May 1st 10.15-12.15