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ENG 1002G-005: Composition and Literature

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to make you better readers, writers, and thinkers, but I hope it will also encourage you to enjoy and appreciate literature. Along the way we will examine pieces from each of the three principle literary genres (poetry, fiction, and drama), works written by men and women from culturally-diverse backgrounds which we will examine within historical, social, cultural, and aesthetic contexts. And because this is also a composition course, we'll write quite a bit about the literature (at least 5,000 words, but probably much more than that). Expect to spend approximately two hours reading, analyzing, and writing about each day's assignment before coming to class.

SPECIAL INFORMATION ABOUT ENG 1002-G: ENG 1002-G is a writing-centered course, which (along with ENG 1001) makes it an acceptable class from which students may submit freshman-level essays to their Electronic Writing Portfolios. If you did not meet this requirement through your ENG 1001 class, see me for instructions on submitting an essay from this class. Reminders and deadlines for this assignment appear on your syllabus. All students enrolled in this class must have passed ENG 1001-G or must have fulfilled the requirement through transfer credit or through the CLEP proficiency examination.

ATTENDANCE/MAKE-UP & LATE WORK: If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what we did that day; illnesses or emergencies do not exempt you from class obligations. Our syllabus is merely tentative, so check with me to see if changes were made in your absence. Your regular attendance is important – attendance is recorded at the start of every class, and unexcused absences will substantially hurt your semester grade, especially in the following ways:

- In-class work (essays, quizzes, writing exercises, etc.) can be made up only if your absence is excused.
- Any work turned in late (for any reason except an excused absence) is graded down one letter grade for each day it's late.
- 45% of your final grade is based upon in-class writing, exams and quizzes, contributions to discussion, and other daily activities. If you're not here, you can't participate in these activities, and your semester grade suffers!

Other important attendance/make-up work/late work information:

- Excuses are granted only for serious and verifiable reasons (e.g., illness documented with a doctor's note, inclement weather for commuters, documented death in the family, etc.), not for matters of personal convenience, such as travel arrangements/rides home, meetings with advisors, "unofficial" extra-curricular activities (such as intramural sports, departmental club meetings, intramural sports, debate team meets, etc. – check with me if you're unsure if it's an "official" function), must be completed before your absence.
- Absences on assignment due dates, test dates, or conference dates are particularly suspect and will require strong verification before make-up privileges will be granted.
- No assignments will be accepted more than one week after the due date; a grade of "zero" will be recorded.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (581-6583) as early in the term as possible if you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations. Please let me know, too, and realize that I can be of greater assistance to you if I'm made aware of your disability early in the semester.

GRADING: English department standards will be used to determine grades on all written work—rather stringent guidelines that evaluate not only the quality of your ideas, but also your writing style, method of organization, ability to avoid grammatical mistakes, etc. You'll be graded on a variety of activities, including essays, exams, reading responses, participation in class discussion, and possibly other activities, such as quizzes, but the quality of your writing will largely determine your grade in this class. In calculating your grade, I will use a 90-80-70 scale and plan to assign 1,000 points for the semester, thus 900 for an A, 800 for a B, and 700 for a C. If I make any changes to this total (for example, adding extra writing assignments if needed or giving reading quizzes if class discussion is weak), you will be forewarned, but such changes will affect the semester point totals outlined above, though I'll still grade on a 90-80-70 scale. English 1002-G is graded on an A, B, C, or NC (no credit) basis, so you must earn at least 70% (tentatively, 700 points) to pass this class.
TENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR POINT TOTALS:

