

Fall 8-15-2000

ENG 2009G-003: Literature and Human Values: Power, Faith, Progress, Survival, Hope

Stephen Swords
Eastern Illinois University

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Recommended Citation

Swords, Stephen, "ENG 2009G-003: Literature and Human Values: Power, Faith, Progress, Survival, Hope" (2000). *Fall 2000*. 62.
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Literature and Human Values/Power, Faith, Progress, Survival, Hope

Stephen Swords

Coleman 339I

581-6984 (office); 367-6253 (home);

Office hours: T7R 100^o11, 1-2

What is power, who has it, what does it mean to have or not have it? Is there real power, false power, good power, bad power? What kinds of power are there, anyway, that are available to us. How does the idea of power relate to the other key words in the title of this class—faith, progress, survival, hope? These are the sorts of questions I'd like this class to consider in the things we'll be reading and watching, a range of literature and film both classical and contemporary.

Requirements for this class are pretty straightforward. It's a discussion class, and I expect both regular attendance and participation. People who miss class frequently or choose not to talk will not do very well in the end. I also expect that people keep up with the reading, and I have ways of monitoring this. I'll ask you to do various kinds of writing, from in-class informal responses to more developed papers. There will be something like a take home midterm and final. The final grade for the course will be based on the quality of your work and your performance as a member of the class.

Assignment #1

I'd like you to explore the anthology's selection of poetry, pick a poem that speaks to you somehow, and be prepared to read it out loud to the class and talk about why you picked it. I'd also like you to explore the anthology's selection of short stories, and pick out several that you want us to read as a class; write these down, and turn them into me.