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ENG 2009G-004: Literature and Human Values

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ENGLISH 2009G-004: LITERATURE AND HUMAN VALUES

Spring 2013

Instructor: John Allison
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Office Hours: T/TR: 9:00-9:30, 11-12:00, 1:00-2:00; and by appointment

Objectives of Course:

- To provide an opportunity to read and discuss major works of American literature reflecting national and universal themes related to faith, survival, and progress;
- To encourage thinking about how attitudes and ideas concerning faith, survival, and progress can enrich or impoverish our material and psychological life;
- To promote independent, critical thinking in discussion and writing;
- To promote the use of reasoning and evidence to support ideas and interpretations;
- To foster competent, well-organized writing.

Requirements of the Course:

- Three Essays of Comparative Interpretation (at least 3-4 pages each): 50%
- Pop Quizzes: 20%
- Class Participation: 10%
- Final Examination (two short responses of about 300 words each; one essay of about 600 words): 20%

Criteria for Evaluating Essays and Examination: When I evaluate your essays, I will consider content (depth, reasoning, evidence), coherence (organization, transitions, word choice), grammar, and mechanics. Of these criteria, content is
most important, but an essay can fail if it is severely deficient in any one of the
criteria. After all, who wants to puzzle through an incoherent message or confront
the distractions of an essay riddled with grammatical/mechanical errors?

Revision: You may revise your first essay for up to 15% additional credit. If you
decide to revise your first essay, hand in a revision with the original essay one week
after I return the original to you.

Calculation of the Grade: I use a simple percentage scale, along with a letter grade,
for each essay, quiz, and examination. For example, an 88% is a B+, an 85% is a B,
and an 84% is a B-. The weighted categories (see "Requirements of the Course")
and percentage scores allow you to calculate your grade for the course.

Late-Work Policy: You are expected to hand in your essays on time and in class.
You will forfeit five points for each day an essay is late.

Attendance Policy: If you are enrolled in another class or engaged in any other
activity that may cause you to miss a significant number of classes in 2009G, you
should not attempt to take 2009G this term. If you have an excused absence, I will
arrange time for you to catch up with written work. For an excused absence, you
must provide a verifiable excuse from Health Service, a doctor, or a University
official. After three unexcused absences, you will forfeit 10% of the course grade
and 5% for each subsequent absence. The same penalties will apply to arriving at
class late, leaving class early, and leaving and returning during class, unless you
obtain my approval.

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.

Electronic Writing Portfolio: You may submit one of your essays for your
Electronic Writing Portfolio. Keep in mind that submissions must be at least 750
words long.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

1. Week of January 7
   - Introduction to Course
   - Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1-20; 29-47)

2. Week of January 14
   - *Narrative* (48-94)
   - *Narrative* (94-109); Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (vii-xiv; 1-54)

3. Week of January 21
   - *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (54-161)
   - *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (161-219)

4. Week of January 28
   - *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (219-319)
   - *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (319-397)

5. Week of February 4
   - Conferences to Discuss Plans for First Essay
   - Cather, *My Antonia* (xxx-xxxiv; 5-79)

6. Week of February 11
   - *My Antonia* (81-137)
   - *My Antonia* (139-96)

7. Week of February 18
   - *Sister Carrie* (viii-ix; 1-75) **First Essay Due**
   - *Sister Carrie* (75-148)

8. Week of February 25
   - *Sister Carrie* (148-213)
   - *Sister Carrie* (213-294)

9. Week of October March 4
   - *Sister Carrie* (294-369)
   - Conferences to Discuss Plans for Second Essay

   **SPRING BREAK**

10. Week of October March 18
    - Faulkner, *Light in August* (3-101)
    - *Light in August* (102-84); **Second Essay Due**
11. Week of March 25
   - *Light in August* (184-286)
   - *Light in August* (286-348)

12. Week of April 1
   - *Light in August* (348-432)
   - *Light in August* (433-507)

13. Week of April 8
   - Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1-122)
   - *The Grapes of Wrath* (123-200)

14. Week of April 15
   - *The Grapes of Wrath* (201-308)
   - *The Grapes of Wrath* (308--381)

15. Week of April 22
   - *The Grapes of Wrath* (382-455); **Third Essay Due**
   - Review and Discussion; Preparation for Examination