ENG 2099G-099: Literature & Human Values (Race, Age, Gender)

Donna Binns
Eastern Illinois University

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English 2099G: Literature & Human Values (Race, Age, Gender)

Instructor: Dr. Donna Binns
Office: 3851 Coleman
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:00 p.m.-2:50 p.m.; Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:50 p.m.
English Department Phone: (217) 581-2428
Email: djbinns@eiu.edu

Course Description: This course offers a study of some of the universal, recurring issues facing the individual, as they are dealt with in a selection of literary texts from diverse cultures. Students will study fiction and non-fiction texts and media that depict issues related to race, age, and gender. Emphasis will be placed on the students' ability to discuss the assigned texts analytically through class discussions, oral presentations, and written work.

Course Objectives:
1) Focus on a specific group of values within the context of a diverse collection of texts and respond critically in class and in writing assignments (writing, speaking, critical thinking).
2) Assimilate, abstract, and articulate ideas from a series of different reading experiences (writing, speaking, critical thinking).
3) Explore the ways in which humans—individually or in groups—determine their needs and make choices about what to believe or reject (citizenship).
4) Write effective response papers and essays throughout the semester on the literary texts in the course (writing and critical thinking).
5) Explore intellectual and aesthetic matters related to the study of literature.
6) Develop an understanding of the relationships among various genres of literature.
7) Consider the value of expression and creativity, especially in literature and literary analysis.

Required Texts and Materials:
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents
The Black Woman: An Anthology
Paper Fish
Blindness
You Just Don't Understand
Nobody Nowhere
This Boy's Life

Course Requirements:
Reading: We will discuss reading assignments on the day they are listed on the course calendar. Set aside enough time to read, analyze, think about, and re-read if necessary each assignment. Read all sections of the assigned material, including assigned articles. Look up unfamiliar words before coming to class. Prepare yourself to contribute to class and group discussions and activities.

Writing: Students must complete all major writing assignments (listed below under “Course Grade”) to be eligible to pass this course. Frequent in-class and out-of-class writing activities will also be assigned as part of our daily work. In-class writing must be completed during the allotted time in class, so promptness and consistent attendance are crucial.
Daily Work & Participation: In addition to in-class writing activities, there will be a substantial amount of daily work (such as peer response, oral presentations, homework, response papers, in-class activities, and group work) during the semester. Group activities, including peer response, can only be completed during the allotted time in class, so they may not be made up at a later date (even for an excused absence). A participation grade will be assigned each week, and it will be worth up to five points. Students who participate in class discussions, bring required materials to class, and positively contribute to class activities should earn all available points for that week. Failure to participate in class activities, failure to bring course materials, exhibition of distracting behavior such as checking e-mail, using social media, etc., during class, or excessive tardiness will result in a loss of some or all of the weekly participation points at my discretion. Homework is due at the beginning of class. **E-mail attachments will not be accepted as substitutes for hard copies of your work.**

**Course Grade:** Penalties for excessive absences will be deducted as described in the “Attendance” section. Late work will be penalized as described in the “Late Work” section. Otherwise, your final course grade will be determined by the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Work &amp; Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1 (Analysis)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2 (Research-based Argument)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam Essay #2 Revision &amp; Self-reflection</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A= 90% to 100%
B= 80% to 89%
C= 70% to 79%
D= 60% to 69%
F= 0% to 59%

**Attendance:** Because this course emphasizes writing as process and as collaborative activity, attendance is essential. Class exercises and peer review activities (generally worth 10-20 points each) cannot be made up at a later date, so numerous absences will affect your overall course grade. After a fourth absence, each additional absence will also result in a penalty of one full letter grade subtracted from your final course grade. For an absence to be excused, bring proper verification (written documentation approved by me) for illness or emergency. If you are more than twenty minutes late for class, you may be counted absent. If you are habitually tardy, your participation score (out of five points possible each week) may be lowered at my discretion. Absent students will be responsible for finding out what material was covered and what assignments were made in class. Please obtain such information from a reliable classmate.

**Late Work:** Late work that is not excused before its due date will be penalized by 10% of the maximum possible score for each day it is late (excluding weekend days). Assignments, including drafts, are due at the beginning of class. Work turned in after the beginning of class may be penalized by 10% of the maximum possible points. **Again, e-mail attachments will not be accepted as substitutes for hard copies of your work.** Computer and printer problems are not an excuse for turning in late work, so draft and print well in advance.
Plagiarism: In accordance with English Department and University policies, “Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation as one’s original work’ (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty up to and including immediate assignment of the 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.”

The best argument against plagiarism is that you cheat yourself out of the education you are here to obtain when you copy someone else’s work. If you believe that a specific instance in your writing might constitute plagiarism, please consult me prior to turning in the final draft.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and want to receive appropriate accommodations, contact the Coordinator of the Office of Student Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
This schedule is subject to additions and changes at my discretion. Assignments are due on the date that they are listed on the schedule. Unless otherwise indicated, response papers should discuss assigned reading for that class day.

1-13 Course Introduction; Miss Representation

1-15 You Just Don't Understand Preface & Chapters 1-2; Finish Miss Representation

1-20 No Class: University Holiday

1-22 You Just Don't Understand Chapters 3-6; Contemporary Reader pages 47-52 & 72-75 (D2L); Response Paper Due

1-27 You Just Don't Understand Chapters 7-10; Contemporary Reader pages 297-302 (D2L)

1-29 Contemporary Reader pages 339-61; 372-378 (D2L); Response Paper Due

2-3 How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents Section I

2-5 How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents Section II

2-10 How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents Section III; Response Paper Due (entire text)

2-12 Selections by Sherman Alexie (D2L)

2-17 The Black Woman: An Anthology pages 1-64; Selections by Petty (D2L)

2-19 The Black Woman: An Anthology pages 103-70; Selections by Petty (D2L); Response Paper Due

2-24 Paper Fish Forward, Prelude, & Parts I-III

2-26 Paper Fish Parts IV-VI & Epilogue; Start film Up
3-3  Essay #1 Draft Due for Peer Response
3-5  Essay #1 Due; Finish film *Up*

3-17  Film in Lumpkin Auditorium: *Service: When Women Come Marching Home*; Selections on Disability (D2L)
3-19  Selections on Disability #2 (D2L)

3-24  *Blindness* pages 1-93
3-26  *Blindness* pages 94-185

3-31  *Blindness* pages 186-326; Response paper Due (entire text)

4-2  Film *Blindness*

4-5  Audrey Petty Talk: 2:00 p.m. in Coleman Auditorium

4-7  Finish film *Blindness*; Response Paper Due (on Petty Talk)
4-9  Film *This Boy's Life*

4-14  Film *This Boy's Life*
4-16  Essay #2 Draft Due for Peer Response

4-21  Essay #2 Due *Nobody Nowhere* pages 1-99
4-23  *Nobody Nowhere* pages 100-192

4-28  Oral Presentations based on Essay #2
4-30  Oral Presentations based on Essay #2

Final Exam: Thursday, May 8, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.; Revised Essay #2 Due & Revision Self-Reflection