

Fall 8-15-2000

ENG 1002G-009: Composition and Literature

Zahlan

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2000



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Zahlan, "ENG 1002G-009: Composition and Literature" (2000). *Fall 2000*. 45.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2000/45

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2000 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2000 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

Fall 2000
TR 1230-1345
CH 318

English 1002G: Composition and Literature

Dr. Zahlan
316E; 581-6977
cfarz@eiu.edu

Course Objectives

In this course, we will read, discuss, and write about poems, plays, and short stories, written in different times and places, that raise questions about personal feelings and relationships as well as social structures and behavior. What do we mean by love? How do families function? Who is insane and who decides? Why do human beings resort to violence and nations to war? What is reality and what is illusion? We will read works of literature that stimulate our thoughts about such issues--and that we can also enjoy.

Eastern's General Education Core Curriculum is designed to develop in students nine "traits and abilities": Literacy; Reasoning Ability; Quantitative Analysis; Historical Consciousness; Scientific Awareness; Social Responsibility; Aesthetic Literacy; Multicultural Awareness; and, Intellectual Curiosity. This course will address seven of the nine. It will offer opportunities for motivated students to increase their knowledge of literary forms and techniques while improving skills in reading comprehension and textual analysis, written and oral communication, and critical thinking.

Texts

Charters, Ann, ed., *The Story and Its Writer*, 5th ed. (Story);
Griffith, Kelley, *Writing Essays about Literature*, 4th ed. (Writing);
Kennedy, X. J., and Dana Gioia, eds., *An Introduction to Poetry*, 9th ed. (Poetry);
Worthen, W.B., ed., *The Harcourt Brace Anthology of Drama*, 3rd. ed. (Drama);
Fulwiler, Toby, and Alan R. Hayakawa. *The Blair Handbook* (Handbook);
Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Dictionary).

CLASS PROCEDURES: Class members are expected to complete the assigned reading punctually, to keep a class journal, to be prepared for in-class writing assignments, and to contribute actively and constructively to discussion.

DR. Z'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, 1000-1045 and 1630-1745;
Wednesdays, 1530-1645; Thursdays, 1000-1045; Additional Hours by Appointment

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK I

Tuesday, 22 August: Introduction and Assignments
Thursday, 24 August: Lovelace, "To Lucasta"; Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est" and "Writer's Perspective," Poetry, 40-43; Eberhart, "The Fury of Aerial Bombardment," 67; Owen, "Anthem for Doomed Youth," 461-2; Whitman, "Cavalry Crossing a Ford," 236, and "Beat! Beat! Drums!" 99.

WEEK II

Tuesday, 29 August: Ambrose Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," Story, 162ff.
Frank O'Connor, "Guests of the Nation," Story, 1118ff.
Thursday, 31 August: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, Drama, 108ff. (Read 108 to line 801, p.117)
Assignment of Paper I due 12 September

WEEK III

- Tuesday, 5 September: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, Drama, 108ff. Complete the play for today.
Thursday, 7 September: Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried," Story 1065ff.

WEEK IV

- Tuesday, 12 September: Paper I due in class on this date. (Consult Essay, Part II, 157-258.)
Prepare to share your paper with the class. Peer Evaluations.
Bring Handbook to class.
Thursday, 14 September: Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "How Do I Love Thee? . . .," Poetry 396;
Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress," 451;
Ezra Pound (trans.), "The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter," 468-9;
John Donne, "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," 404-05;
Michael Drayton, "Since There's No Help, . . ." 214;
William Butler Yeats, "When You Are Old," 513-14.
Revisions due. Assignment of Paper II due 3 October

WEEK V

- Tuesday, 19 September: Jean Racine, *Phaedra*, Drama, 461 ff. (Read Acts I-III, to p. 471, l. 381).
Thursday, 21 September: Racine, *Phaedra* (Complete the play for today.)

WEEK VI

- Tuesday, 26 September: Bessie Head, "Life" Story 643 ff.
William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily," Story 469 ff. and
"The Meaning of 'A Rose for Emily,'" 1461 ff.
Thursday, 28 September: Ernest Hemingway, "Hills like White Elephants," Story 653 ff.;
Nadine Gordimer, "Country Lovers," Story 613 ff.
Sign up for conferences.