- Essays, 450 points: You are required to submit all work on your essays, from beginning to end – notes, brainstorming, rough drafts (save/print a copy of each rough draft, before new revisions), and final draft
  - Essay 1, Poetry, minimum of 750 words, 100 points – mandatory conferences
  - Essay 2, Fiction, minimum of 1,000 words, 150 points
  - Essay 3, Drama, minimum of 2,500 words, 200 points
- Exams, 300 points: Exams on poetry, fiction, and drama worth 100 points each and all primarily essay in nature – come prepared to write. Drama exam given during finals week, but is NOT a comprehensive exam
- Group Research Project/ Presentation, 100 points: Full details provided later, but in short, you will be placed in a group and will conduct research on an author, historical background issue, or technical or thematic issue from one of the stories during our short story unit, will compile your findings into a cohesive group essay using MLA parenthetical documentation, and will present the findings of your research during a 10-minute group oral presentation.
- Brief In-Class Essays, 70 pts.: 2 responses to supplemental reading (poetry, fiction), worth 35 pts. each
- Daily Grade, 80 points: Your participation in this class on a day-to-day basis is crucial, especially if we are to have a class based upon lively discussions rather than tedious lectures – you must show up and you must speak out in our class discussions – BOTH factors will weigh heavily in determining your daily grade. Another significant portion of your daily grade is in-class writing, occasions (all unannounced) in which you will be asked to write about a specific aspect of the day’s reading assignment. Other factors that go along with a solid daily grade include completing all homework and other assignments; having a positive attitude; being punctual, prepared for, and attentive during class and conferences; and treating your classmates and teacher with respect. If I find class discussion to be particularly weak, I’ll assume this is in part because you’re not reading and thinking about the material carefully enough before class, so I’ll give unannounced reading quizzes, something I hope I will not have to do. If this does happen, the semester point total will be affected, though the grading scale will remain the same.

CONFERENCES: We’ll have mandatory conferences for essay 1, during which we’ll discuss your rough draft and any other questions or problems you may have (classes are canceled on conference days – consult syllabus), but I encourage you to come by any time that you have a question or problem – that’s what I’m here for! And the sooner I know of any difficulties you’re having, the greater the help I can provide – waiting until a couple of days before an assignment is due or until the last few weeks of the semester to seek help isn’t allowing yourself enough time to work and improve. If my office hours don’t fit your schedule, we can arrange a conference at a mutually-convenient time.

A QUICK NOTE ON RESEARCH: In order to pass this class, you must write an essay in which you incorporate material from outside sources (group project). We will briefly review research methods and MLA parenthetical documentation, but that won’t be enough if research writing is new to you or difficult for you, so see me immediately if 1) you’ve never written a research paper, 2) you’ve never used MLA parenthetical documentation, or 3) you’ve had problems on previous research assignments – you’ll need to allow time for extra conferences and for extra instruction regarding this type of writing.

VOICE MAIL/ E-MAIL: While I don’t give out my unlisted home phone number, I do encourage you to call me when you need me, even at times other than my posted office hours. If I’m not in, leave a voice-mail message INCLUDING YOUR PHONE # – I typically pick up my messages daily. (If my officemate answers, ask to leave me a voice-mail; otherwise, she’ll take your message, but I won’t receive it until I return to the office, sometimes long after your call.) Feel free to contact me via e-mail as well, but please note that I do not pick up or answer my e-mail on weekends, holidays, or days I’m away from the office.

INFORMATION FOR COMPUTER SECTIONS (those scheduled to meet in rooms 3120, 3130, 3140, or 3210): Because there are numerous other classes needing access to the lab, we will alternate our time between the lab and a regular classroom (paired as either 3210/3140 or 3120/3130). Please consult your syllabus for each day’s room assignment before coming to class. The technology we have available to us will enhance our class dramatically – making it easier to write and revise our work, to share our writing with others, to locate information using the Internet, etc., but the technology is only a tool: our emphasis will be upon developing your writing skills and upon analyzing the assigned literature. I’ll warn you, too, that the system is not perfect; occasionally “glitches” will arise, and we’ll need to be patient and flexible when dealing with these unavoidable problems. Because of the potential for computer-related problems, I encourage you to save your work to disk frequently, to create – on a separate disk – a back-up file for every document you write, to store all of your work in Rich Text Format (so other computers will be able to read your work), and to store a copy of your essays and other writing in the “Work” folder for our section.
A note on computer etiquette: The computers are to be used only for your work in this class and only when I've instructed you to do so. You will be asked to leave if you use the computer at unauthorized times, for purposes other than our work in this class (e-mail, surfing the 'Net, researching a topic or doing an assignment for another class, etc.), or for offensive purposes (e.g. visiting racist, sexist, or pornographic sites). And because of the English department's limited budget, I must ask that you refrain from printing long documents (more than a couple of pages), or even several short ones, in the lab. (Such documents should be saved onto disk and printed out at the library, another campus lab, or using your own printer.)

