ENG 2091G-099: Literature, the Self, and the World: Fiction, Honors

Suzie Park
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2011

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2011/60

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2011 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2011 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
Course Description
Literature, Self, and the World: Introduction to Fiction is a course that emphasizes practice in the close reading of literary works of fiction. You will exercise skills in interpreting and discussing several forms of fiction, including the short story, the novella, the novel, and the narrative poem. You will learn how to identify and appreciate as well different sub-genres of narrative, especially hybrids of the gothic novel, the horror novel, and the novel of manners. Several of the texts we will read ask us to consider just how closely the normal borders on the strange, the rational on the irrational. As we seek each genre's most recognizable features, we will ask what makes familiar things suddenly unfamiliar. In the process, we will encounter imaginative worst-case scenarios of people struggling for security, survival, and a meaningful life.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is a writing-centered, reading-intensive course. You will do a lot of writing and discussing about literature. If you foresee difficulty in attending class regularly this semester, you should reconsider taking this course. You must also be present on the scheduled mid-term and final exam dates in order to complete your exams. I do not schedule make-up exams. See the attendance policy below.

Texts
Dreiser, Theodore. An American Tragedy. (1925)
Huxley, Aldous. Brave New World. (1932)
West, Nathanael. Miss Lonelyhearts. (1933)
Melville, Herman. Billy Budd and Other Stories. (1853)
Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. (1796, published 1813)
Matheson, Richard. I Am Legend. (1954)

REQUIREMENTS: BEFORE YOU COMMIT TO THIS CLASS

The primary aim of this course is to help you to become a sharper and more self-reflective reader and writer. Now that you are writing at the university level, you should be able to:

• know your audience, and to write persuasively for different audiences and purposes
• communicate and collaborate effectively in both oral and written encounters
• economically incorporate and correctly document outside sources of ideas and information
• revise, revise, revise your writing so that it is grammatically sound and logical

PLAGIARISM (using another writer's written words or ideas without giving properly documented credit) will not be tolerated and will result in a FAILING GRADE on the assignment, if not for the entire course. I will follow the departmental policy on plagiarism:

“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 own 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 assignments, 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.” ***Always submit your assignments using correct MLA (Modern Language Association) format.***
CONFERENCES: As I get to know your writing better throughout the semester, I will require that you meet with me on an individual basis. In these conferences, we will discuss where you think your writing and critical skills are improving or need more work.

LATE POLICY: For the purposes of your class participation grade, being late for class is the same as being absent. In addition, all take-home papers and assignments are due at the beginning of class. You will NOT be able to make up missed in-class assignments, short tests, the mid-term or the final exam. Late homework assignments will receive a “zero.” Late essays will be marked a full grade lower for every day (not class day) late. Essays turned in a week past the deadline will receive a “zero.”

ABSENCE POLICY: When you are absent—especially when you are frequently absent—two things happen. First, your participation grade drops substantially. Second, you naturally fall behind in understanding course material and neither the class nor the Professor can catch you up on everything missed in a day’s class. YOU need to decide when it is absolutely necessary to miss class. Be wise. It bears repeating: you cannot make up missed work and late assignments will be penalized. Whether these are excused or unexcused absences does not matter for this course. The Professor does not need to have your absences documented or explained. You must complete your mid-term and final exams on the scheduled dates. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.

EMAILING POLICY: I want to get to know you and your work this semester. Thus I ask that you call me or stop by my office during office hours (or scheduled times) so that we can talk. DO NOT EMAIL ME TO ASK FOR AN “UPDATE” ON MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, OR TO EXPLAIN AN ABSENCE. Working groups will be assigned so that you can contact group members for notes and missed work.

REQUIRED ESSAY AND ASSIGNMENT FORMAT:
--Paper-clip or staple sheets
--Include page numbers
--Use 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced lines, and one-inch margins
--Use correct MLA (Modern Language Association) format for all quoted material (this means give page numbers)
--Include a Works Cited page for all essays

PARTICIPATION: This means more than simply being present in class. It means being on-time, prepared (BRING YOUR TEXTBOOKS AND READER TO CLASS), thoughtful, respectful of others, engaged, and fruitfully open to criticism. While you’re in class, act like it and respect your teacher and fellow students: no cell-phone rings, NO TEXT-MESSAGING, no iPods or headphones.

GRADES
Participation (10%)
Essay 1 (20%)
Essay 2 (20%)
Tests, short response papers, in-class and take-home assignments (20%)
Mid-Term exam (20%)
Final exam (10%)

For in-class writing assignments, group exercises, and other short assignments, you will be graded using a check-mark system, on a scale of \(+, \mid, \mid\), or \(\mid\).

\(+\) = excellent work that is strongly engaged, on-topic, and very well-written
\mid = satisfactory work that is on-topic and cleanly written
\mid\) = work that shows little engagement, is off-topic, and is hurriedly and poorly written
\mid\(\) = work that shows little understanding of the topic and is too short

Formal essay assignments will receive letter grades. See the attached GRADING RUBRIC for details of the grading criteria I will use.
Professor Park, English 2091G: Schedule of Classes—subject to revision
This is our reading schedule through the mid-term exam. I will hand out the remainder at a later date.

WEEK ONE
Tu 1/11/11 Introductions

Th 1/13/11 Dr. Park will hold conferences with students in lieu of regular class.
You must, however, complete the REQUIRED READING for our class on 1/18/11:
Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*, Chapters 1-4, pages 1-71. READ CAREFULLY!

WEEK TWO
Tu 1/18 *Brave New World*, Ch. 1-4, pp. 1-71

Th 1/20 *Brave New World*, Ch. 5-6, pp. 72-106

WEEK THREE
NOTE: Monday, 1/24/11, is the DEADLINE TO DROP CLASS WITHOUT A GRADE

Tu 1/25 *Brave New World*, Ch. 7-12, pp. 107-185

Th 1/27 *Brave New World*, Ch. 13-14, pp. 186-207

WEEK FOUR
Tu 2/1 *Brave New World*, Ch. 15-17, pp. 208-240
Ch. 18-afterword or postscript material, pp. 241-259 and beyond in your text

Th 2/3 William Wordsworth, “The Thorn” (handout)
PAPER ONE DUE

WEEK FIVE
Tu 2/8 Herman Melville, *Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street*

Th 2/10 *Bartleby*

WEEK SIX
Tu 2/15 J. M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Chapter I, pages 1-25)

Th 2/17 *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Chapters II-III, pages 25-76)

WEEK SEVEN
Tu 2/22 *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Chapter IV, pages 76-121)

Th 2/24 *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Chapter V, pages 122-156)

WEEK EIGHT
Tu 3/1 Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*

Th 3/3 MID-TERM EXAM