Spring 1-15-2003

ENG 2011G-003: Literature; Self and World (Fiction)

Donelle Ruwe

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2003

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation

http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2003/76

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2003 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2003 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
Literature; Self and World (Fiction)
ENG 2011-003
Spring 2003

Dr. Donelle R. Ruwe
Office Hours: MWF 10:00; M 12:00
Office: Coleman Hall 3851
email and phone: drruwe@eiu.edu; phone 6299

Course Description and Objectives:
This course examines blockbusters and bestsellers. We'll look at the genres of romance novels, detective stories, science fiction, Westerns, and children's books. We'll identify fundamental themes, human fantasies, and universal fears that underpin these genres. Students will be assigned independent projects for which they will read widely within a particular genre and begin to identify and critique the patterns of this genre.

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

C Create a researched essay that uses primary and secondary sources.
C Practice library research skills.
C Create an appealing and informative presentation.
C Identify major authors and archetypes of different popular genres.
C Practice using critical language to describe fiction.

Requirements: Students will complete challenging academic writing assignments. Students will read additional book selections independently and prepare written reports/projects and presentations. Students will take frequent reading quizzes.

Required Texts: Zane Grey, Riders of the Purple Sage; Helen Fielding, Bridget Jones' Diary; Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice; Mary Shelley, Frankenstein 1818; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes; Caroline Keene, The Secret of the Old Clock; Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Little Princess; J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone; Linda Hogan, Mean Spirit; Dashiell Hammett, The Maltese Falcon.

Rewrite Policy: I accept no rewrites or late papers.

Extra Credit: For up to 20 points in extra credit (10 pts. per event), students may attend cultural events on campus. These include plays and concerts and literary readings. Students will submit (within 5 days of the event) a 2-page typed narrative describing the event and the student's response to the events. Use superior grammar and writing skills.

Attendance Policy and Student Responsibilities: Students are to complete all assignments on time, be present for classes, and participate in class discussions. For missed classes, students should consult with classmates about what occurred, borrow class notes, and ask me for copies of any handouts. Excessive, unexcused absences defined as 4 missed classes will result in a student's grade being dropped 5% (a 90% average would become an 85%, for example). 5 unexcused class hours results in a student's grade being dropped an additional 5% (a 90% average would become an 80%). Habitual lateness (tardies) will be counted as an absence. When a student has over three absences, that student must
provide documentation at that time to demonstrate that all of the absences were excused or the student will be penalized as shown above. Even if a student can document appropriate reasons for missing numerous classes, at some point the student will have missed too many to receive a passing grade.

Papers: Papers must be computer generated: double spaced, a standard 1-inch margin, a heading on the top left corner of the essay's first page. The heading should say your name, the name of the assignment, and the date. Do not attempt to tinker with the font size or margins in order to fool the instructor into thinking your paper is the appropriate length. Such trickery will result in a lowered grade.

Grading Policy: I grade on a point system: each assignment is worth a certain number of points (essays are typically worth 50 to 100 points, quizzes and brief homework assignments are typically worth 10 to 20 points). At the end of the semester, I add your total accumulated points and divide this number by the total number of points possible to figure out your percentage grade. These percentages correspond to number grades as follows:

- 90-100% A
- 80-90% B
- 70-80% C
- 60-70% D

Course Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you need certain accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please made an appointment with me as soon as possible. If you are unable to reach my office, I will meet you in the first floor of Coleman Hall.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Cheating in any form results in a zero grade for the assignment with no chance for make-up. Depending upon the severity and frequency of the cheating, I reserve the right to give the student who has cheated a failing grade (see FSC College Catalog for guidelines and procedures). Typical forms of cheating include (but are not limited to): copying someone else's work; copying work from the internet or other print sources; pretending to be sick in order to avoid a deadline; paraphrasing someone else's work; paraphrasing work from the internet or other print sources without acknowledgement; failing to identify the source of ideas and materials; and having another person do your work. Submitting your own work for more than class is also a form of plagiarism: you are misrepresenting material.

Learning how to write effectively is an essential life skill. This may be your last chance to have a trained writing professional carefully and conscientiously work with you on your writing. Don't screw it up. Learn how to write.

Disclosure: I reserve the right to alter the syllabus to meet the needs of the class.
Class Reading and Presentation Schedule

The Romance
Week 1: January 13, 15, 17 (Select Presentation Topics)
  Reading the Romance Novel: Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*

Week 2: M.L.K. Day, Jan. 22, 24
  Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*

Week 3: January 27, 29, 31
  The Modern Romance: Helen Fielding, *Bridget Jones' Diary*

Week 4: February 3, 5, 7
  The Harlequin and Other Romances (Presentations)

The Western and American Adventure Story
Week 5: February 10, 12, (14-Lincoln's Bday)
  The Fantasy of The West: Zane Grey's *Riders of the Purple Sage*

Week 6: February 17, 19, 21
  Zane Grey, *Riders of the Purple Sage*, continued.
  Presentations on The Western in film and text (John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, and the Cowboys)

Week 7: February 24, 26, 28
  The West, from the Native American Perspective: Linda Hogan's *Mean Spirit*

Week 8: March 3, 5, 8
  Linda Hogan, *Mean Spirit* continued
  Mid-Term test.

Spring Break (March 10-14)

Children's Literature: The British School Story
Week 9: March 17, 19, (21--no class, Professor at Conference)
  Sarah Fielding, *The Governess*; Hughes's *Tom Brown's School Days*

Week 10: March 24, 26, 28
  Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Little Princess*
  (Presentations)

Week 11: March 31, April 2, 4
  J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
  (Presentations)
Science (over) Fiction and the Detective Story
Week 12: April 7, 9, 11
   Mary Shelley, Frankenstein
Week 13: April 14, 16, 18
   Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Stories
      (presentations)
Week 14: April 21, 23, 25
   Dashiell Hammet, The Maltese Falcon
Week 15: April 28, 30, May 2
   Caroline Keene, Nancy Drew and The Secret of the Old Clock
      (presentations)

FINAL