English 1092C/Spring '97/McCormick

Nature of the Course

English 1092C, "Composition and Literature, Honors," is an introduction to the principal literary genres--fiction, drama, and poetry. It is also a writing course, a sequel to 1091C. (See your "Writing Assignments" handout.)

Course Requirements

You must read the assigned material carefully and perform the required writing assignments. For each fifty-minute class session you will need to spend two to three hours reading and re-reading the assigned material, and preparing your journal entry for the day.

Attendance/Missed Work/Late Papers

You will be expected to attend class regularly. Missed exams or themes may be made up only after you have discussed the matter with me and supplied documentation from your physician, from the University Health Service, or from another appropriate source.

Late papers will be penalized a half-letter for each class day they are late. Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -1. They may not be made up. (See "Grading," next page.)

Information for Students with Disabilities

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.

PLAGIARISM Policy (Policy for all English Department Courses):

"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."
Grading

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

- 20%--Theme 1
- 20%--Theme 2
- 20%--Mid-Term Exam
- 20%--Final Exam
- 20%--Journal Entries and In-Class Writing Assignments

I will use the following values in averaging your grades:

- A+ = 4.2
- A  = 4.0
- A-  = 3.8
- B+  = 3.2
- B   = 3.0
- B-  = 2.8
- C+  = 2.2
- C   = 2.0
- C-  = 1.8
- D+  = 1.2
- D   = 1.0
- D-  = 0.8
- F   = 0.0
- Missing = -1.0

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

- A = 4.2 to 3.8
- B = 3.7 to 2.8
- C = 2.7 to 1.8
- D = 1.7 to 0.8

But note the following incentive to attend class faithfully:

If at the end of the semester your average falls 1 to 2 decimal points below the cutoff for the next higher grade category, I will assign you the higher grade if you have had no more than 3 unexcused absences. For example, if your average were 3.6 or 3.7 (i.e., 1 or 2 points below the cutoff for an A), you would receive a final grade of B if you had had no more than 3 unexcused absences. If you had 4 or more unexcused absences, your average of 3.6 or 3.7 would earn a final grade of B.

IMPORTANT: To receive credit for this course you must have a final average of 1.8 (C-) or better (or 1.6 for students who have no more than 3 unexcused absences). Final grade averages that fall below the C- cutoff point will be recorded as "NC"—no credit.
Syllabus: English 1092C/Spring '97

Instructor: Dr. McCormick
Office: 339D
Phone: 581-6121
Office Hours: MWF--9:00-12:00 and by appointment

Required Purchases:
Theme folder
Large spiral notebook

Textbooks:
Poetry: An Introduction
Story and its Writer
Bedford Intro. to Drama

TWO PRELIMINARY REMARKS:

1. Asterisks below indicate important due dates. Mark them on your calendar.

2. I welcome your questions about any of our assignments for this course. Ask and I'll be happy to clarify.

JANUARY

13 Introduction to the course

**15 WAR: Poetry, "Dulce et Decorum Est," pp. 76-77, and "To Lucasta" (photocopied poem). BRING SPIRAL NOTEBOOK (journal) TO CLASS TODAY.

17 Story, "Guests of the Nation," 1076-1084, and "The Nearest thing to Lyric Poetry is the Short Story," 1481-1482. (IMPORTANT: Before coming to today's class, write a journal entry on "Guests" and bring it to our meeting today. See pp. 1-2 of your "Writing Assignments" ditto for suggestions.)

20 Martin Luther King's Birthday; no class

22 Story, "The Things They Carried," 1022-1035. (REMEMINDER: Bring a journal entry to class. And remember to do so for every future class meeting when we have a reading assignment.)

24 Story, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," 134-140.

27 Read carefully the description of topics for THEME ONE on your "Writing Assignments" handout. In your journal before today's class scribble down at least four different ideas for developing several of the topics listed for THEME ONE. Then write at least 150 words explaining how you might develop several of the ideas on your list. Also before coming to class read your handout entitled "SAMPLE PARAGRAPHS AND THEME." Today will be a discussion and question day. Note that if you wish to devise your own topic for Theme One you will need to
secure my approval of your written proposal no later than two weeks before the due date.

JANUARY

29 Drama, Lysistrata, 143-153 (to "Scene 1").

**31 Lysistrata, 153-161 (to "Scene 3"). Today is the deadline for securing my approval for student-devised topics for Theme One.

FEBRUARY

3 Lysistrata, 161-168.

5 Review your "Sample Paragraphs and Theme" handout. Do at least 200 words of brainstorming for Theme One in your journal. In class today we'll talk about how to develop your ideas and you will sign up for a conference at which we will discuss your plans for Theme One.

7 No class. Bring a 100-word description and tentative outline of your plans for Theme One to your conference with me in CH 339D.

10 Poetry, "Sir Patrick Spence" (photocopied); "Death of the Ball Turret Gunner" (and editor's commentary), 45-46. A short assignment. Spend two hours writing a rough draft of Theme One. Bring it to class, along with your "CHECKLIST" handout.

12 Revise Theme One, using your "Sample Paragraphs and Theme" and your "Checklist" handouts as your guides. Bring your revised theme and the handouts to class today, along with your grammar handbook (which you can use to double-check your punctuation and grammar).

14 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday: no class

**17 THEME ONE DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS. Submit it in a theme folder along with any earlier versions or scribbling which preceded your final version of the theme. (Don't remove pages from your journal, however.) Make a Xerox copy for your files before submitting your theme. When I return the graded theme you will submit the Xerox copy to me for my files. Informal discussion of themes.

