ENG 1002C-026-032: Literature and Composition

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COURSE GUIDELINES

English 1002-C, Spring 1999
Instructor: Tammy Veach
Office: Coleman 339-C
Office Phone: 581-6295
Office Hours: 11:00 - 12:00 MW, 2:00 - 3:00 MW, 11:30 - 12:00 F & by appt

Texts: Charters, The Story and Its Writer
       Meyer, Poetry. An Introduction
       Jacobus, The Bedford Introduction to Drama
       Griffiths, Writing Essays About Literature
       Fulwiler & Hayakave, The Blair Handbook
       Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

While this course is designed to make you better readers, writers, and thinkers, my underlying goal is that you will grow to enjoy and appreciate literature this semester. To that end we will read extensively from each of the three principle literary genres (poetry, fiction, and drama), works written by men and women from culturally diverse backgrounds. And because this is also a composition course, we’ll write quite a bit (at least 5,000 words, probably much more than that) about this literature. Expect to spend approximately two hours reading, analyzing, and writing about each day’s assignment before coming to class.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GENERAL INFORMATION:

ATTENDANCE: If you miss class, for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to find out what we did that day; illnesses or emergencies do not exclude you from meeting the same obligations as everyone else in this class. Your syllabus is merely tentative, so check with me as soon as possible to see if changes were made in your absence. Absences must be excused before you can make up any assignments missed—you must either bring me documentation from Health Services or you must present me with a doctor’s note if you were ill (no exceptions). Other reasons for missing class must be discussed with me to be cleared, and I will do so only for serious— and verifiable—circumstances: a death in your immediate family (again, I’ll need confirmation), inclement weather (if you commute) and so forth. EXCUSES WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR MATTERS OF PERSONAL CONVENIENCE—job interviews or travel arrangements, appointments with your advisor, oversleeping, etc. If you are to miss class because of participation in an OFFICIAL University function, work can be made up ONLY if completed BEFORE you leave. It is your responsibility to notify me of such absences in advance, allowing yourself ample time to find out what assignments you’ll be missing and to complete and turn in your work before you go. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL HURT YOUR SEMESTER GRADE!!! (Refer to “Late Work,” “In-Class Responses,” & “Participation” sections for more details.)

LATE WORK: Unless an excused absence is the cause, work turned in late will be graded down one letter grade for each day it’s late. Since an assignment is late if it’s turned in after I collect them at the start of class, you must show up on time and have the necessary materials needed to complete the assignment BEFORE class, because “I ran out of ribbon,” “I couldn’t get my computer to print it out,” “The computer ate my disk,” “I forgot my folder in my room,” etc., are NOT acceptable excuses for turning in your work late. NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED THAT ARE MORE THAN ONE WEEK LATE; a grade of “zero” will be recorded. Make-up exams will be arranged as needed on an individual basis, but only for those with excused absences: AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE ON TEST DAY WILL MEAN A ZERO ON THE EXAM. In short, turn in all of your work on time to avoid penalty.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as early in the term as possible if you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations. Please let me know, too, and realize that I can be of greater assistance to you if I am made aware of your disability early in the semester.

GRADING: English department standards (see handout) will be used to determine grades on all written work. These are rather stringent guidelines, evaluating not only the quality of your ideas but also your writing style, method of organization, ability to avoid grammatical mistakes, etc. You will be graded on a variety of activities—essays, exams, a project, in-class responses to reading assignments, participation in class discussion, and possibly other activities, such as quizzes, but the quality of your writing will be the biggest determinant of your grade in this class. In calculating your semester grade, I use a 90-80-70 scale. I anticipate assigning activities totaling 1,000 points for the semester, thus 500 for an A, 800 for a B, and 700 for a C. If I make any changes to this total (for example, adding reading quizzes if class discussion is weak), you will be forewarned, and such changes will also affect the point totals required to earn a particular grade, but I’ll still use a 90-80-70 scale. English 1002 is graded on an A, B, C, and NC (no credit) basis, so YOU MUST EARN 700 POINTS (OR 70%) TO PASS THIS CLASS.
REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR POINT TOTALS:

- **ESSAYS AND PROJECTS, 500 POINTS**
  - Essay #1, poetry, 500 - 750 words long, 100 points—Mandatory conferences
  - Essay #2, Project, fiction, 750 - 1,250 words long, 200 points—Research and a class presentation required— but much more on this later
  - Essay #3, drama, 1,000 - 1,500 words long, 200 points

- **EXAMS, 300 POINTS**—all are primarily essay in nature; be prepared to write!!
  - Exam #1, poetry, 100 points
  - Exam #2, fiction, 100 points
  - Exam #3, drama, 100 points (given during finals week, but NOT a comprehensive exam)

- **IN-CLASS RESPONSES TO READING ASSIGNMENTS, 100 POINTS**
  - On ten different occasions (all unannounced), at the start of class you'll be asked to write about some aspect of the day's reading assignment for ~10 minutes. Each response will be graded either + (well done - 10 pts), check (okay - 8 pts) or - (something's lacking - 6 points). No make-up work will be allowed for this assignment. If you have an excused absence on a day in which we wrote an in-class response, I'll simply double your score next time. If you miss a response session but do not have an excused absence, you will earn a zero for that day's reaction piece.