WEEK VII

- Tuesday, 3 October: Paper II due in class (Consult Writing as needed.)
Be prepared to share paper with the class.
Bring Handbook to class.
Sign up for conferences.
Thursday, 5 October: Paper III: In-Class Essay (Bring test booklets to class.)
(Study "Taking Essay Tests," Writing 251 ff.)

WEEK VIII

- Tuesday, 10 October: Revised Paper II due in class.
Gwendolyn Brooks, "The Mother," Poetry 394-95;
Dylan Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night," 222-23;
Robert Hayden, "Those Winter Sundays" and "The Whipping," 424-25;
Sylvia Plath, "Daddy," 464-65;
Theodore Roethke, "My Papa's Waltz," 18;
James Wright, "Autumn Begins in Martins Ferry, Ohio," 509;
Assignment of Paper IV due 26 October.
Thursday, 12 October: Discussion of Paper III
Amy Tan, "Two Kinds," Story 1263 ff.;
Tillie Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing" 1129 ff.

WEEK IX

- Tuesday, 17 October: Molière, *Tartuffe*, Drama 432 ff. (Read Acts I-III for today.)
Thursday, 19 October: *Tartuffe* continued (Complete the play for today.)

WEEK X

- Tuesday, 24 October: James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues," Story 83 ff.;
Baldwin, "Autobiographical Notes," 1426
Peer Evaluation assignments
Thursday, 26 October: Paper IV due--Peer Evaluations at class time or as scheduled
(Dr. Z. will be participating in a professional conference on this date)

WEEK XI

- Tuesday, 31 October: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado" and "The Tell-Tale Heart,"
Story 1146 ff.; Revised Paper IV due in class on this date
(Hand in revised paper, corrected draft, and peer evaluation sheets.)
Assignment of Paper V due 9 November and
Paper VI due 30 November (topic must be approved by 16 November)
Thursday, 2 November: Review Poe stories as appropriate.
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," Story 577 ff.;
Gilman and Gilbert and Gubar, Commentaries, Story 1465-1468

WEEK XII

- Tuesday, 7 November: Angela Carter, "The Company of Wolves," Story 228 ff.;
Commentary by Salman Rushdie, 1537 ff.
Sign up for conferences.
Thursday, 9 November: Paper V due--Peer Evaluations at class time or as scheduled
(Dr. Z. will be participating in a professional conference on this date.)
Begin reading Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*.

WEEK XIII

- Tuesday, 14 November: Wole Soyinka, *Death and the King's Horseman*, " Drama 1275 ff.
Read at least first three acts for today.
Paper topics due on or before this date. (Topics must be approved.)
Thursday, 16 November: Soyinka, *Death and the King's Horseman* (Finish the play for today.)
Sign up for conferences in Week XV.
Scheduling of Oral Presentations based on Final Paper

WEEK XIV

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY--NO CLASS MEETINGS

WEEK XV

- Tuesday, 28 November: Albert Camus, "The Guest," Story 208 ff.
Thursday, 30 November: Salman Rushdie, "The Firebird's Nest," Story 1195 ff.

WEEK XVI

- Tuesday, 5 December: Final Oral Presentations as Scheduled
Thursday, 7 December: Final Oral Presentations as Scheduled

FINAL EXAM REVIEW SHEETS.

FINAL EXAM (CUMULATIVE)

(Bring test booklets to your final exam.)

ASSIGNMENTS

I. JOURNAL: Keep a separate notebook or journal in which you write your initial and considered responses to reading assignments and class discussion and in which you keep notes of any "outside" reading or computer research you do that is related to the course. From time to time, you will be asked to write responses in class, and you should add them into your journal when they are returned. Journals are very useful in reviewing for exams and in planning your papers and oral presentations. I will not collect or grade journals.

II. VOCABULARY: One important goal of the course is to improve your reading, writing and speaking skills. In order to do so, you will need to increase your vocabulary, both passive and active. Be sure to jot down unknown words as you read and then to go back and look them up in your Dictionary. Keep a list of new words learned from each assignment and the relevant definitions in your Journal. Try to incorporate new words into your spoken as well as written language.

III. ORAL PARTICIPATION AND REPORT: Students are expected to come prepared to class and to contribute informed comments. Throughout the semester, students may be asked to prepare comments or bring in information relevant to assigned texts and their background.

