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ENG 2011G-001: Literature, Self, World: Fiction

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Readers & Reading, Stories & Storytelling

Course Description
We will read and discuss a variety of short stories and novels this semester, using these fictions as a basis for talking about—and writing about—reading and fiction. Some readings will be assigned and we will talk about them as a class. Some will be self-selected and you will discuss these (at least at first) in groups, sometimes presenting the results in a group presentation or a “book talk.” Writing assignments will include analytic and reflective responses posted on WebCT and more fully developed formal works in which you explore the role of reading in your life or evaluate a particular book in the form of a book review. There will also be a mid-term exam (focused on terms & concepts) and an essay final.

Books from TRS
Fiction
Sherman Alexie  Smoke Signals
Sandra Cisneros  The House on Mango Street
Mark Haddon  The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
Nick Hornby  A Long Way Down
Kazuo Kibuishi  Daisy Kutter
Kazuo Kibuishi (ed.)  Flight (volume 1)
Will Leitch  Catch
David Levithan  How They Met
Bobbie Ann Mason  Spence + Lila

Writing Handbook
Diane Hacker  The Pocket Style Manual

Assignments: Unit 1
WebCT Posts
You will be asked to explore some topics in a semi-private Reflective Journal: only you and I can read it. This is where you will begin to think about the experiences that influenced your own development as a reader. You will also be asked to share ideas, opinions, concerns, and questions in Public Posts. Anyone in the class can read and respond to the issues you raise in this forum.

For Wednesday 8/27 (POST by 8pm Tuesday if possible; 8 am Wednesday at the latest)

In the Reflective Journal
Using two specific examples from your own life, explore the difference between reading for pleasure and reading literature that has been assigned in an English class. (250 word minimum)

In Public Posts
Choose one statement from your reflective post to share with the class. (You can cut and paste.)
About WebCT Posts: I recommend composing your WebCT posts in MS Word. You can then copy & paste them into WebCT. (Please do not “attach” them.) This method ensures that you have a back-up copy of your posts. I also recommend that you print out a copy of your WebCT post to refer to during class discussion.

Grading of WebCT Posts: Two or three times this semester you will get a score for your public and private posts on WebCT. This score will reflect the quality and usefulness of your posts as demonstrated by attention to detail, thoughtful analysis, extended development of ideas, references to terms and concepts introduced in class, and recursiveness (willingness to re-work or re-think your ideas). Note that late posts will be penalized substantially (especially if lateness is a pattern); deductions for missing posts will have an even more devastating effect on your score. So it’s in your best interest to keep up—but if you do fall behind, it’s better late than never.

Class Participation
You will be rewarded for positive contributions to the creation of an atmosphere in which people are comfortable saying what they think and, with the help of their classmates, thinking about what they have said. How can you help create this atmosphere? You can ask and answer questions. And you can question answers. Discussion is a collaborative activity—a team sport, not a solo performance. Specific questions and relevant examples that we can explore together are more useful than “right answers,” especially if the latter are consistently provided by just a few students. At a minimum, you should demonstrate your positive engagement in non-verbal ways, by giving respectful attention to others.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES AND POLICIES

1.) You must complete all major assignments to pass this course. Late work will be penalized unless we come to an understanding before the due date, so do keep in touch. If you are experiencing temporary difficulties, contact me as soon as possible.

2.) Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else’s words or ideas and using them in your own work (oral, written, graphic) without giving credit to the original author. This is a serious academic offense and could result in a failing grade for the plagiarized assignment or this course, and could also incur other university penalties through the Office of Judicial Affairs. At the very least, any paper with problematic citations will have to be revised before it can receive a grade.

Writing Consultants in the Writing Center (down the hall in CH3110) can answer questions about how to document sources. You can drop by or call (581-5929) for an appointment at any point in the writing process. Writing Center hours are Mon. – Thur. 9 am – 3 pm & 6 pm – 9 pm. On Fridays the Writing Center is open 9 a.m. – 1 p.m

3.) Students with documented disabilities: please contact the Office of Disability Services (581. 6583) so we can work out appropriate accommodations.

4.) Attendance Counts. Participation too. If you have more than three (3) un-excused absences, you will automatically lose half of the participation points available.

This is a “writing-intensive” course, so you can revise one piece of writing for submission to the Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP). **Check out the NEW submission procedures & deadlines!