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ENG 2009-004: Literature and Human Values: Labor, Class, and Power

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English 2009--004
Labor, Class, and Power
Fall, 1997

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Wed by appointment

Texts:
One World of Literature, Geok-Lin Lim, ed.
One World, Many Cultures, 2nd ed., Hirschberg, ed.

General Comments:
The purpose of this course is to introduce you to great literature that deals with issues of labor, class, and power--three very large themes we will try to make specific through a sharing of the lives of various characters we encounter in the fiction, poetry, and drama we'll experience together. An additional purpose of this course is to teach you to read carefully and to express yourself clearly.

To fulfill these goals, we will read literature from all over the world and from a variety of time periods, though our concentration will be on the 20th century. Individual reading assignments will not be long in quantity but will ask you to look in depth at each piece we read.

Requirements:
1. class participation (20%)
2. daily quizzes (20%)
3. two papers, 3-5 typed pages each, on assigned topics (20%)
4. a comprehensive final exam (40%)

Grades:
Your final grade will be determined by your overall performance in the class. The above requirements will give me a sense of how much you've learned and how much you've demanded of yourself during the semester; the percentages are thus only approximations. To do well in here, be curious, speculate, ask questions, especially of yourself and your own values. Make this course yours and the readings a part of your life.

Readings:
We will read the following works, though the order in which we do so will be determined by class discussions and interests. Specific assignments will be made in class for the following class meeting.

From One World of Literature (OWL):
"The Unknown Citizen," Auden
"The Colonel," Forché
"United Fruit Company," Neruda
"Patriotism," Mishima
"Late Chrysanthemum," Fumiko
"Spring Storm," Yoko
"The Key," Yo Phien
"Cateman's Gift," Narayan
"Nomad and Viper," Oz
"Another Evening at the Club," Rifaat
from OWL:

"Cathedral," Carver
"The Grandfather of the Sierra. . .," Kingston

From One World, Many Cultures:

"A Pair of Socks with Love," P'an Jen-Mu
"Bloody Sunday in Tienanmen Square," Tong
"A Day in the Life of Salaryman," Burgess
"The Marriage Go-Round," Bornoff
"Arranging a Marriage in India," Nanda
"Yearning to Breathe Free," Hayslip
"Transformation," Minatoya

From Norton Anthology of American Literature (Norton):

"The Awakening," Chopin
"Death of a Salesman," Miller
"A Street Car Named Desire," Williams
"Winter Dreams," Fitzgerald
"The Man Who Was Almost a Man," Wright

selected poems of Frost, Sandburg, and Robinson