Spring 1-15-2004

ENG 4300-001: Literature of Memory

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English 4300: Literature of Memory  
Spring 2004

Francine McGregor  
Coleman 3355  
581-6305

Office Hours: MWF 1-2:30 and by appointment

About the Course:

Memory as desire, as identity, as illusion, as alienation, as the essential condition of being. How do what and how we remember help us define who we are? In this course, we'll consider representations of memory in works by authors such as Augustine, Dante, Tennyson, George Eliot, T.S. Eliot, Murdoch, Welty, and Anne Tyler in order to explore how they use the theme of memory to sketch parameters of what we call the "self."  

Required Texts:

Dante, Inferno, ed. Sinclair  
Eliot, Collected Poems 1909-1962  
Murdoch, The Sea, The Sea  
Tennyson, Tennyson's Poetry, ed. R. Hill  
Tyler, Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant  
Welty, Collected Stories

Course Requirements/Evaluation

1) Midterm paper (5+ pages) 15%  
2) Final paper (10+ pages) 25%  
3) Presentation/leading class discussion 15%  
4) Class participation 20%  
5) Short writings, quizzes, etc 15%  
6) Final Exam 10%

Policies

1) The reading load for this course is heavy and the material challenging, so make sure you allow yourself plenty of time to complete the assigned reading. Keep in mind that if you come to class unprepared, you'll lose participation credit. On the less punitive side, class is simply a lot more fun and interesting when you know what everyone else is talking about and have ideas of your own to contribute.
2) Much of what you will learn in this course will come from ideas generated in class discussion and so your presence in, and engagement with, the class are essential.

3) Assignments must be handed in within the first five minutes of class on the day they are due unless we have worked out a prior arrangement. Work handed in after that time will lose half a letter grade for each calendar day it is late. No work will be accepted a week after the deadline.

4) You must successfully complete all work for the course in order to receive a passing grade.

Plagiarism Policy

The following is the English department’s statement concerning plagiarism:

“Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work’ (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including a grade of ‘F’ for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.”

While I assume I’ll have no need to impose penalties for plagiarism, the ones I consider appropriate are that the student fail the course and be reported to the Judicial Affairs Office. If at any point in your writing for this course (or for another, if you like) you’re uncertain about whether you’re using sources appropriately, please come and talk to me.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please let me know and please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Tentative Syllabus
(I'll notify you in advance of any changes)

Week 1: Jan 12-16
  Course introduction
  Augustine, from Confessions (handout)

Week 2: Jan 21-23
  *King’s Birthday – No class Monday
  Memento

Week 3: Jan 26-30
  Dante, Inferno Canto I-IV
  Freud, from Mourning and Melancholia (handout)

Week 4: Feb 2-6
  Eliot, from The Mill on the Floss (handout)
  Tennyson, from Tennyson’s Poetry

Week 5: Feb 9-11
  *Lincoln’s Birthday – No class Friday
  Olson, “Tell Me a Riddle” (handout)

Week 6: Feb 16-20
  Eliot, from Collected Poems 1909-1962

Week 7: Feb 23-27
  Eudora Welty, from Collected Stories

Week 8: March 1-5
  Anne Tyler, Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant

Week 9: March 8-12
  Thomas Hardy, from Poems of 1912-13 (handout)

Week 10: Spring Break
  No Classes

Week 11: March 22-26
  Iris Murdoch, The Sea, The Sea

Week 12: March 29- April 2
  Murdoch, The Sea, The Sea
Week 13: April 5-9
   *Blowup*
   *Time Regained*

Week 14: April 12-16
   Reading TBA

Week 15: April 19-23
   Library research

Week 16: April 26-30
   Final projects are due

You will have a final exam during exam week.