Spring 1-15-2003

ENG 1002G-042-058-067: Composition and Literature

Michael Kuo
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2003

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2003/39

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2003 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2003 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
Syllabus, English 1002G: Understanding Literature through Text Twist

Daily Assignment Schedule

Spring Semester, 2003

Michael Kuo
michael@bluewillowpages.com
(see e-mail policy below)
348-5529

Catalog Description of Course

A writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts. Prerequisite: English 1001C.

My Description of the Course

A writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts, using Text Twist as a metaphor for understanding. Prerequisite: English 1001C.

Books & Materials

The handbook you received from the Textbook Library. Also the poetry book, the fiction book, and the drama book.

Attendance

Attendance is not required. In fact, I don't want you to come if you have not read the assignment (or viewed it, if it's a movie). Even if you have done your homework, I don't want you to come if you're not prepared to contribute to the discussion. This probably goes without saying, but: don't show up if you don't have the assigned text, and your notes, with you. In short: Show up if you've done the homework and you're ready to talk.

Class time will be used to help you (and me!) consider and understand the reading/viewing assignments. Sometimes I will lecture, and sometimes we will talk.

Attendance will have no bearing on your grades for the two papers (the papers will not be based on what happens in classes), or the homepage assignment.

However (you knew one was coming), the rules for the Mid-Term exam and the Final exam will be different for those who miss more than three classes in each half of the semester:

If you have not missed more than three classes in the semester's half, the tests will be open-book, open-note, open-everything tests. You can bring your notes, you can bring Cliff's Notes, whatever--anything except a pre-written essay. You will know the questions well in advance of the test, and they will come from our discussions. You will be able to take as long as you need (the record is seven hours, but most students finish in an hour or two) in a proctored test situation.

If you have missed four or more classes in the semester's half, the tests will be closed-book, closed-note, closed-everything. You bring blank paper and a pen; I hand out the test. You will not know the questions in advance, and they will not be the same as the questions offered to the others. I'm not saying they will be "harder" questions; they will just be questions I write, standard English-teacher-y questions about literature, and you will not have the benefit of class discussion and lectures to help you answer the questions (after all, you're the one who couldn't do the homework, show up to class, listen, and talk!). In addition, you will have only 90 minutes to finish the test (think about it: you didn't show up for class, and you want me to sit around on my ass for hours?).
There won't be any such thing as "excused" and "unexcused" absences. If you miss, for whatever reason, you miss--and the above rules apply. You don't even need to tell me why you missed class. Eastern's rules require me to "grant make-up privileges (when make-up is possible) to students for properly verified absences due to illness, emergency, or participation in an official University activity." Make-up, obviously, is not possible in this case; we can't reconvene the classes you missed and have everyone repeat what they said. Therefore, illness, emergency, and participation in University events do not factor into the equation.

I will pass out an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. It is your responsibility to sign your name on the list. If you show up late and forget to ask for the sheet at the end of class, or you space out somehow, that's going to be your problem, not mine!

Late Work

I will not accept late work, unless we have made a previous arrangement.

Plagiarism

I won't tolerate plagiarism.

Games, Surfing, Etc.

I will expect you to use class time for working on assignments or, if we're discussing something, for paying attention and taking notes. If you're not able to handle this, I will ask you to leave. If the problem persists, I'll reduce your grade. Any idiot who pops up dirty pictures on the screen in our classroom gets an F for the course. Not fair? Too strict? Not within my prerogatives? I'll let you process the grade appeal. In the meantime, my tolerance for sexual harassment is zero.

Papers in HTML, Posted on PEN Server

All written assignments must be produced in Hypertext Mark-Up Language (HTML), as Web pages. Don't worry; it's easy--easier than, say, Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. Now that you're totally freaked, let me add this little morsel: I will not teach you, in class, how to make Web pages. However, I have prepared extensive online resources to help you learn on your own. You will be surprised at how easy it is. But this is a writing course, not a Web page design course; your grade will not suffer if you never figure out how to make a Web page. I will, however, not accept your work in printed format until I am satisfied that you have given making Web pages the old college try, seeking help from others and from me.

Your Web pages must be posted on Eastern's free server for students, the "PEN" server.

Public Writing

Almost all of the writing you do for this course will be public. It will be published where I, your classmates, your parents, your ex-boyfriend, and anyone using the Internet can read it. My experience teaching writing leads me to believe that having such a public audience substantially helps learning writers. If you think having a real-world audience for your writing may be a problem for you, please contact me VERY, VERY EARLY IN THE SEMESTER so that one of the following can happen: 1) We talk and I convince you to go through with it; 2) We work out arrangements by which you can avoid having a public audience for your writing; or 3) I help you navigate our department's processes so that you can switch to another section.

Computer Access

Computer access is, of course, a huge social justice issue. But it isn't an issue for you in terms of getting your work done for this course. If you think it is, please see me very early in the semester and I will convince you that it isn't--or you will convince me that it is (which has happened once in the past seven years).

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please notify me and contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

E-Mail
You are welcome to send me e-mail. Since I receive so much e-mail, however, you are required to put your full name and an appropriate subject phrase in the message's subject line. Otherwise, I might not read your message. It would be smart to keep a copy of every e-mail you send me--by putting your own address in the "cc" line, or some other means.

**Studying Movies**

We will study several movies this semester. This does not mean we will be watching some movies for entertainment. You will likely think some of the movies suck. I don't care. That's not the point. Do you tell your psychology teacher how boring the reading assignment in the textbook was? Just as you should take notes when you complete a reading assignment, take notes when you watch the movie. Write down things that seem important to you. Use the pause key. Remember: I am not trying to entertain you. I am trying to teach you something about literature, and learn some things about literature from you (movies are literature too).

**Grading**

Your grade for the course will be based on the 100 points below. 90 to 100 points will receive an A, 80 to 89 will receive a B, 70 to 79 will receive a C, and 0 to 69 will receive an NC (No Credit).

- Homepage & Annotated Links: 10 points
- Mid-Term Paper: 20 points
- Mid-Term Exam: 20 points
- Final Paper: 25 points
- Final Exam: 25 points

The details of these assignments will be posted online and discussed in class.

**Grading of Written Material**

I will follow the grading standards suggested by Eastern's English Department. You will notice that the various categories are pretty explicitly detailed, but that the way a teacher weighs each category is left up for grabs. In this class:

A "C," "D," or "F" in any of the individual categories will conquer the grade for the entire paper; for example, if you have a "C" for mechanics, your paper will get a "C," no matter how good its organization, development, and so on.

The lowest "A" grade will reflect a paper that receives an "A" in all categories but one, in which it receives a "B."