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON 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.

MORE EXPLANATIONS/ AVOIDING PLAGIARISM/ SEEKING APPROPRIATE HELP WITH YOUR WRITING: Plagiarism means taking the words or ideas or efforts of another person and passing them off as your own. To avoid it, take special care when using outside sources (including Internet sites): if you incorporate material found in outside sources, you must cite in parentheses each author (or editor, or key word from the title if no author or editor can be determined) and page # — after any sentences that include this material (and you'll need to include a Works Cited page that provides complete bibliographic information). If you use both ideas and wording from a source, it's not enough to just cite the author and page #: you must also use quotation marks around all words, phrases, and/or sentences taken from this source. (If you fail to use quotation marks around "borrowed" language, you're guilty of plagiarism — even if you've correctly cited author and page #.) And even if you're producing the entire essay without the use of outside sources, to avoid plagiarism, you must still be sure that all the work is your own.

If you have problems with your writing, you need to develop the skills necessary to overcome those problems, and I'm here to help you do that. Even though this takes a commitment to hard work and is often a slow process, it's far better than the huge risk you take by seeking shortcuts. Please note that the F penalty acquired through dishonesty has a disastrous impact on your grade point average, but an NC gained honestly has no harmful effects on your GPA — something to consider before you take that shortcut! And with that extra effort, you may potentially improve your skills enough to earn a C — or an even higher grade! — on your own.

Acceptable help with your writing: conferences with me; tutoring sessions with the English department graduate assistants in the Writing Center (located in 3110 — formerly 301 — Coleman Hall, free tutoring, not a proofreading service!) or other professionally-trained tutors who follow the practices of the Writing Center staff: that is, providing remedial help with your writing problems, but without doing the work for you — no editing, polishing, or proofreading; no identifying or correcting your grammatical mistakes or stylistic problems for you; no writing or rewriting your sentences for you; no offering better ideas, examples, or illustrations to replace your own, etc.

Unacceptable help with your writing: the obvious short-cuts noted above — having someone polish, edit, or proofread your work; taking someone else's ideas and/or words — from a print source, movie or TV show, interview, personal conversation, etc. — and passing them off as your own; or submitting an essay in which all or any portion thereof has come from a fraternity or sorority file or anyone else's essay, from an Internet site, term paper company, Cliff's Notes, Masterplots, Varsity.com, Pinkmonkey.com, or any other "cheater" source. Remember: I enforce my department's plagiarism policy to the fullest extent.

I wish each of you the best of luck this semester — and am happy to point out that only the few of you who refuse to do the necessary work for this class will be affected by most of these policies. For the rest of you — together we will work hard, but I hope we'll also have fun along the way. I hope not only to challenge you this semester, but also to encourage you, to inspire you, and to delight in your success. Welcome to my class — and I hope you'll soon feel that it's our class. I'm looking forward to a great semester!
Fall 2001 Syllabus
ENG 1002-G, Sect. 005, Veach
10:00 - 10:50 MWF, CH 2120

(P = Poetry book; F = Fiction (Short Story) book; D = Drama book; H = Handout)

August
M 20 Intro to course and policies; writing sample
W 22 Poetry terms and tips; "Those Winter Sundays" (P 424)
F 24 Speaker: "Home Burial" (H)
M 27 Speaker: "My Last Duchess" (P 11)
W 29 Imagery: "Traveling Through the Dark" (P 336), "Dulce Et Decorum Est" (P 41)
F 31 Imagery/ Diction: "A Blessing" (P 509), "Piano" (P 6), "Castoff Skin" (P 121)