- **PARTICIPATION, 100 POINTS**
  - Participation, 100 points. I find constant lectures to be boring, but if we're to have a class based on discussion rather than lecture, your participation is crucial. You must show up and you must speak out in our discussions—BOTH factors will be used heavily in determining your participation grade. If you rarely speak out in our class discussions, expect to earn no higher than a C on participation, even if you have perfect attendance. And if you have excessive absences from class, expect to earn no higher than a D, even if you frequently speak out in our discussions when you're here. Other factors that go along with a solid participation grade include having a positive attitude, arriving prepared and on time, paying attention in class, treating your classmates with respect, and so forth. IF I FIND CLASS DISCUSSION TO BE PARTICULARLY WEAK I WILL ASSUME THAT IS IN PART BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT READING THE MATERIAL FULLY. TO REMEDY THE PROBLEM, I WILL GIVE UNANNOUNCED READING QUIZZES (SOMETHING I HOPE I WILL NOT HAVE TO DO). BUT IF THIS DOES HAPPEN, THE SEMESTER POINT TOTAL WILL BE ALTERED, THOUGH I WILL STILL GRADE ON A 90-80-70 SCALE.

**CONFERENCES:** I will schedule mandatory conferences for the first essay during which time we will discuss your rough draft of this assignment and any other questions you may have, but I encourage you to come by any time that you have a question or problem—that's what I'm here for! Don't hesitate—typically I can be of greater help the sooner I know of any difficulties you're having in class; waiting until the day before an assignment is due or until the last week of the semester isn't allowing yourself time to work and improve. If my office hours don't fit your schedule, we can arrange a different, mutually convenient time for a conference.

**VOICE MAIL:** While I don't give out an unlisted home phone number, I do encourage you to call me at my office phone, even at times other than my posted office hours. If I'm not in, my phone is equipped with voice mail, so be sure to leave a message INCLUDING YOUR PHONE NUMBER, and I'll get back to you shortly—I typically pick up my messages several times a day. (If my office mate answers, simply tell her you need to leave me a voice mail message; otherwise, she'll dutifully take your message, but I won't receive it until I return to the office, sometimes a day or two after your call...)

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT'S POLICY 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.
TENTATIVE SYLLABUS, SPRING 1999
ENG 1002-C, VEACH

(P = Poetry book; F = Fiction/Short Stories book; D = Drama book; H = Handout)

JANUARY

M 11 Intro to course and policies; writing sample
W 13 Poetry terminology (H); tips for approaching poetry (P 26-28); "Those Winter Sundays" (P 12-13)
F 15 Distinguishing good from bad: "Traveling Through the Dark" (P 118), "Thoughts on Capital Punishment" (H);

M 18 MLK BIRTHDAY: NO CLASS
W 20 Speaker: "Home Burial" (P 300-303)
F 22 Speaker: "Patterns"; Imagery: "My Grandmother's Love Letters" (Both H)

M 25 Imagery: "Dulce Et Decorum Est" (P 76) & "The Fish" (P 19)
W 27 Diction: "The Elder Sister" & "Ex-Basketball Player" (Both H)
F 29 Tone: "Race' Politics" and "Still I Rise" (both H) and "My Arkansas" (P 345)

FEBRUARY

M 1 Tone: "Rape" (H); discuss writing about poetry (P 556+)--Essay # 1 Assigned
W 3 Theme: "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (P 446), "A Blessing" and "The Gift" (both H)
F 5 An Author's Work--Anne Sexton: "Her Kind" (P 168); "To a Friend...", "The Starry Night", "The Truth the Dead Know," "The Lost Ingredient," "The Twelve Dancing Princesses," & "All My Pretty Ones" (All H)

M 8 Finish Sexton poetry; review for exam
W 10 EXAM # 1 --POETRY--bring books and notes, your own paper and a pen or pencil
F 12 No Class--Lincoln's Birthday

M 15 No Class--Conferences on Essay # 1
W 17 " "
F 19 " "

M 22 ESSAY # 1 DUE!!! Elements of fiction lecture. Read "The Story of an Hour" (F 320-21)
W 24 Style: "Hills Like White Elephants" (F 615-18)
F 26 Point-of-View: "A Rose for Emily" (F 457 - 463); Essay #2 Assigned

MARCH

M 1 Setting: "Sonny's Blues" (F 74-97)
W 3 Tone: "The Things They Carried" (F 1022-35)
F 5 Symbol: "The Shawl" (F 1098-1101)

M 8 Symbol: "The Red Convertible" (F 448-55)
W 10 EXAM # 2 --FICTION--bring pen or pencil, books and notes, and your own paper
F 12 Humor: "The Kugelmass Episode" (F 32-41)

M 15, W 17, & F 19: NO CLASS--SPRING BREAK!!!!!

M 22 ESSAY/ PROJECT OVER FICTION DUE; BEGIN CLASS PRESENTATIONS
W 24 Presentations continue
F 26 Finish presentations
M 29 * * Hamlet (D 249+) – Act I only
W 31 * * Acts I & II

APRIL

F  2 * * Acts II and III

M  5 * * Act III
W  7 * * Acts IV and V
F  9 * * Finish Hamlet; Essay # 3 assigned

M 12 * * Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (D 939-84)
W 14 * *
F 16 * *

M 19 * * Death of a Salesman (D 997-1041)
W 21 * *
F 23 * *

M 26 * * ESSAY # 3 DUE!!! Video of Death of A Salesman shown in class
W 28 * * More of the video
F 30 * * LAST CLASS DAY!!! Finish video; review for final exam; study guide for exam handed out

MAY

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE:

12:00 CLASS: Monday, May 3, 12:30 - 2:30
1:00 CLASS: Thursday, May 6, 12:30 - 2:30
MW (3:00) CLASS: Wednesday, May 5, 2:45 - 4:45

NOTE: All students are expected to take the final exam at their scheduled times. Exceptions will be made ONLY for students who have 3 or more finals scheduled on the same day. Make-up times for these students will be arranged ONLY if I am notified of the conflict NO LATER THAN OUR LAST CLASS SESSION ON FRIDAY, APRIL 30 (do not leave me a voice-mail or other message about this; approach me in person). Please bring a copy of your class schedule with you when you meet with me to make these arrangements.