ENG 1002G-013: Composition and Literature

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NATURE OF THE COURSE:

English 1002G, "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 1001G. (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 F 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 Journal Writing Assignments + Points Earned on Spot Checks of Journal and Occasional Pop Quizzes

I will assign the following values to the grades you receive on the five projects described above:

- 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

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 1002G/Spring 2000

Instructor: Dr. McCormick
Office: 339D
Phone: 581-6121
Office Hours: M 9-11 & 12-1
(and by appointment)

Required Purchases:
- Theme folder
- Large spiral notebook

Textbooks:
- Poetry: An Introduction
- Story and its Writer
- Stages of Drama
- Blair Handbook
- Writing Essays About Literature

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.

AUGUST

21 Introduction to the course


** BRING SPIRAL NOTEBOOK (journal) TO CLASS TODAY.

Poetry, "Death of the Ball Turret Gunner" (and editor’s commentary), pp. 48-49; also read "Sir Patrick Spence" (photocopied poem).

IMPORTANT: Before coming to today's class, write a journal response to one or more of today's readings and bring it to our meeting today. See pp. 1-2 of your "Writing Assignments" handout for suggestions.

(REMINDER: Bring a journal entry to class. And remember to do so for every future class meeting when we have a reading assignment.)

SEPTEMBER

1  Story, "Guests of the Nation," 1118-1127, and "The Nearest thing to Lyric Poetry is the Short Story," 1523-1524.

4  Labor Day. No class.

Also: 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 three different ideas for developing several of the topics listed for THEME ONE. Then spend some journal time developing the idea you like best. The writing you do in today's entry will give you a good start on a potential topic for Theme One.

8  Devote no fewer than three hours to working on Theme One. Bring your questions (and your texts) to today's class. In class today you will sign up for a conference to discuss your plans for the theme with me. Bring to the conference a 100-word description and preliminary outline of your plans for the paper (make a copy for yourself and submit the original to me). Also before coming to today's class, read your handout entitled "SAMPLE PARAGRAPHS AND THEME."
Bring your "CHECKLIST" handout to class.

11 Prepare a rough draft of Theme One and bring it to class for peer review. In class today you will swap your draft with a classmate and the two of you will use your "CHECKLIST[s]" as the basis for your assessment of one another's drafts.

**13 THEME ONE -- two copies -- due at beginning of class. Submit in a theme folder, along with early versions and scribbles. Photocopy and include in your theme folder any journal pages in which you worked on material for your theme. (Don't tear pages out of your journal.) In class today three of you will offer brief presentations of your paper (10-12 minutes each).

15 Four presentations of Theme One (10-12 minutes each).

18 Two presentations of Theme One (10-12 minutes each).
I will return Theme One to you today.

20 Drama, Aristophanes, 101-103, & Lysistrata, 104-110 (to line 591).

22 Lysistrata, 110-116 (to line 1300).

25 Lysistrata, 116-120.
SEPTEMBER

27  A Doll's House, Act I, 536-547 (Act 1).

29  A Doll's House, Act II, 547-556 (Act 2).

OCTOBER

2  A Doll's House, Act III, 556-565 (Act 3).

4  In class today and at our next meeting we will watch a videotape of A Doll's House.

6  Doll's House video.

9  Discussion of Doll's House; review for Mid-Term Exam.

**11 Mid-Term Exam, Part I (Objective Portion.)
** Submit your JOURNAL for evaluation at the beginning of class. (Make a photocopy of your journal entries before submitting the journal.)

**13 Mid-Term Exam, Part II. (Essay Portion. Bring your textbooks, your dictionary, and an exam booklet to class. Purchase exam booklet at the University Union Bookstore.)

16 Before coming to today’s class, correct all errors of punctuation, grammar, spelling, or mechanics which I marked on THEME ONE. Make your corrections in pencil directly above or beside the errors I marked. Use your Blair Handbook as your guide in interpreting abbreviations I may have used in your margins. Begin by consulting the page headed "Editing symbols" on the back flap of Blair. The bold black numbers after each of the Blair symbols on the book’s back flap refer you to the section of the handbook which explains how to correct your error. Seek assistance from a tutor in the Writing Center (Coleman 301) if you need additional help in preparing your penciled corrections. Bring your penciled corrections to class -- and your Blair Handbook.

18 Today (God willing) I will (1) return your Mid-Term exams and your journals and (2) schedule optional mid-term conferences with as many of you as wish to have a conference. If you are not doing as well in this course at mid term as you wish you 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 REMINDER in your assignment for November 29.)

20 Fall Break. No class.
OCTOBER

23 FAMILY: Story, "Two Kinds," 1263-1272, & commentary by Tan, 1552-1556. 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 (see our October 16) assignment.

25 Story, "Everything that Rises Must Converge," 1079-1091, & commentary by Booth, 1634-1637 and Di Renzo, 1637-1642.

27 Story, "Rocking Horse Winner," 873-884, & commentary by Harris, 1469-1471.

30 Drama, Death of a Salesman, 844-853.

NOVEMBER

1 Death of a Salesman, 854-869.

3 Death of a Salesman, 870-881.

6 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. Story, "The Yellow Wallpaper," 576-588, & commentary by Gilbert & Gubar, 1465-1467. For the "Wallpaper" author's own commentary, see 1467-1469.

8 Story, "A Good Man is Hard to Find," 1106-1117, & commentary by O'Connor, 1621-1623.

10 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.

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

15 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.

**17 THEME TWO (two copies) DUE AT BEGINNING OF TODAY'S CLASS, ALONG WITH CORRECTIONS OF THEME ONE (see OCTOBER 16 assignment for reminder of correction procedure.) Submit in theme folder along with earlier versions or scribbling which preceded your final version of Theme Two. (Don't remove pages from your journal, however.) Informal discussion of themes.

IMPORTANT: Remind me to distribute a Final Exam Study Guide today.
NOVEMBER

20, 22, 24 Thanksgiving Recess. No classes.

27 In class today I will return your graded THEME TWO and discuss the format of your Final Exam.

29 Correct all errors of punctuation, grammar, spelling, or mechanics which I marked on THEME TWO. Use your Blair Handbook as your guide in interpreting abbreviations I may have used in your margins. (Begin by consulting the page headed "Editing symbols" on the back flap of Blair. The bold black numbers after each of the Blair symbols on the book's back flap refer you to the section of the handbook which explains how to correct your error.)

REMINDER: You may elect to revise either THEME ONE or THEME TWO in hopes of raising your grade for the theme by a maximum of one letter. Schedule a brief conference with me if you wish to revise so that we can discuss revision strategies. The revised theme is due at the beginning of our final class session. No papers will be accepted after that date.

DECEMBER

1 No class. Use your time to prepare for one of your final examinations or to work on your (entirely optional) revision of THEME ONE or THEME TWO.

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

6 Poetry, "To an Athlete Dying Young," 423-424, and "Castoff Skin" (photocopied poem).

** 8 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.)

FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, May 4, 10:15-12:15. Remember to bring your JOURNAL and two exam booklets to the exam.