

Spring 1-15-1997

ENG 1002-026-035-052: Composition and Literature

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Recommended Citation

Veach, Tammy, "ENG 1002-026-035-052: Composition and Literature" (1997). *Spring 1997*. 30.
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COURSE GUIDELINES

English 1002-C, Spring 1997
Instructor: Tammy Veach
Office: Coleman 339-C
Office Phone: 581-6295
Office Hours: 9:30-10:00 MWF,
11:00-12:00 MWF & by appt.

Texts: Charters, The Story and Its Writer
Meyer, Poetry, An Introduction
Jacobus, The Bedford Introduction to Drama
Griffiths, Writing Essays About Literature
Homer, Harbrace Handbook
Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

While this course is designed to make you better readers, writers, and thinkers, my underlying goal is that you will grow to enjoy and appreciate literature this semester. To that end we will read extensively from each of the three principle literary genres (poetry, fiction, and drama), works written by men and women from culturally diverse backgrounds. And because this is also a composition course, we'll write quite a bit (at least 5,000 words, probably much more than that) about this literature. Expect to spend approximately two hours reading, analyzing, and writing about each day's assignment before coming to class.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GENERAL INFORMATION:

ATTENDANCE: If you miss class, for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to find out what we did that day. Your syllabus is merely tentative, so check with me or a classmate to see if changes were made in your absence. Absences must be excused before you can make up any assignments missed—you must either sign a release at the health service so that I can verify your visit or you must present me with a doctor's note if you were ill (no exceptions). Other reasons for missing class must be discussed with me to be cleared, and I will do so only for serious— and verifiable— circumstances: your (documented) illness, a death in your immediate family (again, I'll need confirmation), and so forth. **EXCUSES WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR MATTERS OF PERSONAL CONVENIENCE** — job interviews or travel arrangements, appointments with your advisor, oversleeping, etc. If you are to miss class because of participation in an **OFFICIAL** University function, work can be made up **ONLY** if completed **BEFORE** you leave. It is your responsibility to notify me of such absences in advance, allowing yourself ample time to find out what assignments you'll be missing and to complete and turn in your work before you go. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL HURT YOUR SEMESTER GRADE !!!** (Refer to "Late Work" and "Participation" sections for more details.)

LATE WORK: Unless an excused absence is the cause, work turned in late will be graded down one letter grade for each day it's late. Since an assignment is late if it's turned in after I collect them at the start of class, be sure to show up on time and to have the necessary materials needed to complete the assignment **BEFORE** class, because "I ran out of ribbon," "I couldn't get my computer to print it out," "The computer ate my disk," etc., are **NOT** acceptable excuses for turning in your work late. **NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED THAT ARE MORE THAN ONE WEEK LATE;** a grade of "zero" will be recorded. Make-up exams will be arranged as necessary on an individual basis, but only for those with excused absences; an unexcused absence will mean a zero on the exam. All make-up exams will be different from the ones given at the assigned time. If you have an excused absence on a day when journals are collected, I will simply count your next journal assignment twice. If you have an unexcused absence on a day when journals are collected, you will receive a zero for that particular journal assignment. In short, turn in all your work on time to avoid penalty.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as early in the term as possible if you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations. Please let me know, too, and realize that I can be of greater assistance to you if I am made aware of your disability early in the semester.

GRADING: English department standards (see handout) will be used to determine grades on all written work. These are rather stringent guidelines, evaluating not only the quality of your ideas but also your writing style, method of organization, ability to avoid grammatical mistakes, etc. You will be graded on a variety of activities—essays, exams, a journal, participation in class discussion, and possibly other activities, such as quizzes, but the quality of your writing will be the biggest determinant of your grade. In calculating your semester grade, I use a 90-80-70 scale. I anticipate assigning activities totaling 1,000 points for the semester, thus 900 for an A, 800 for a B, and 700 for a C. If I make any changes to this total, you will be forewarned. This class is graded on an A, B, C, and NC (no credit) basis, so **YOU MUST EARN 700 POINTS (OR 70%) TO PASS THIS CLASS.**

REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR POINT TOTALS:

