ENG 1002-010: Composition and Literature

Vicki Curts

Eastern Illinois University

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Instructor: Ms. Vicki Curts, Coleman Hall 3820, Office 581-6309  
Email vlcurts@eiu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 - 12:15 and 2:00 - 3:15.

Classes: English 1001G Sec. 017 CH 2120 9:30 - 10:45.  
English 1002G Sec. 010 CH 3290 12:30 - 1:45.  
English 1001G Sec. 054 CH 3150 3:30 - 4:45.

Texts:  
The Story and Its Writer  Ann Charters, 6th ed.  
Stages of Drama  Klaus, Gilbert, Bradford 5th ed.  
Writing about Literature  Edgar Roberts, 10th ed.  

Nature of the Course:  
Students will read short stories, poetry, plays and criticism. Papers of a critical and analytical nature will be written about these works and will include research papers with documented sources. Both a mid-term and a final exam are required for the course.

Department Policy on Plagiarism:  
"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism-- 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thought 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 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."

Attendance: A student who misses class loses points. Much of the work done in class, in-class writing, class participation and short quizzes, earns points that cannot be made up. Tests, such as the mid-term and the final, may be made up only if the student has proof of illness. If you have a problem, please see me or call to discuss it. Work not turned in due to a documented illness is due within 10 days of your return.

Office of Disability: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583).

Papers:  
A paper that is late one day loses points. Papers over one day late are still required as part of the course work. The paper will be read and evaluated, but for no credit. Exceptions may be made in emergency situations.

A paper that is a day late must be turned in the secretary in CH3136, initialed and dated by her or by another member of the Department of English. Please put the initialed paper in my mailbox. Do not ask the secretary to do this!

Note that the office closes at 4:30 Monday through Friday, and is not open on Saturday or Sunday. Since I am not in my office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, this is the only way I have of knowing that your paper met the deadline.
Grading: 90 points - three short paper assignments.
300 points - three essays of five pages or more.
150 points - estimate of participation, quizzes and handout questions.
200 points - mid-term and final exams

Extra Credit: Five points is given for plays, poetry readings literature and art-related campus lectures. Many speakers are invited to our campus and students usually benefit from attending these. Watch the EIU online calendar, the paper and especially bulletin boards in the various departments. A report on the experience must be turned in and should be about a page in length.

Selected Readings: Students are responsible for all works listed on the syllabus, as well as the biographical information about the authors. Look up words that are unfamiliar since these may be on your reading quizzes. A good source for additional information on the readings is in journal articles that you can access online from our library.

Quizzes: Short, usually five points, quizzes are given often and may not be made up. Longer tests over poetry, stories and plays may be made up if you have an excused absence due to illness.

Text abbreviations: WL (Writing about Literature) and SW (The Story and Its Writer).

August 22 -- Introduction to the class. Short in-class writing.

“Writing a First Draft” 30-44.
SW “The Writer’s Goal” 896+.
“The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven” 9-14. Look up an article or two that discusses Tonto’s role in the movie or TV series. Why are Native Americans displeased?

Aug. 29 - SW “A Brief History of the Short Story” 995-1015.
“The Cask of Amontillado” 688.

“The Red Convertible” 160. Find out what percent of minorities served in Viet Nam, and why. How does this compare to our current conflict?

September 5 -- SW “The Chrysanthemums” 707. “The Yellow Wallpaper” 306 and “Feminist Reading” 874. “Night Women” 245. Turn in a one page character analysis from one of the stories. (15 pts.) Read Chap. 3 in WL before you write!


Sept. 12 - “The Widow’s Son” 472. “Tiny Smiling Daddy” 289. Write a comparison of the two parents. (15 pts.) What are the flaws in their characters that lead to or contribute to the outcome?

Sept. 14 - “The Ultimate Safari” 320. Bring articles (or notes) to class relating to Darfur, Somalia, Sierra Leone or other African countries that relate to the subject of this story.

“Sweat” 357.

Sept. 21 - “Sonny’s Blues” 25. Turn in a two page analysis of the setting in this story with special emphasis on the use of light and dark throughout the work. How is it relevant in the final
scene? Use examples from the story and don’t forget to properly quote!
(30 pts.) Read Chap. 6 in WL before you write!

Readings in Writing about Literature for use in your papers.
Chap. 3 Character 56-67
Chap. 4 Point of View 68-83
Chap. 5 Plot and Structure 84-97
Chap. 6 Setting 98-106
Chap. 7 Idea or Theme 107-116
Chap. 8 Metaphors and Similes 117-126
Chap. 9 Symbolism and Allusions 127-137
Chap. 10 Comparison and Contrast 129-152

Short story paper: 100 pts. 5+ pages.
You may choose any story that was not assigned reading.
Some suggestions are “Patriotism” 559, “Family Furnishings” 597, “The Management of Grief” 559,
Do together “The Lottery” 381 with “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” 494.

Terms to know for the test (1004+): Allusion, autofiction, antagonist & protagonist, climax and
anticlimax, static and dynamic character, denouement, epiphany, falling action, satire (which story we
read is the closest to satire?)
Omniscience–limited, etc., point of view and voice. See WL 72+ for ways to determine pov.
Story structure (chronological, achronological, backflash, stream of consciousness etc.)

Sept. 26 - Test over the short stories.

Yeah, Poetry! Poetry: an Introduction

Sept. 28 - Short story paper is due.

October 3 -- Imagery 107-108. “Manners” 63, “Latin Night at the Pawnshop” 78, “In a Disused
Graveyard” 370. “Root Cellar” 112, “Harlem” 409. Read the section on
Explication on 633-638. In-class explication of a poem.

Oct. 5 - Write your own imitations of the following poetry styles: anagram, “Mountain Graveyard” 39, a
limerick and a haiku on 255-258. These will be turned in for points.

Read the elegy section 259-260, “Mid-Term Break” and “Elegy for My Father, Who Is Not

Using one of the poems you most relate to, write a response of 2+ pages. Use lines from the
work when discussing, and be very clear how the poem relates to you. Did you ever get a toy
that a parent disapproved of? Felt bored helping a family member? Miss someone in the family
as you see them through “adult eyes”? Response: 30 pts.


Oct. 19 - “Execution” 146, “The Pitcher” 214, “First Practice” 277, “Marks” 151, “Recipe” 163, “What It’s Like to be a Black Girl” 122. Read all of Gary Soto’s poems and choose one to write a response discussing the persona in one of his works (Pages 168, 186, 289, 525) OR Wole Soyinka’s “Telephone Conversation” 34. One page 15 pts. Don’t forget examples to prove your points.


November 2 - Poet laureates and their poetry. Review for the test.

Nov. 7 - Test

Nov. 9 Poetry paper due. Some poems to peruse:


Nov. 9 Drama


Nov. 16 - Film of the play “Master Harold”...and the Boys by Athol Fugard

November 20-24 Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30 - Theater continued. Film

December 5th Play paper is due. Film.

Dec. 7 - Review for final test over the plays and the terms.

December 11 - 15 Final Exams