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ENG 2009G-002: Faith, Survival, Progress

Julie Campbell
Eastern Illinois University

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2009G—002 Faith, Survival, Progress
Spring 2014

Dr. Julie Campbell
Office CH 3572
Office hours TTH 11-12:30, 2-3:30,
and by appointment.

TTH 12:30-1:45pm
CH 3609
jdcampbell@eiu.edu

Texts
Lawall et al, Norton Anthology of Western Literature, Vol. 1, 8th ed.
Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice
Stoppard, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
Bunyan, Pilgrim’s Progress
Austen, Emma
Rowling, The Sorcerer’s Stone

Course Focus
English 2009, Faith, Survival, Progress, is a course designed to introduce you to a variety of early texts whose messages, styles, or techniques have survived in later periods, as we will see in a selection of modern texts. The themes of these works resonate with those of the course title. We will explore the notion of survival on two levels: the survival of key themes and motifs in literary study and survival itself as characters struggle for it in their own contexts. We will examine how faith and progress seem to operate in these works as well. Questions to explore include the following: how are these themes central to the human condition? What gives works that include such themes a sense of universality? What are some of the most “adaptable” themes that we find as we traverse literary history?

Policies
--The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates that 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 for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.
--Have assignments prepared on time. Papers more than a week late without a University-approved excuse will not be accepted. If you miss an exam, and you have a university-approved excuse, you may make up that exam. You will have no more than one week to do so, and the make-up exam may be different from the one given during class.
--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.
--Be prepared for class. You'll get more out of class discussions if you are participating in them, and I'll notice if you do not seem prepared to participate.
Requirements

--Three exams ..................... 45% (15% each of final grade)
--One 7-10-page research paper .... 20%
--Preliminary research report with
  annotated bibliography ............ 10%
--Final presentation .................. 10%
--Three response papers ............. 15%

Total: 100%

The three exams will cover the three units of study.

The paper topic will be chosen from the assigned plays and issues related to them. The paper will be 7-10 pages long. You will use at least 3-5 outside sources to support your arguments, and they should consist of scholarly books and journal articles. One web site of good scholarly repute may be used if necessary. You will use MLA Parenthetical Style, with a Works Cited page, for documentation. For MLA Style, see the Writing Center's web site, specifically, under Resources for Writers, http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.

Just after midterm, you will have a research report with an annotated bibliography due to show the progress that you have made regarding your research project. Do not worry if we haven’t yet covered the topic that interests you in class by the time you start your research—this portion of our study is meant to be an independent exploration of a topic that may be completely new to you. The goal is that your independent study will augment what is covered in class and will broaden the scope of the course as a whole for you. You, in turn, will share with the class what you have learned in your research near the end of the semester.

The research report and annotated bibliography will cover the preliminary research that you do for your research paper and presentation. It will essentially be your paper proposal. The report will address the topic, why you chose the topic, and the avenues of research that you chose to explore. (You will no doubt do more research by the time you write the paper itself, thus this report is "preliminary.") The annotated bibliography will consist of bibliographic citations using MLA Style of at least five sources with your notes on each work that describe the document, summarize why it may be useful to your project, and include possible quotations that you might use in the paper.

The final presentation will be a 7-10 minute oral report over your research project, due near the end of the semester. After conducting your research and writing your paper, you will present to the class what you have learned. The goals are to provide, via your and your fellow students’ reports, a “big picture” look at the subjects we have covered over the course of the semester, as well as to introduce specialized information that you have focused on during your own independent study.

The 3 response papers will be researched essays concerned with specific reading assignments. Just as for the research paper, you will use scholarly books and articles for your sources. One
web site of good scholarly repute may be used if necessary. You will use MLA Parenthetical Style documentation.

**The Writing Center**
Please make use of EIU’s Writing Center, located at 3110 Coleman Hall, this semester. The consultants there can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support for, and documenting your papers. One caveat: the Writing Center is not a proofreading or editing service. It is a place where you can learn how to become a more thoughtful, independent, and rhetorically effective writer. To schedule an appointment, drop by (3110 Coleman Hall) or call 581-5929.

**Tentative Schedule**

**Unit 1: Faith and Survival as Epic in Western Literature**

T. Jan. 14—Introduction to course.
**Read:** *The Odyssey*, Books I, II, IV, V, VI, IX, XI, XVI, XVII, XIX, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV. (Note: Always read your text’s introduction to each author or section.)
Th. Jan. 16—Begin *The Odyssey*.
**Read:** Read *Orlando Furioso*
T. Jan. 21—Finish Odyssey.
Th. Jan. 23—Begin *Orlando Furioso*
**Read:** *The Sorcerer’s Stone*
T. Jan. 28—Finish *Orlando Furioso*

T. Feb. 4—Finish *Sorcerer’s Stone*
Th. Feb. 6—Catch-up day. Review for Exam 1. Response Writing 1 due.

T. Feb. 11—Exam 1
**Read:** *Inferno*

**Unit 2: Progress and Faith with Epic Overtones and Modern Questions**

Th. Feb. 13—Begin *Inferno*.

T. Feb. 18—Finish *Inferno*.
**Read:** *Pilgrim’s Progress*
Th. Feb. 20—Begin *Pilgrim’s Progress*

T. Feb. 25—Finish *Pilgrim’s Progress*.
**Read:** *Hamlet.*
Th. Feb. 27—Begin *Hamlet.*
**Read:** *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

Th. Mar. 6—*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. **Discuss Major Research Papers.**

T. Mar. 11—Spring Break
Th. Mar. 13—Spring Break

T. Mar. 18—Catch-up day. Review for Exam 2. Writing Response 2 is due.
Th. Mar. 20—Exam 2.
**Read:** *Merchant of Venice*.

**Unit 3: Faith, Progress, and Human Foibles**

T. Mar. 25—Begin *Merchant of Venice*.

T. Apr. 1—Finish *Merchant of Venice*.
Th. Apr. 3—*Merchant of Venice*, film.
**Note:** Research Report with annotated bibliography is due. Also, you should be drafting your research paper. Now is the time to begin scheduling conferences over the research paper.
**Read:** Begin reading *Emma*.

T. Apr. 8—*Merchant of Venice*, film.
**Read:** Finish reading *Emma*.
Th. Apr. 10—Begin *Emma*.

T. Apr. 15—Finish *Emma*. **Sign up for presentations.**
Th. Apr. 17—*Clueless*, film

Th. Apr. 24—Presentations.

T. Apr. 29—Presentations. **Research Paper is due.**
Th. May 1—Presentations.

**Exam 2: Final, Thurs., May 8, 2:45-4:45**