Introduction to Shakespeare's Hamlet. I will distribute a plot summary for you to study.

19 No class. You deserve a break, and I need time to read your essays. (Begin reading Hamlet.)
FEBRUARY

21 Drama, Hamlet, Act I, 253-266. (Bring a photocopy of THEME ONE to swap for the graded theme at today’s meeting.)

24 IMPORTANT NOTE: Read Hamlet, Act II, 266-277. There will be no class meeting today. Instead we will meet at 7:00 tonight in the BOG room of Booth Library (2nd floor) to see a videotape of Hamlet. BE THERE!

26 Hamlet, Act III, 277-292


MARCH

3 Hamlet, Act V, 302-312. Also read Introduction to Hamlet, pp. 249-253.

** 5 Mid-Term Exam, Part I.
**  Submit your journal for evaluation at the beginning of class. (Make a Xerox copy of your journal entries before submitting the journal.)

** 7 Mid-Term Exam, Part II. (Bring an exam booklet to class. Purchase at University Union.)

10 Correct all errors of punctuation, grammar, spelling, or mechanics which I marked on Theme One. Use your grammar handbook as your guide in interpreting any abbreviations I have used in your margins. Make your corrections in pencil directly above or beside the errors I marked. In class today (God willing) I will (1) return your Mid-Term exams, (2) answer any questions you have about my markings of Theme One, and (3) schedule optional conferences with those who wish to ask me questions about your work thus far in the course and find out just exactly how you’re doing in 1002 at mid term. If you are not doing as well as you and I wish your were doing I will try to offer some suggestions at our conference for improving your grade in the second half of the course. (Look ahead to the assignment for ________.)

12 No class. If you have signed up for a conference, bring the following materials at the assigned time: your journal, your mid-term exam, and your corrected Theme One.

14 FAMILY, Poetry, "Daddy," 410-412 (a tough poem--read three times at least).

MARCH

17, 19, 21 Spring Break: no classes
MARCH

24 Story, "Two Kinds," 1215-1223.

26 Story, "Everything that Rises Must Converge," 1037-1048, and commentary by Booth, 1563-1566 and Di Renzo, 1567-1571.

28 Story, "Rocking Horse Winner," 800-811 and commentary by Harris, 1428-1430.

31 Drama, Death of a Salesman, 997-1008.

APRIL

2 Death of a Salesman, 1009-1028.

4 Death of a Salesman, 1029-1044.

7 "Woman at the Washington Zoo" (photocopied poem).

9 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. Story, "The Yellow Wallpaper," 531-542, and commentary by Gilbert & Gubar, 1420-1422. For the "Wallpaper" author's own commentary, see 1423-1424.

11 Story, "A Good Man is Hard to Find," 1063-1074, and commentary by O'Connor, 1549-1552.

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR SECURING MY APPROVAL FOR STUDENT-DEvised TOPICS FOR THEME TWO.


16 In your journal before today's class spend time brainstorming for ideas for THEME TWO. We will do additional brainstorming in class. Bring your ideas and questions, and sign up for a conference if you wish to discuss your plans for the theme with me.

18 No class. Optional conferences. Work three hours on THEME TWO, using our "Sample Paragraphs and Theme" and your "Checklist" handouts for inspiration.

21 Prepare a rough draft of theme two and bring it to today's class, along with your "CHECKLIST," which you will use as a tool for in-class revision.

23 THEME TWO DUE AT BEGINNING OF TODAY'S CLASS, ALONG WITH CORRECTIONS OF THEME ONE. (See ______________ assignment.) Submit in theme folder along with any earlier versions or scribbling which preceded your final version of Theme Two. (Don't remove pages from your journal, however.) MAKE A XEROX COPY FOR YOUR FILES BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR THEME.
RETURN THE GRADED THEME YOU WILL SUBMIT THE XEROX COPY TO ME FOR MY FILES. Informal discussion of themes.

IMPORTANT: Remind me to distribute a Final Exam Study Guide at today's class meeting.

APRIL

25 No class. I need time to read your papers. Be sure to bring your Xerox copy of Theme Two to our next meeting.

28 "Laboratory Poem" and "Mongoloid Child Handling Shells on the Beach" (photocopied poems).

Bring Xerox copy of THEME TWO to class. You'll swap it for the graded theme which I will return at the beginning of today's meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You may elect to revise either THEME ONE or THEME TWO in hopes of raising your grade for the theme by a maximum of two letters. If you choose to exercise this option you will need to do a very thorough revision, with the result that your revised theme differs substantially from the original version. Schedule a brief conference with me if you wish to revise, and we will discuss revision strategies. The revised theme is due at the beginning of our final class session. No papers will be accepted after that date.

30 Poetry, "To an Athlete Dying Young," 391 and "Castoff Skin" (photocopied poem).

MAY

2 Last class day. Review for final exam.

If you are revising THEME ONE or THEME TWO, your revised version is due at the beginning of class today. Submit in a theme folder along with the version of the theme which I have already graded. Include all new scribbling and early drafts which preceded the final revised version. Also include the following: (1) the graded theme which you have not revised; (2) a handout I will give you entitled "Instructions for Submitting Revised Papers." (The handout supplies additional instructions for preparing your revised theme and arranging the contents of your theme folder.)

Bring your JOURNAL to the Final Examination

FINAL EXAMINATION: ____________________________ (write time and date here when announced). Remember to bring your JOURNAL to the exam.