

Fall 8-15-2000

ENG 1002G-004: Composition and Literature

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Recommended Citation

Nau, Devon, "ENG 1002G-004: Composition and Literature" (2000). *Fall 2000*. 40.
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Fall 2000

English 1002G-004

Instructor: Ms. Devon Nau

Office: CH 314E

Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:00, 2:00-3:00 and TR by appointment or announcement

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Description: This course introduces students to the major literary genres (poetry, fiction, drama), instructs them in generic distinctions, attempts to make them attentive and sensitive readers, and guides them in articulating—both in class discussion and in written discourse—a mature, informed reaction to literary work.

Guidelines: All students enrolled in 1002G should have passed 1001G or must have fulfilled the requirement through transfer credit or through the CLEP proficiency examination.

Graded Essays/Exams: Although you may be asked to turn in a writing sample, preliminary drafts of essays and/or other short writing assignments, you must produce three 4-6 page essays and one 7-9 page essay, involving research. You will take three exams.

Grades: Each essay and each exam will receive a letter grade: A, B, C, D or F. I will determine essay grades in strict accordance with the Standards for Evaluating Themes developed by the EIU English Department. The semester's exam grade will be based on the percentage of points you earn out of the total points available on the various tests. The three exams that you take, including a comprehensive final exam, will be weighted equally and, combined, will be worth 40% of the total grade. The four essays you write will also be weighted equally and will constitute 50% of your total grade. Ten percent of your final grade will be based on class participation, effort, improvement and, mostly, my general impression of your work.

Note: English 1002C is what is commonly called an "A, B, C, No Credit" class. This means that you must earn a "C" to receive credit for the course. Since the grading system we are using in 1002C is the University's 4.0 scale (an "A" is 4.0, a "B" is 3.0, and so on), you will be able to determine your grade at any time; however, if you have a question about your grade, and, certainly, if you are performing below the "C" level, make appointments with me and/or the Writing Center (CH101) for private tutorials.

Late Work: Unless you have made prior arrangements with me, any late work will receive a failing grade. A student will automatically fail the course if he or she neglects to turn in all graded essay assignments and/or take all exams.

Class Attendance: Because the information provided in the classroom is a major part of 1002C, and because much of what you learn here about literature and writing involves analytic discussion, debate and reading aloud, failure to attend class will affect your grade. Any student missing more than five meetings without obtaining my approval will not receive credit for the course.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STATEMENT CONCERNING 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.

A note for students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

TEXTS: Fulwiler, The Blair Handbook, 2nd ed.
Griffith, Writing Essays about Literature, 5th ed.
Kennedy, An Introduction to Poetry, 9th ed.
Trimmer, Fictions, 4th ed.
Worthen, The Harcourt Brace Anthology of Drama, 3rd ed.
Also, one novel chosen by you from the list provided in class

SYLLABUS

(subject to deletion or expansion)

A. FICTION (August 21-September 27)

- Chopin, "The Story of an Hour"
- Zoline, "The Heat Death of the Universe"
- London, "To Build a Fire"
- Crane, "The Open Boat"
- Carver, "A Small, Good Thing"
- O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"
- Erdrich, "The Red Convertible"
- Walker, "Everyday Use"

... plus related commentaries and selections from Fictions, Writing Essays, and The Blair Handbook

B. POETRY (October 2–November 1)

Ted Kooser

“Carrie” (264)

“A Child’s Grave Marker” (339)

Robert Frost

“Nothing Gold Can Stay” (272)

“Fire and Ice” (85)

“Mending Wall” (415)

“Acquainted with the Night” (215)

Walt Whitman

“O Captain! My Captain!” (348)

“Cavalry Crossing a Ford” (236)

William Shakespeare

“Let me not to the marriage of true minds” (213)

“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun” (345)

Edna St. Vincent Millay

“What lips my lips have kissed, and where, and why” (215)

Langston Hughes

“Mother to Son” (370)

“Harlem” (373)

“The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (369)

Anne Sexton

“Cinderella” (284)

Andrew Marvell

“To His Coy Mistress” (451)

Dylan Thomas

“Do not go gentle into that good night” (222)

Carl Sandburg

“Fog” (349)

Ben Jonson

“On My First Son” (439)

Emily Dickinson

“Some keep the Sabbath going to Church” (367)

“Because I could not stop for Death” (367)

C. DRAMA (November 3-December 8)

A Doll House, Henrik Ibsen

Trifles, Susan Glaspell

Exam dates, essay topics and essay due dates will be provided in class. In general, however, prepare to turn in an essay and to take a test at the end of our discussion of each literary genre (see tentative dates above). You will work independently on the 7-9-page essay on a novel throughout the semester. Details, along with a book list, will be provided early in the term.