September
M 3 Labor Day - No Class
W 5 Diction: "The Elder Sister" (H); "Daddy" (P 464)
F 7 Tone: "Still I Rise" and "Race Politics" (both H)
M 10 Theme: "Riding a One-Eyed Horse" (P 52); "The Gift" (H); Time permitting, begin Sexton poetry
W 12 An Author's Work – Anne Sexton: "Her Kind" (P 28), "Cinderella" (P 284), "The Twelve Dancing Princesses" (H), and "All My Pretty Ones" (H)
F 14 Sexton, cont'd: "The Lost Ingredient," "The Truth the Dead Know," "The Starry Night," and "To A Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph" (all H)
M 17 No Class – Library Day – pursue poetry independent study materials
W 19 In-Class Writing – Poetry Independent Study
F 21 Poetry Test
M 24 No Class – Conferences on Essay # 1 – held at my office (Coleman Hall 3055) – bring rough draft of the essay, plus any questions you have
W 26 F 28

October
M 1 Essay # 1 Due; Elements of fiction lecture; "The House on Mango Street" (F 337-8) and "My Name" (F 338-9)
W 3 "The Story of an Hour" (F 333-35)
F 5 No Class – Fall Break
M 8 "Hills Like White Elephants" (F 653-56)
W 10 "The Shawl" (F 1136-39)
F 12 "A Rose for Emily" (469-75)
M 15 "The Red Convertible" (F 460-67)
W 17 "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" (F 256-65)
F 19 No Class – Prep. Day for Group Projects
M 22 "The Things They Carried" (F 1065 - 1078); at end of class, sign out copy of "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner" (H – that must be returned)
W 24 Projects presented in class; p.m. – 6 - 8:15, location TBA, movie: Cool Hand Luke
F 26 The Anti-Hero: "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner" (H) and Cool Hand Luke
October (Cont’d)
M 29  Finish discussion of anti-hero; In-class writing on the anti-hero (last half of class
W 31  Test on Fiction; Sign out a copy of *Hamlet* (H – that must be returned)

November
F  2  *Hamlet*, Act I
M  5  *Hamlet*, Act I; Essay # 2 is due; p.m. – 4 - 8:30, Location TBA, videotape of Kenneth Branaugh's *Hamlet*
W  7  *Hamlet*, Act II
F  9  *Hamlet*, Act III
M 12  *Hamlet*, Act III & IV
W 14  *Hamlet*, Act IV & V
F 16  *Hamlet*, Act V & final discussion of play

M 19, W 21, F 23 No Class – Thanksgiving Break

M 26  *Death of A Salesman* (D 844 - 881); Reminder: CASA deadline for submitting Fr. level essay to EWP
W 28  
F 30  

December
M  3  *Death of A Salesman* video shown; Essay # 3 Due
W  5  
F  7  Last Class Day; finish movie

Final Exam: Tuesday, Dec. 11, 10:15 - 12:15, CH 2120

Note: You may reschedule your final exam for one of only two reasons: 1) You have a total of three exams scheduled for Tuesday, 12/11. To reschedule, you must make arrangements with me – in person!!! – no later than 10:00 Friday, December 7. Do not merely leave me a voice mail message and consider yourself approved for rescheduling! – I may not agree, and certainly will not do so without verification of your scheduling conflict (read on), and you must show me an official copy of your schedule and the exam schedule, so I can verify your scheduling dilemma or 2) catastrophic personal illness documented with a doctor’s note, death in your immediate family, etc. – excuses will be granted only for dire circumstances that have been thoroughly and officially documented. You must notify me Tuesday morning – I plan to turn in grades for your class sometime Tuesday afternoon. If you’ve missed the exam and I haven’t been notified, I’ll assume you’ve simply blown off the test and will calculate your semester grade accordingly.