Goals: 1092 is a writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts. The course is also designed to introduce three major genres of literature—poetry, drama, and fiction—and to enhance your enjoyment of them. And finally, I'm hoping you'll find the reading and writing useful on a personal level, since talking about literature often involves discussing our own values and identity. A couple of comments on reading, writing, and education:

If the book we are reading does not wake us, as with a fist hammering on our skull, why then do we read? So that it shall make us happy? Good God, we should also be happy if we had no books, and such books as make us happy we could, if need be, write ourselves. But what we must have are those books which come upon us like ill fortune, and distress us deeply, like the death of one we love better than ourselves; like suicide. A book must be an ice-axe to break the sea frozen inside us. --Kafka

... at once it struck me what quality went to form a Man of Achievement, especially in Literature, and which Shakespeare possessed so enormously -- I mean Negative Capability, that is, when a man is capable of being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason ...

--Keats

... happy are they that hear their detractions and can put them to mending.

--Benedick in Much Ado about Nothing, Act II, scene 3

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. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

Late/missing work: Hand in papers on time. If you're having problems, let me know; often even a brief conversation with make the paper easier to write. Papers a week or more late will not be accepted at all. Any paper handed in on time may be rewritten if it is handed in again within one week of its being returned. Please hand in the most recent graded version along with the rewrite and include a brief typed note to me explaining what you have changed. I will average the original and rewrite grades when I figure grades at the end of the semester. In-class writing assignments may not be made up, but in cases of
serious illness/personal emergency (if you let me know), you will not be penalized for missing work.

**Attendance:** Plan on attending every class, having done the reading carefully, with appropriate book in hand. Note that a portion of the grade is based on class participation and reading responses--both of which require keeping up with the reading and being in class. Excessive absences will result in a grade of 0 for participation. If, due to illness or personal emergency, you must miss class, let me know so I can make sure you're not penalized.

**Computer lab:** Every other week, we’ll meet in the lab (indicated by * on the syllabus). For these meetings, make sure you bring and save required work via two methods: flash drive and either email or WebCT. Always bring a flash drive to save your work on days when we meet in the lab.

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.

This is a writing-centered class. You may use an essay from this class in your electronic writing portfolio if you haven’t already submitted one from 1001/1091. For more information, visit the website: http://www.eiu.edu/~assess.

**Requirements:** midterm and final (20%)
- Three short essays of 2-4 pp. each (30%)
- One longer essay of 6-8 pp. (20%)
- Brief in-class and at-home writing assignments and WebCT postings: 20%
- Group presentation, class participation and involvement 10%

**Grades:** Paper grades will be based on “Guidelines for Evaluating Writing Assignments in EIU’s English Department.” 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. Please note that you must have a C average in order to receive credit for this course.

**Responses:** Each week, you’ll be required to write at least one response to a reading assignment on the WebCT bulletin board. Your response must be posted at least 60 minutes before the class for which the assignment is due, and you must be present in that class to receive credit. Plan on writing a thoughtful 1-2 paragraph response in the course of which you: 1. respond to the comments of at least one other student (unless you’re the first to post); 2. make some observation about what you’ve read and develop your idea; and 3. quote at some point from the reading, providing the page number in parentheses after your quotation. I suggest you focus on a question from the list at the end of the syllabus (narrowing it to fit your interests), follow up on an issue raised by a previous posting, or make and develop an observation of your own. If you fail to gain access to Web-CT for reasons beyond your control, bring a typed 1-page response to the appropriate class period.

**Group presentations:** Several times during the semester I’ll ask you to work in groups. The major presentation, however, comes at the end of the semester, when, in groups of 2-3, I’ll ask you to select a contemporary poet or fiction-writer who particularly interests you. Your task will be to research that writer’s work and, as a group, lead a 35-minute discussion of either a story from the anthology, or a group of 3-4 poems you select (and get to me ahead of time so that I can duplicate them for the class). Prepare 5-10 minutes of background information, then lead the class in a discussion of the work. Use whatever
methods you'd like to make it interesting (let me know ahead of time if you need anything duplicated; feel free to assign group work, give quizzes, etc). For your final paper, use what you have learned to make some point about the author's work.

Tentative Syllabus
I. Fiction
Tu Jan 10: introduction to course

*Tues. Jan 17: Drabble, pp. 67-138. #2 Post to WebCT T/Th
*Thursday Jan 19: Drabble, finish

Tues Jan 24: Conferences on Essay #1
Thurs Jan 26: Hand in Essay. #1. Read Carver, *What We Talk about When We Talk about Love*, pp. 3-45 (first 6 stories)

*Tues Jan 31: “A Small Good Thing” (hand-out) and Carver, pp. 47-end. #3 Post to WebCT T/Th

Tues, Feb 7: Carter, pp. 41-84. #4 Post to WebCT T/Th
Thurs, Feb 9: Carter, 84-126.

II. Drama
*Tues Feb 14: Sophocles, *Oedipus*. #5 Post to WebCT T/Th
*Thurs Feb 16: Sophocles, *Antigone*

Tues Feb 21: Shakespeare, *Much Ado* (separate volume) Act I. Post to WebCT T/Th
Thurs Feb 23: Shakespeare, Act II-III

*Tues Feb 28: Shakespeare, IV-V. #7 Post to WebCT T/Th
*Thurs March 1: Shakespeare

Tues March 6: Conferences on essay #2. Linda Hogan, novelist, poet, memoirist, speaks 5pm, Doudna Theatre (free).
Thurs March 8: Hand in essay #2. Midterm

Spring break

*Tues March 20: Groups select poems (by a single author) or short story for presentation/discussion.
“The Room of My Life,” Anne Sexton (Norton anthology 437); “Metaphors,” Sylvia Plath (597);
“Harvard Classics,” Henri Cole (1035)
*Thurs March 22: “Self-Portrait,” A. K. Ramanujan (439); “Keeping Things Whole,” Mark Strand (621);
“This Is a Photograph of me,” Margaret Atwood (766)

Tues March 27: “Alphabets,” Seamus Heaney (741); “[Long Time Ago],” Leslie Marmon Silko (880);
“Ghost,” Cathy Song (1023); “Tourists,” Sherman Alexie (1047). #8 Post to Web CT Tu or Th
Thurs March 29: “Eating Poetry,” Mark Strand (621); “From The Lives of the Toll Takers,” Charles Bernstein (911); “Geometry,” Rita Dove (976)

*Thurs Ap 5: workshop essay #3

Tues Ap 10: Hand in essay #3. Group presentations. #9 Post to WebCT Tu or Th (not on your group’s work)

Thurs Ap 12: Group presentations

*Tues Ap 17: Group presentations. #10 Post to WebCT Tu or Th (not on your group’s work).
*Tues Ap 19: Group presentations

Tues Ap 24: Conferences. Essay #4 due in conferences
There will be a noncumulative final exam Tues May 1, 2:45