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ENG 1092-097: Composition and Literature

Buck
Eastern Illinois University

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ENGLISH 1092G--COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE

Dr. Buck, Associate Professor
Office: Coleman Hall 339E
Telephone: Office: 581-5012 (Please leave voice mail if I'm not there)
Mailbox: English Dept Office, Room 308
Office Hours: MWF 9:00-9:30 and by appointment.
--A good dictionary for you to reference as needed.

**Course Objective**
This writing seminar is designed to develop your skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts. This course will 1) introduce you to a variety of works of literature, 2) instruct you in the distinction of literary genres, 3) help you to become more sensitive and attentive readers, and 4) guide you in articulating--both in class discussion and in written discourse--a mature, informed reaction to literary works.

**Course Requirements**
The requirements of this course include two formal papers, daily folder assignments, and two exams. Since this is a seminar, you will be required to discuss and present your work to the class throughout the semester. Paper I (5 pages) will be an analysis and interpretation of selected short fiction texts based on elements we have discussed in class; Paper II (8 pages) will be a close reading explication of a poem of your choice, informed by research. The first exam will test your understanding of the poetry unit; the final exam will test your understanding of the drama unit. You may opt to revise either Paper I or Paper II. Paper and exam grades will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it.

**Folder Writing Assignments**
You will need to purchase a manilla folder for this class. That is where you will be keeping all your materials for each unit. Please always bring your folders to class.

Folder writing assignments (home and in-class) are a large part of this course. You should plan on spending one hour per class time that we meet on folder writing you will do at home. A folder response is 1-2 pages in length and will be evaluated on how well the question/issue is thought out. You must write in full sentences and in paragraphs (notes or fragments will not be accepted). I will evaluate what you say and how much you say that's insightful. It is important that you come to class prepared with each assignment; students who come to class unprepared three times during the semester will have the final grade lowered for the course.

Always keep your folder responses and writing in process (drafts, etc.) in your folder. You will turn everything in to me at the end of each unit (see attached sheet for dates).

Folder assignments do not need to be typed but if handwritten, they must be legible and neatly presented. If I cannot read them, I have no choice but to give a no-credit grade.

**Active Attendance**
You are expected to attend every class because teaching/learning requires dialogue and without you we can have no dialogue. Our class work on the analysis of literary works is a crucial part of this course and you will be required to participate actively in the discussion of texts. Come to class ready to articulate your knowledge and formulate your questions for the class.

An absence policy is important 1) so that I can be equitable to all members of the class and 2) so that you will be successful in this class. Please note that more than five unexcused absences in this course is grounds for failing this course.

Definition of an **excused** absence:
1. University obligation, in which case you will need to present me in advance with a letter
explaining the purpose and date of your upcoming absence.

2. Emergency or medical illness, in which case you will need to call my answering machine and leave voice mail at 581-5012 before class begins on the day of your absence. When you return to class after an illness, you will need to bring me a medical note from health services.

--If you must miss class, I will expect you to find out from someone in the class what you've missed so that you'll be prepared for the next class meeting. Any worksheets or handouts will only be distributed once; it is your responsibility to photocopy assignments from another student if you are absent.

**Tardiness**
--Please be on time for class; habitual tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful of other class members. I will be taking roll each morning as soon as class begins. If you come in late, it is your responsibility to notify me after class so that I take your name off the absence sheet. If you fail to notify me at the end of class, you will be recorded as absent.

**Late assignments**
All written assignments must be submitted when due; no late assignments will be accepted. Papers are due when class begins on the designated dates. Make-up work will be permitted for excused absences only.

**Typing and Presentation**
Formal Papers I and II (all drafts) must be typed (double-spaced) in MLA format.

**Course Grading**
The final course grade will be based on an average of the following grades.

Unit I = 30% (paper 20%; folder 10%)
Unit II = 40% (paper 20%; folder 10%; exam 10%)
Unit III = 30% (folder 10%; exam 20%)

Please note that in order to receive a C or better for this course, you must do all the work. Failure to complete any component of the course (including the final exam) will result in a no credit for the course.

Scale for the course will always be 100-90% = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60% = D; below 60% = F

**Where to Go For Help with this Course**
1. Come to see me in my office in 339E Coleman Hall during my office hours and by appointment.
2. Go to the Writing Center, CH 301, where graduate students can help you with planning, drafting, revising your papers. Their phone number is 581-5929.

**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.

**Plagiarism**
The English Department requires that instructors quote to all students the university's 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 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 NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.
COURSE READINGS

UNIT I: Analysis and Interpretation of Short Fiction

Please read the assignment before coming to class on the date given here.

Jan 13
Introduction to the course

Jan 15
Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (handout);
"Introduction: Reading Literature," pp. 1-7
"Reading and Responding," pp. 11-16
Theme, pp. 171-174

Jan 17
Setting and plot, pp. 137-138 and 155-157
David Updike, "Summer," pp. 47-55
E. B. White, "Once More to the Lake", pp. 532-536

Jan 20
Holiday

Jan 22
Margaret Atwood, "Death by Landscape," pp. 1095-1107

Jan 24
Alice Munro, "An Ounce of Cure," pp. 592-601
Bernard Cooper, "A Clack of Tiny Sparks," pp. 523-530
Susan Minot, "Lust," pp. 796-802

Jan 27
Character and Conflict, pp. 151-155
Bharati Mukherjee, "A Father," pp. 584-592
John Cheever, "Reunion, pp. 562-565

Jan 29
Tone and Irony, pp. 167-169
Boyle, "Carnal Knowledge," (pp. 1107-1121)

Jan 31
Point of view, pp. 157-160
Chekhov, "The Lady with the Pet Dog," pp. 776-787
Thoreau, "Life Without Principle," pp. 1190-1203

Feb 3-5
Style, pp. 165-167)
O'Brien, "How to Tell a True War Story," pp. 1149-1158

Feb 7
Paper I pre-writing

Feb 10
Paper I draft due

Feb 12
PAPER I AND FOLDERS DUE
Introduction to Unit II

Feb 14
Holiday

Feb 17-19
Individual Conferences--No formal class