During the last two class sessions, each student will present the material of his/her final paper.

IV. PAPERS I, II, IV, V, and VI will be written and revised outside of class; Paper III is an in-class essay. Grading will be based upon English Department guidelines, copies of which will be provided to students.

Paper I is an essay (600-800 words) that takes one of the following approaches:

Option A: Argue and support your own position on a focused aspect of the institution of war. In preparation for writing your paper, consider why human beings resort to violence and why human societies organize themselves for war. Is war ever justified? Are social or political injustices remedied by resort to war? As you consider issues related to war, narrow down your approach so as to argue a very specific thesis. As you structure and develop your argument, refer to works of literature read and discussed so far in the course.

OR

Option B: Convey the essence and significance of an experience by cataloguing and describing material objects (as Tim O'Brien does in "The Things They Carried"). For this assignment, you must choose an experience that is very different from the one O'Brien deals with. For this essay to work, you must amass effectively specific details--the "things" must do the work of getting across the meaning of the activity you evoke.

Whichever option you choose, be sure to quote accurately and to document any and all texts, programs, films, lectures the content of which has influenced your thinking and expression.

The topics of subsequent papers will be assigned in class.

V. DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES: Students are advised to attend as many plays as possible at EIU's theater, the Charleston Alley Theater, the Krannert Center at the University of Illinois, etc. There may be extra-credit opportunities to write reviews of performances.

GRADE CALCULATION: Class Preparation and Participation=25%

Paper I=5%; Papers II, III, IV, and V= 40%; Paper VI (including Oral Report) = 15%

Final Exam=15%

ENGLISH 1002G—COURSE POLICIES

STANDARDS & POLICIES: Class attendance, punctuality, preparation, and participation are expected and required. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and all announcements or assignments made in class as well as for all assignments on the syllabus. Assignments are to have been completed by class time on the date for which they appear on the syllabus. The books in which the day's assignments are contained should be brought to class.

Remember that "class participation" counts towards the course grade; absence from class will result in a "0" for the day's participation as well as on any graded work due or done in class. Unannounced quizzes on assigned material may be given at any time. There will be no opportunities to "make up" missed quizzes.

EXAMS: There will be no opportunities to make up a missed exam or oral report other than in cases of documented medical emergency; (signing in at Health Service does not constitute documentation of a medical emergency).

Major Tests and the Final Exam should be written on test booklets, available at the Union Book Store. Please write tests in ink and on the appropriate booklets.

ALL PAPERS AND OTHER WRITTEN WORK must be handed in on the date due.

1. Work turned in late without advance clearance will not be accepted.
2. Work turned in late with clearance will be penalized, usually at the rate of 5 points per day.
3. Any lateness may delay the grading and return of the paper, perhaps until the end of term.

BE SURE TO KEEP A COPY OF EVERY PAPER YOU HAND IN. It is advisable to keep a diskette as well as a hard copy of every paper you submit. IN THE CASE OF A MISSING PAPER, THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING A COPY.

A NOTE ON THE PRESENTATION OF PAPERS: Papers must be typed (double-spaced) or computer-printed on heavy or medium-weight white 9 x 11 paper. Computer print must be clear and dark laser or ink-jet. If you use continuous-form paper, be sure the pages are separated and edges removed.

Leave adequate margins. Each paper must have a separate title sheet which includes the title of the paper, course title, instructor's name, student's name, and date of submission. Repeat the title at the top of the first page of text. Papers must be stapled or clipped with the pages in the correct order.

ONLY PAPERS THAT ARE NEAT AND IN CORRECT FORM CAN BE ACCEPTED.

DOCUMENTATION: Use the current MLA system to cite both primary and secondary sources used in your papers. The system is fully explained and illustrated in *The Blair Handbook* and other current handbooks.

Inform yourself about documentation conventions for electronic media information and materials. All such materials must be documented and citation forms are illustrated in recent handbooks; go to the Writing Center for assistance. Electronic-media materials must be evaluated for quality at least as scrupulously as print materials. Please remember that you must absorb and process all materials: downloading is not research.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be original and independent. Avoid resorting to prefabricated papers and research materials found on the net. Please make sure that you understand the meaning of plagiarism and the policy of the English Department:

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 assignment of the grade of F for the course.

Note: 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.