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ENG 1002G-034-057: Composition and Literature

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EN 1002G **Composition and Literature**
Instructor: Lucinda Berry
Office: Coleman 3820  581-6309
Hours: 11:00 - 12:15 & 2:00 - 3:15
      Tuesday & Thursday

**Course Description**
This course offers practice in analytical academic writing using poetry, short fiction and drama as the subject matter for study. Various terms and theories associated with each genre are examined in order to give you the vocabulary necessary for discussing literary works.

You are expected to read carefully and think deeply about what you have read. In order to successfully complete the writing assignments, you will have to get beyond summarizing plots and commenting on personal likes and dislikes. You will be expected to write well-reasoned, logically organized essays using sound rhetorical means to support an arguable thesis.

**Course Policies and Grade Determination**
In percentage terms, your grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poetry essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation/Notebook</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz Average</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, below 70 = NC!

Requirements for the three major essays will be explained in class. Grading standards will be those established by the English Department at EIU. In general, I will be assessing the development in support of your thesis, clarity, effective organization and use of transitions and the use of standard conventions for spelling and grammar. Deadlines will be given for each of these essays. Late work will be marked down one full letter grade if it is received within a week of the original due date. If it is more than a week late, you will receive a maximum of half the points the assignment is worth.

Contributions to class discussions about the works will be noted daily. You should keep a notebook in which you write an analytical response to the work assigned for the next class. The notebook should also include notes you take on class discussions. I will collect these notebooks periodically and without advance notice. Therefore, you should bring
your 1002 notebook to every class, and you should not use it for assignments in other courses. I will be looking for the thoroughness of your response/recording when assessing these assignments. (This particular component of the course requirements may at some point be changed to WEB CT, if so, updated instructions will be given in class.

Quizzes will test your knowledge of terminology and vocabulary and monitor your reading of assigned material. Questions will require a short answer or short essay response. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class period. There are no make-ups for the quizzes. When determining your average to assign your grade, I will throw out the lowest two scores.

The final exam for this course is on
It will consist of a series of short essay questions.

Policy on Plagiarism
Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines plagiarism as “the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work.” In this course, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment. In cases of blatant and intentional plagiarism, you will receive an F for the course, and you will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for further punishment. It is not a pleasant experience; trust me.

Policy on Disabilities
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583 as soon as possible.

Textbooks

Course Schedule (Subject to change at any time)
Jan 11 Introduction to course/discussion of what poetry is
Jan 13.........In Writing About Literature 1-4, 13-14, shaded box on 20.
In Poetry: “Introduction to Poetry” 45, “In a Poetry Workshop” 473-4, “Ars Poetica” (see following) Answer the questions after the poems, and write
two or three paragraphs comparing/contrasting how each poem defines poetry.

Archibald MacLeish (1892 – 1982)

A poem should be palpable and mute
As a globed fruit.

Dumb
As old medallions to the thumb,

Silent as the sleeve-worn stone
Of casement ledges where the moss has grown ---

A poem should be wordless
As the flight of birds.

A poem should be motionless in time
As the moon climbs,

Leaving, as the moon releases
Twig by twig the night-entangled trees,

Leaving, as the moon behind the winter leaves,
Memory by memory the mind ---

A poem should be motionless in time
As the moon climbs.

A poem should be equal to:
Not true.

For all the history of grief
An empty doorway and a maple leaf.

For love
The leaning grasses and two lights above the sea ---

A poem should not mean
But be.
Jan 25 Continue discussion of media/advertising

Jan 27 Work on media analysis assignment. You will work with a small group. Each of you will have a separate writing assignment. The essay requires research documented using MLA style. You will be expected to examine the credibility of the sources you find. Together you will conduct a survey and make an oral presentation to the class. The writing assignments are:

1. Background: Define the genre and explain its history. Discuss the kinds of stereotyping/psychobabble/conventions this genre has.
2. Demographics: Explain who watches this kind of programming. Use both national statistics and information from here at EIU. You might note what kind of advertising occurs during the show. Explain why this type of programming appeals to this particular group.
3. Role in popular culture: Report this kind of program is marketed, and what critics say about it. Explain how this programming benefits or corrupts society.

Create survey questions that will provide information for each of these reports. Your oral presentation should draw from this survey and include information regarding the 3 categories of the writing assignments, but you shouldn’t simply read the essays. Often, it is better to use more of an outline form. Your presentation should include a short segment of a particular show as a representative of the genre your group has chosen to analyze. It would also be great to include some kind of “interactive” feature for your classmates. This can be a good old-fashioned question and answer session, or you can make us play charades. Whatever interesting idea you come up with, as long as it has a logical connection with your topic, and is neither life threatening nor embarrassing!

Feb 1 No doubt you will still have work to do on the media analysis project
Feb 3 “Violence As Fun” 677 Provide a written response to Thought Starter. Be able to answer The Responsive Reader questions

Feb 8 MEDIA PAPER DUE FOR EVERYONE Oral presentations as scheduled
Feb 10 Presentations as scheduled

Feb 15 “Mother’s Day in Federal Prison” 204 Be able to answer questions 2-4 and 6
Do a little research on the prison population in the U.S. how many people are in prison? For how long on average? For what? How does this compare to other countries? Does prison work?
Feb 17 “Time” 211 Provide a written response to Thought Starter Be able to answer questions 1, 5, 6 and 7

Feb 22 Conferences Bring your homework writing assignments up to his point and a draft or outline of definition/comparison essay. Class is not held on conference days. Use the extra bit of time this will give you to work on your essay! Please remember your appointment. If you miss your conference, I will find it hard not to hold it against you!
Feb 24 Conferences continue.
Mar 1 “Why the Able Bodied Still Don’t Get It” 222 Be able to answer questions 1, 4 and 7
Mar 3 “A Day to Leave the Closet” 361 Be able to answer the Thought Starter question, also Do you think this article is outdated in any way? What has changed in twelve years or so? No doubt we will include the issue of same sex marriage in this discussion. Be prepared to explain exactly how such a thing endangers “traditional marriage” if you think it does.

Mar 8 Bring two copies of your definition/comparison essay
Mar 10 DEFINITION ESSAY IS DUE

SPRING BREAK OCCURS THIS WEEK. EIU’S SPRING BREAK IS ALWAYS THE WEEK WHICH INCLUDES ST. PATRICK’S DAY. TECHNICALLY, IT IS NOT YET SPRING. SOMETIMES IT EVEN SNOWS. YOU ARE FORTUNATE IF YOU ARE GOING TO A WARMER CLIMATE.

Mar 22 “Arguing from Principle” 481-487
Mar 24 “Writing to Persuade” 600-606

Mar 29 “Why I am Optimistic About America” 165 Provide a written response to the Thought Starter Be able to discuss questions at the end of the reading
Mar 31 Continue discussion

Apr 5 Do research as suggested by Find It on the Web 171
Apr 7 Discuss red/blue/purple America

Apr 12 “The Spiritually Diverse Society” 162 Do you think there is a difference between being religious and being spiritual? Do you agree that America is a spiritually diverse society? Do you know any Buddhists (aside from Lisa Simpson)? Taoists? Moslems? Hindus? Do a little research into the basic elements of these religions.
Apr 14 How do atheists fit into the picture? Do a little research into famous atheists of America. Could an atheist ever grow up to be president?

Apr 19 “Born Among the Born-Again” 35
Apr 21 ARGUMENT ESSAY IS DUE

Apr 26 TBA
Apr 28 TBA