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ENG 1091G-099: Composition and Language, Honors

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English 1091.099: Composition and Language, Honors
Fall 2012

Instructor: David Raybin
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Office Hours: TuW 9:30-11:30 (and by appointment)
Telephone: 581-6980 (office); 330/678-2628 (home, weekends before 8:30)
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Texts: Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire
       Annie Dillard, Pilgrim at Tinker Creek
       Norman Maclean, A River Runs Through It and Other Stories
       Tim O’Brien, The Things They Carried
       Terry Tempest Williams, Refuge: A Natural History of Family and Place

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

August
21: Introduction to the course
23: Maclean, A River Runs Through It, pp. 1-104
28: Maclean, A River Runs Through It, Foreword, Acknowledgments, and pp. 105-23
30: Maclean, A River Runs Through It, pp. 125-217

September
4: Paper #1 – Conference
6: Abbey, Desert Solitaire, pp. xi-94
11: Abbey, Desert Solitaire, pp. 95-195
13: Abbey, Desert Solitaire, pp. 196-269
18: Paper #2 – Conference
20: Williams, Refuge, pp. 3-95
25: Williams, Refuge, pp. 96-190
27: Williams, Refuge, pp. 191-290

October
2: Paper #3 – Conference
4: Dillard, Pilgrim, pp. 3-77
9: Dillard, Pilgrim, pp. 78-183
11: Dillard, Pilgrim, pp. 184-277
16: Paper #4 – Conference
18: O’Brien, The Things They Carried, pp. 1-92
23: O’Brien, The Things They Carried, pp. 93-182
25: O’Brien, The Things They Carried, pp. 183-273

November
1: Conference
6: Research Paper – three-page summary
8: Class Workshop
13: Research Project – draft of ten-page paper
15: Conference
November 20-22: Thanksgiving Holiday

27: Class Workshop
29: Research Project – final copy of ten-page paper

December 4: Class Presentations
6: Portfolio of Short Essays

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

- Four papers and portfolio: 40 points
- Research project: 50 points
- Participation: 10 points

Course Grade: A= 90-100; B= 80-90.99; C= 70-79.99; D= 63-69.99; F= below 63

Writing Assignments. You will write and later revise four short papers. You will also complete a research project, including a prospectus, a summary, a first draft, and a final paper of at least ten pages. Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it. Handouts will describe the assignments more fully.

Participation. This is not a lecture class. I expect you to show up for every class and offer sensible contributions to the classroom discussion.

Course/University Policies

Typing. Your papers must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Honor Policy. Education depends on honesty. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

Plagiarism. If you use other people’s words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

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."

Course Description

During the first nine weeks, you will read five books, each a classic of writing about a place and the natural world. In class we will discuss the books, and you are expected to be fully engaged in the discussion. Outside of class, you will write four short papers, experimenting with different approaches to observing and writing. Later, you will revise these papers into a portfolio of your writing. During the final six weeks, you will engage in a research project, the goal being to learn enough about some feature of the world around you to write a knowledge-based ten-page paper in which you say something you care about to a reader . . . and say it both intelligently and engagingly.