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ENG 1002-046-066-073: Composition and Literature

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The plan

The texts:
Meyer, Michael. Thinking and Writing About Literature: A Text and Anthology, 2nd Ed.

The course:
In ENG 1002G (Composition and Literature) you will take the next step from 1001G toward developing your writing/reading skills. You will read works of literature—poetry, fiction, drama, some essays—then, after studying different ways of analyzing them, learn how to write intelligibly about them.

This course requires a final exam.

The requirements:
First things first: If you don't already have an e-mail, get one through Student Services or through one of the commercial sites. E-mail them to me at cfwef@eiu.edu, so that I may have your e-mail addresses. Include in the e-mail your full name and phone number.

Read ... read ... read ... write ... write ... write. Perhaps not your favorite words or perhaps so. Either way, you'll be required to read and write extensively. You will be helped along the way by vigorous and informed classroom discussion, in which you will be required to participate.

You'll need two HD disks and a pocket folder to hold your response papers, drafts and revisions.

Point totals:
You will write five response papers of 300 words each on selected works (more on responses later on). Keep responses in a pocket folder for further reference), a three- to five-page midterm paper, which, along with written responses, will decide your midterm grade, a second three- to five-page paper during the second half of the semester, a final research paper (8-9 pages excluding Works Cited page), and a final test. Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course grade</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100% (of 600) = A</td>
<td>90-100% = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89% = B</td>
<td>80-89% = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79% = C</td>
<td>70-79% = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 70% = NC (No Credit)</td>
<td>60-69% = D</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Below 60% = F</td>
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Point totals for assignments:
Response papers x 5, 20 points each=100 pts.
Paper No. 1=100 pts.
Paper No. 2=100 pts.
Final exam=100 pts.
Final research paper=200 pts.
Total=600 pts.

If you receive an NC, you will have to retake the course. If you come to class, read the assignments (plan on at least two hours reading for each hour of class), and do reasonably well on the tests, you should not have a problem.

The essays:
YOU MUST FOLLOW MLA FORMAT, WITH WHICH ALL OF YOU SHOULD BE FAMILIAR, ON ALL ESSAYS. MLA format: No title page. Typed, double-spaced. Twelve point Times New Roman. One-inch margins all around. On the first page, in the upper left hand corner, type your name, my name, the course title AND section, and the date (e.g., 12 March 2004), all double-spaced.

On plagiarism: The English Department policy on plagiarism follows:
Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of 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 assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.
Don't do this. Please don't do this. See me if you question the originality of your work.

The conferences:
You will have a number of opportunities for feedback on your revisions. At least one formal conference, more if necessary, will be scheduled with me, and peer reviews also will be scheduled. These are required and not an option. You'll suffer a 10 percent cut on your final project grade if you miss a peer review or conference with me. Exceptions will follow.

The class attendance policy:
Unless you have an excused absence, missing a conference or peer review will drop your final grade on the paper, as mentioned above. To avoid this, illness must be verified by an excuse from the Health Center or your personal physician. Also, university-sponsored events will stand for excusable absences. BUT you must give me notice and make arrangements to reschedule a conference.

Missed assignments will be handled as follows: You will be given until the close of the day (midnight) the assignment is due to get me the assignment. This can be handled by email. If you have one of two excuses mentioned above, then arrangements will be made. However, if no excuse is given, you will lose credit for that assignment. NO EXCEPTIONS!

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

The structure:
NOTE: No dates have been assigned for examination of each work and, with few exceptions, assignments will be made as necessary, time permitting for each section. I did this because I don’t want to place time limits on each work. This way, we can devote as much time as we feel necessary to each work. I would rather leave out a work than leave several under-dissected.
However, the semester will naturally divide into six parts (detailed assignment given in advance):

January 12-March 1
   Part I: To include an overview, online matters, word processing review, MLA format requirements, 3-4 page paper that will grow out of a response to an assigned work of literature. I'll give out weekly assignments as we go.
   Midterm grades (you'll receive a midterm grade only if you're getting a D or lower.)

March 1-April 29
   Reading assignments during the second half of the semester will be broken down by themes and will vary in length, depending on time available. We will address fiction, poetry, drama, essays, responses (to selected assignments) on the following thematic concerns:
   Part II: Home and Family
   Part III: Love and Its Complications
   Part IV: Life and Its Lessons
   Part V: The Natural and Unnatural
   Part VI: Culture and Identity

April 26
   Final research paper due (NO EXCEPTIONS).

May 1-7
   Final exam week (as scheduled for finals week)
Critical responses:

As listed in the syllabus, you must write a number of responses to the works we read and discuss in class. Approximately five will be assigned on major and some not so major works. They should be 300 words in length (one double-spaced, typed page). Each will be worth 20 points toward your midterm and final grade.

The first 100 words or so of your response will summarize the plot. This should be succinctly written, without getting too bogged down in detail. The second part of the response will list your thoughts and feelings about the work. At first, your responses will deal mainly with your personal response to the work. How do you feel about the characters? Are they "round" or "flat?" Do they seem real? Why would the author want to create a character what isn’t well rounded? Do you trust the narrator? What are the character’s motives? Are they plausible? And the list goes on and on. This will be your forum to discuss the work in your own terms, at least at first. There’s no right or wrong here, except to say something is bad or simply good is not enough. You must back your opinion with reason.

As we progress through the semester, we will examine other strategies of looking at essays. Doing so will allow for a richer understanding of literature from different perspectives.

We will discuss this aspect of your lesson in much more detail as we progress. Two of these responses will naturally evolve into the two required shorter papers. So keep them safe in your pocket folder.