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ENG 1002-058: Composition and Literature

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Goals: 1002C is a writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts. At the end of the course, you should be able to write even better than you did at the end of 1001. You will certainly be more experienced in writing and thinking analytically—i.e., dissecting something in order to figure out how it's put together, how it works. The course is also designed to introduce the three major genres of literature—fiction, poetry, and drama—and to enhance your enjoyment of them.

Policies: English Department statement 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 assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

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.

Plan to hand in papers on time. If you're having problems, let me know.

Reading responses will be accepted ONLY at the class for which they are due, not at any other time. (Speak to me in cases of emergency.)

Longer essays a week or more late will not be accepted at all.

Come to class prepared. You'll have more fun if you've done the reading, and I will notice if you haven't. Note that a portion of the grade is based on material that must be handed in on time, in class.

Requirements: two exams and a final
3 typed essays (2-4 pp each)
weekly reading responses (will be accepted ONLY at
the class for which they are due except in genuine emergencies

careful preparation of reading assignments and participation in class discussion

Reading responses: These are to be 1-2 pp., typed. Choose some aspect of a work read during the week to discuss (keep your focus narrow, using ONE of my questions to get you started), and develop your ideas about it. This is an opportunity to make some point about what you've read, to respond to issues raised during class discussion, or to make a point about something you feel has been overlooked or misunderstood. When I grade these, I'll be looking for thoughtfulness, perceptiveness, detailed development, and precision (try to quote from whatever work you're discussing at least once as you develop your ideas). I won't be looking for the same degree of stylistic polish or organization that I expect in the longer essays. Responses will be graded on a 10-point scale.

Grades: 40% of the grade will be based on exams (10/10/20)
40% on essays (10/15/15)
20% on reading responses and class participation

Essay grades will be based on Standards for Grading Themes at EIU. I plan to use number rather than letter grades; this will convert into your final grade as follows: 91-100=A; 81-90=B; 70-80=C. 65-69=D. Because I grade on a 100-point scale, missing assignments affect the grade tremendously.

NOTE that you must have a C average to receive credit for the course.

Tentative, partial syllabus (more coming)
M Feb 24: Essay #1 due.
Wed Feb 26/Fri Feb 28: conferences in my office in place of class

II. Short Stories
Mon March 3: Carver, 243-53, "What We Talk about. . ."
Wed March 5: "Errand"
Fri March 7: "Cathedral" Response due.

Mon March 10: Bambara, "The Lesson"
Wed March 12: Jewett, "The White Heron"

March 17-21: Spring Break

Mon March 24: Kincaid, "Girl" and Chopin, "Story of an Hour"
Wed March 26: Smiley, "Long Distance"
Fri March 28: Leavitt, "Braids" Response due
Mon March 31: Paley, "A Conversation with my Father," Atwood, "Happy Endings"

Wed Ap 2: Essay #2 due for in class peer evaluation

III. Poetry
Wed. Ap 9:

Mon. Ap 14:
Wed Ap 16:

Mon Ap 21:
Wed Ap 23:

Mon Ap 28:
Wed Ap 30:
Fri May 2: Hand in essay #3.

There will be a final exam during final exam week.