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ENG 4300-002

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ENGLISH 4300

Dr. Olga Abella (cflox; olgafox@hotmail.com)  
314M Coleman (6297 or 359-9213)  
Office Hours: MWF 10-12 or by appointment.

I. TEXTS:  
*Literature of the Western World (Odyssey & Medea)*  
*G.I. Jane (movie)*  
*Carson McCullers, The Member of the Wedding*  
*Tank Girl (movie)*  
*Ursula K. LeGuin, The Left Hand of Darkness*  
*Ron Kovic, Born on the Fourth of July*  
*Born on the Fourth of July (movie)*  
*O’Brien, “How to Tell a True War Story”*  
*Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony*  
*Unbreakable (movie)*  
*The Matrix (movie)*  
*Ernest J. Gaines, A Lesson Before Dying*  
*My Crazy Life (movie)*  
*Nicola Griffith, Ammonite*

II. ASSIGNMENTS (with appropriate grade % for each):

1. **Critical Papers:** Two papers (5-7 pages), due on Oct. 23rd (for those not doing the first 3 Oral Presentations) and Dec. 8th (for those not doing the last 2 Oral Presentations). One of these papers will be based on your Oral Presentation and the other on one or two of the works we are reading. The paper based on your oral presentation will require you to do research and use secondary sources to help build and support your argument. The second paper shall be an analytical argument in which you examine the primary texts in order to prove the point(s) you are making. You will not use secondary sources for the paper not based on your oral presentation. Topics and assignments will be discussed more specifically in class. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins to allow for comments. (20% each)

2. **Oral Presentation:** A semi-collaborative research project on a specific assigned topic that will help generate ideas for one of the papers. (15%)

3. **Journal:** This will be a log of your responses to the texts we will be reading and viewing throughout the semester. Each entry will be in two parts: your thoughts before class discussion and then your reactions to ideas presented during class discussion. (15%)

4. **Class Participation:** Discussion is a very important part of this course. Expressing your reactions to the literature will help you to think critically about the texts, and that just might make writing the papers less intimidating. So, you will be expected to voice your thoughts. (10%)

5. **Final Exam:** This will be a comprehensive, open-book exam given during final exam week. (20%)

III. ATTENDANCE: Without regular attendance, you will probably not know enough about how the course readings have been examined and explained. A significant part of test questions will be based on lectures and discussions. Without knowing about these, you may well be unable to cope with the papers and final exam. Therefore, you are responsible for all of those parts of the classroom experience. In addition, having more than 3 unexcused absences will result in a failing class participation grade, which is 10% of your grade.

IV. LATE WORK: All assignments are due on the dates specified. Late papers will be graded down. If you cannot complete an assignment on time, you must see me before it is due.

V. FINAL NOTE: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disabilities Services (6583) as soon as possible.
English 4300

Course Calendar:

Jan.  
7 Introduction; *Heroism: Establishing Gender Roles*
9 Homer: *Odyssey*, Books 1-8
11 *Odyssey*, Books 9-16
14 *Odyssey*, Books 17-24
16 *Odyssey*
18 *Female Heroes: Questioning or Reinforcing Gender Roles?*; Euripides: *Medea*

21 King's B'Day--NO CLASS
23 *Medea*
25 *Medea*

28 G.I. Jane (movie)
30 G.I. Jane

Feb.  
1 McCullers: *The Member of the Wedding*, Part 1
4 *The Member of the Wedding*, Part 2
6 *The Member of the Wedding*, Part 3
8 Lincoln's B'Day—NO CLASS

11 Tank Girl (movie)
13 Tank Girl
15 **ORAL #1: Children's Movies**

18 LeGuin: *The Left Hand of Darkness*, pp. 1-71
20 *The Left Hand of Darkness*, pp. 72-148
22 *The Left Hand of Darkness*, pp. 149 to end; **ORAL #1 PAPER DUE**

25 **ORAL #2: Children's Books: [Patriotism and Glory: Another Consequence to Heroism]**  
Kovic: *Born on the Fourth of July*, pp. 1-93; JOURNALS DUE (6 entries)

Mar.  
1 *Born on the Fourth of July*, pp. 96-167

4 *Born on the Fourth of July* (movie); **ORAL #2 PAPER DUE**
6 *Born on the Fourth of July*
8 O'Brien: "How to Tell a True War Story"

11 SPRING BREAK
13 SPRING BREAK
15 SPRING BREAK

18 **PAPER #1 DUE**: Silko: *Ceremony*, pp. 1-82
20 *Ceremony*, pp. 83-152
22 *Ceremony*, pp. 153 to end

25 **ORAL #3: Concepts of Heroism in the Media**
27 *Unbreakable* (movie)
29 *Unbreakable*

Apr.  
1 *The Matrix* (movie); **ORAL #3 PAPER DUE**
3 *The Matrix*
5 **ORAL #4: Comic Books**: JOURNALS DUE (6 entries)

8 *Heroism: An Alternative View*; Gaines: *A Lesson Before Dying*, pp. 1-66
10 *A Lesson Before Dying*, pp. 67-151
12 *A Lesson Before Dying*, pp. 152 to end; **ORAL #4 PAPER DUE**

15 My Crazy Life (movie)
17 My Crazy Life
19 **ORAL #5: Athletes as Heroes**

22 Griffith: *Ammonite*, pp. 1-105
24 *Ammonite*, pp. 106-235
26 *Ammonite*, pp. 235-349; **PAPER #2 DUE; ORAL #5 PAPER DUE; JOURNALS DUE (3 entries)**