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ENG 4300-4390-003-097: Metafication Through the Ages

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ENG4300: METAFICTION THROUGH THE AGES

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
Office: Coleman Hall 3321
Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu
Class: Coleman Hall 3159, MWF, 9:00-9:50am
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00am or by appt.

Texts: Kathy Acker, Empire of the Senseless
        John Barth, Lost in the Funhouse
        Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote
        Bret Easton Ellis, Lunar Park
        Toni Morrison, Jazz
        Vladimir Nabokov, Pale Fire
        Tim O’Brien, In the Lake of the Woods
        Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy
        Tom Stoppard, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
        Kurt Vonnegut, Breakfast of Champions

Objectives:
- To read, discuss and analyze representative texts.
- To familiarize ourselves with differing critical stances on some of these works.
- To learn about and engage in literary research.
- To hone skills related to writing literary analyses with strong thesis arguments.
- To complete a substantial final project as part of this “capstone course.”

POLICIES:

Attendance: Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation. If you are absent on a day on which a short essay is due, you will NOT receive credit for that essay.

Participation: The small size of this class will allow (and require) you to be an active daily participant in class discussion. In other words, I will expect you to be able and willing to keep up with the reading and speak up in class several times every day. If you don’t volunteer, I will call on you. If you aren’t regularly prepared, this portion of your grade will go down.

Office Hours: The hours listed above are times when I will be in my office ready to meet with students. You can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. I encourage you to come and talk to me about your work as often as you like.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.
Disabilities: If you have a documented disability, let me know what accommodations you require.

Grade Breakdown:
Short Essays 30% (3% each)
Film Essays 20% (10% each)
Critical Research Essay 15%
Final Project 25%
Participation 10%

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Aug.
20 M INTRODUCTION
22 W Don Quixote – Part I
24 F Don Quixote – Part II

27 M Lost in La Mancha (film)
29 W Lost in La Mancha (film)
31 F Lost in La Mancha (film discussion)

Sept.
3 M Labor Day – NO CLASS
5 W Tristram Shandy, Vols-1-3
7 F Tristram Shandy, Vols. 4, 5, 9 (in Vol. 4, skip the Slawkenbergius Tale)

10 M Tristram Shandy film
12 W Tristram Shandy film
14 F Tristram Shandy film discussion

17 M Pale Fire, pp. 1-163
19 W Pale Fire, pp. 164-239
21 F Pale Fire, pp. 240-end

24 M Breakfast of Champions, pp. 1-150
26 W Breakfast of Champions, pp. 151-224
28 F Breakfast of Champions, pp. 224-end

Short Essay I due

Oct.
1 M Empire of the Senseless, pp.1-160
3 W Empire of the Senseless, pp. 161-end
5 F FALL BREAK – NO CLASS

Tristram Shandy Film Essay due

8 M Jazz, pp. 1-114
10 W Jazz, pp. 117-180
12 F Jazz, pp. 180-end

15 M Lost in the Funhouse, pp.1-97 (to the end of “Lost in the Funhouse”)
17 W Lost in the Funhouse, pp. 98-167 (end of “Menelaiad”)
19 F Lost in the Funhouse, 168-end
22 M  Hamlet film,  
24 W  Hamlet film  
26 F  Hamlet film discussion  

29 M  Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, Acts I & II.  
31 W  Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, Act III  

Nov. 2 F  Borges, "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote"  

5 M  In the Lake of the Woods, Chapters 1-15  
7 W  In the Lake of the Woods, Chapters 16-23  
9 F  In the Lake of the Woods, Chapters 24-end  

12 M  Lunar Park, Chapters 1-13  
14 W  Lunar Park, Chapters 14-23  
16 F  Lunar Park, Chapters 24-end,  

THANKSGIVING BREAK  

26 M  Research Project Presentations  
28 W  Research Project Presentations  
30 F  Adaptation  

Dec. 3 M  Adaptation  
5 W  Adaptation  
7 F  Adaptation discussion, Final Projects due