

Spring 1-15-2014

ENG 2205-001: Introduction to Literary Studies

M Caldwell
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2014



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Caldwell, M, "ENG 2205-001: Introduction to Literary Studies" (2014). *Spring 2014*. 52.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2014/52

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2014 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2014 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

Introduction to Literary Studies
English 2205, section 001
Spring 2014 2:00-3:15
CH 3160

Professor Caldwell
mcaldwell@eiu.edu
Office: CH 3050
Hours: Tues. 10-11, Thurs. 10-11, 12:30-2, and by appt.

Required Texts

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland* (1865)
William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (ca. 1606)
Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* (1898)
Katherine Dunn, *Geek Love* (1989)
Poetry and short stories TBA (see below)
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

Course Expectations and Policies

English 2205, Introduction to Literary Studies, is required of all English majors and minors. Its explicit purpose is to help you develop and strengthen your analytical reading, writing, and speaking skills by practicing close reading of texts; by reading texts in their literary, historical, and cultural contexts; by becoming familiar with and adept at using print and digital research resources available to you; and by actively engaging in discussion of these texts with myself and your peers. Although critical thinking, writing, speaking, and research skills are key to your success as an English major or minor, they are also skills that are broadly applicable—indeed, essential—to your endeavors beyond the walls of Eastern.

I am absolutely committed to your success in this course, but ultimately you are responsible for your own education. Do not allow yourself to get behind in the course and do not ignore any difficulties that you may experience. Even though this is an “introductory” course, it is hardly an easy one, and you may find yourself being asked to think about literature in new and challenging ways. You should consult with me early and often about your papers or any difficulties you are experiencing with the reading, and by all means bring questions you have to class and voice them. I am happy to help at all stages of your writing process—from topic development to working through difficult passages to developing your thesis to constructing and/or revising drafts, etc. In short, when you need help, be proactive and seek it out.

Attendance and Participation

In order to succeed in this class it is *absolutely essential* for you do the reading, attend class regularly with your text in hand (please bring the course text, not an electronic copy), participate in lively and meaningful discussion of our assigned texts, and take notes. Your participation grade will be based on your contributions to class discussion and attendance. I will give you updates on your participation grade periodically throughout the course, but you may ask me about your participation grade at any point in the semester. In general, high grades (i.e. A - high B) are reserved for those students who are well prepared for class and make meaningful contributions on a daily basis; average grades (i.e. low B - C) are reserved for those students who are prepared but who participate only on occasion or those who participate regularly but not meaningfully; and low grades (i.e. D - F) are reserved for those

students who are not well prepared and/or who make no meaningful contributions to class discussion.

Attendance is crucial, and you can expect your final grade to drop by 1/3 a letter grade for each additional absence after your 3rd absence. If there is a reason why you must miss class for an extended period of time, you should consult with me early about your absences. I reserve the right to count you absent for behavior inappropriate and unbecoming to a college classroom including, but not limited to, texting, chatting, or any irrelevant use of technology in class, reading materials irrelevant to class, consistent tardiness, sleeping, or any other behavior that is disrespectful to your peers.

If you miss class on the day of the mid-term or final exam, you will not be permitted to make up the exam unless you can document an excused absence.

Quizzes, Homework, and Major Assignments

Quizzes and in class writing assignments will be given without prior notice and may cover any material from the class, including assigned readings, concepts discussed in class, vocabulary terms, or research methods.

Written homework will be assigned in class as needed; if you miss class, you should check with a classmate or me to learn whether you missed an assignment. Homework that is late will lose 25% of its value each calendar day it is late (that is to say, after four days, late homework becomes an automatic 0).

Detailed assignments for the major essays and the scene performance to be completed with *Macbeth* will be distributed as those assignments approach. In addition, there may be homework assignments designed to help you develop your ideas for those projects.

The Ringuette Cup project will involve you working in teams in competition with each other; you will have a large portion of the semester to work on it and I will give a few minutes in class for you touch base with your team members, but some meetings outside of class may also be necessary.

If you wish to do so, you may submit any essay longer than 750 words to your Electronic Writing Portfolio by the end of the semester.

Plagiarism

The English Department's policy on plagiarism states the following:

"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 immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards."

To put this another way: plagiarism absolutely will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarists will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and will fail the course. If you are confused about plagiarism at any point in the semester, it is incumbent upon you to ask me about it before you turn in an assignment.

Grades and Grading Scale

Assignment	Weight	Final Grading Scale	
Attendance / Participation	10%	90-100?	A
Homework / Quizzes	10%	80-89	B
Poetry Explication	10%	70-79	C
Scene Performance	10%	60-69	D
<i>Alice</i> Essay	10%	59 and below	F
<i>Turn of the Screw</i> Essay	10%		
<i>Geek Love</i> Essay	10%		
Ringuette Cup	10%		
Mid-term Exam	10%		
Final Exam	10%		

Information for students with disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

*****Your enrollment in this course constitutes your agreement to the state of affairs outlined in the course policies listed above and in the schedule of readings below.*****

Course Calendar

Readings are *due on the date listed*. Additional homework assignments will be made in class. Revisions to the syllabus may be made as needed throughout the semester and will be announced in class.

T Jan. 14	Course Introduction: Why and How We Read Literature
R Jan. 16	<i>Black Sheep, White Field</i> , 1-47
T Jan. 21	<i>Black Sheep, White Field</i> , 49-139 Homework: Attend Dr. Markelis' talk, 5:00pm, Lecture Hall, DFAC Essay on Markelis talk
R Jan. 23	<i>Black Sheep, White Field</i> , 141-205
T Jan. 28	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> pp. 1-61
R Jan. 30	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> pp. 62-99
T Feb. 4	<i>Through the Looking-Glass</i> pp. 103-167, groups lead discussion
R Feb. 6	<i>Through the Looking-Glass</i> pp. 168-209, groups lead discussion
T Feb. 11	In-class workshop on Alice essay
R Feb. 13	<i>Macbeth</i> I Alice essay due
T Feb. 18	<i>Macbeth</i> II

	Homework: Attend pre-production panel, DFAC 4:00pm
R Feb. 20	<i>Macbeth</i> III
T Feb. 25	<i>Macbeth</i> IV Homework: Go see production of <i>Macbeth</i> (Performed at DFAC from 2/26-3-2)
R Feb. 27	<i>Macbeth</i> Act V
T Mar. 4	Discussion of <i>Macbeth</i> performance, performance work
R Mar. 6	<i>Macbeth</i> scene performances
March 10-14	Spring Break
T Mar. 18	Poetry TBD
R Mar. 20	Poetry TBD
T Mar. 25	Poetry TBD, groups lead discussion
R Mar. 27	Poetry TBD, groups lead discussion
T Apr. 1	Midterm exam
R Apr. 3	Read <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> pp. 22-78. Poetry explication due. April 5 th , English Studies Conference
T Apr. 8	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i> pp. 78-120
R Apr. 10	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i> , cultural documents, pp. 121-186 Conferences about essay
T Apr. 15	In-class essay workshop. <i>Geek Love</i> pp. 3-41
R Apr. 17	<i>Geek Love</i> pp. 45-104. Groups take turns leading class discussion. **Turn of the Screw essay due (bring two copies, one without any identifying information).
T Apr. 22	<i>Geek Love</i> pp. 105-145
R Apr. 24	<i>Geek Love</i> pp. 149-256
T Apr. 29	<i>Geek Love</i> pp. 257-315
R May 1	<i>Geek Love</i> pp. 316-347. **Geek Love essay due on Friday, May 2, by 5pm.
Thursday May 8 10:15-12:15	Final exam