- **ESSAYS, 500 POINTS**
 - Essay #1, poetry, 750 - 1,000 words long, 100 points—Mandatory conferences & required use of outside sources
 - Essay #2, fiction, 750-1,250 words long, 200 points
 - Essay #3, drama, 750-1,250 words long, 200 points
- **EXAMS, 300 POINTS**—all are primarily essay in nature; be prepared to write!!
 - Exam #1, poetry, 100 points
 - Exam #2, fiction, 100 points
 - Exam #3, drama, 100 points (given during finals week, but NOT a comprehensive exam)
- **PROJECTS AND PARTICIPATION, 200 POINTS**
 - Response journal, 100 points (More on this later, but in short , you are to write about some aspect of each day's reading assignment, about one page or so (approx. 250 words). These will be collected five times during the semester, on random, unannounced days, so be sure to bring your journal with you to class each day, for they will only be accepted at the start of class. 20 points per entry, 100 points total.)
 - Participation, 100 points. I find lectures extremely boring, but if we're to have a class based on discussion rather than lecture, your participation is essential. You must show up and you must speak out in our discussions—**BOTH** factors will be used heavily in determining your participation grade. If you rarely speak out in our class discussions, expect to earn no higher than a C- on participation, even if you have perfect attendance. And if you have excessive absences from class, expect to earn no higher than a D, even if you frequently speak out in our discussions when you're here. Other factors that go along with a solid participation grade include having a positive attitude, arriving prepared and on time, paying attention in class, treating your classmates with respect, and so forth. **IF I FIND CLASS DISCUSSION TO BE PARTICULARLY WEAK I WILL ASSUME THAT IS IN PART BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT READING THE MATERIAL FULLY. TO REMEDY THE PROBLEM, I WILL GIVE UNANNOUNCED READING QUIZZES (SOMETHING I HOPE I WILL NOT HAVE TO DO). BUT IF THIS DOES HAPPEN, THE SEMESTER POINT TOTAL WILL BE ALTERED, THOUGH I WILL STILL GRADE ON A 90-80-70 SCALE.**

CONFERENCES: I will schedule mandatory conferences for the first essay during which time we will discuss your rough draft of this assignment and any other questions you may have, but I encourage you to come by any time that you have a question or problem—that's what I'm here for! Don't hesitate—typically I can be of greater help the sooner I know of any difficulties you're having in class; waiting until the day before an assignment is due or until the last week of the semester isn't allowing yourself time to work and improve. If my office hours don't fit your schedule, we can arrange a different, mutually convenient time for a conference.

VOICE MAIL: While I don't give out my unlisted home phone number, I do encourage you to call me at my office phone, even at times other than my posted office hours. If I'm not in, my phone is equipped with voice mail, so be sure to leave a message **INCLUDING YOUR PHONE NUMBER**, and I'll get back to you shortly—I typically pick up my messages several times a day. **IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT CLASS IS CANCELED DUE TO MY ILLNESS OR OTHER EMERGENCY, CALL MY VOICE MAIL (581-6295) FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND REVISED ASSIGNMENTS.**

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON 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 immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS, SPRING 1997
ENG 1002-C, VEACH

(P = Poetry book; F = Fiction/ Short Stories book; D = Drama book; H = Handout)

JANUARY

- M 13 Intro to course and policies; writing sample
W 15 Poetry terminology (handout); tips for approaching poetry (P 26-28); "Those Winter Sundays" (P 12)
F 17 Speaker: "Home Burial" (P 300 - 303)
- M 20 MLK BIRTHDAY; NO CLASSES!!!
W 22 Speaker: "Patterns" (H)
F 24 Speaker: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (P 330); Imagery: "Dulce Et Decorum Est" (P 76)
- M 27 Imagery: "Travelling through the Dark" (P 118), "The Fish" (P 19)
W 29 Diction: "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," "The Elder Sister," and "Ex-Basketball Player" (all H)
F 31 Tone: "Still I Rise" (H), "My Arkansas" (P 345); discuss writing about poetry (P 556+)—Essay # 1 Assigned

FEBRUARY

- M 3 Form: "The Loveliest of Trees" (P 178), "Do Not Go Gentle" (P 184), "The Lake Isle of Innisfree (P 446),
"When, in disgrace with Fortune" (P 421)
W 5 An Author's Work—Anne Sexton: "Her Kind" (P 168); "To a Friend. . .," "The Truth the Dead Know," "The Lost
Ingredient," and "All My Pretty Ones" (all H)
F 7 Finish Sexton; Review for Exam # 1 on poetry
- M 10 **EXAM # 1**—bring your own paper and a pen or pencil!
W 12 NO CLASS—LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
F 14 No Class—Conferences on Essay # 1 in my office (Coleman Hall 339 - C)
- M 17 " "
W 19 " "
F 21 " "
- M 24 " "
W 26 Elements of fiction lecture. Read "The Story of an Hour" (F 320-21)
F 28 **ESSAY # 1 DUE!!!** Style: "Hills Like White Elephants" (F 615-18)

MARCH

- M 3 Point-of-View: "A Rose for Emily" (F 457 - 463); Essay #2 Assigned
W 5 Point-of-View: "The Yellow Wallpaper" (F 531-42)
F 7 Setting: "Sonny's Blues" (F 74-97)
- M 10 Tone: "The Things They Carried" (F 1022-35)
W 12 Symbol: "The Shawl" (F 1098-1101)
F 14 Symbol: "The Red Convertible" (F 448-55)
- M 17, W 19, F 21: NO CLASSES; SPRING BREAK!!!!!!!!!!!!
- M 24 Theme: "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (F 1063-74)
W 26 Humor: "The Kugelmass Episode" (F 32-41); Review for Exam # 2 on Fiction
F 28 **EXAM # 2 ON FICTION**—bring your own paper and pen or pencil!!!

M 31 Intro to drama—begin reading *Hamlet* together in class (D 249+)--Read all of Act I before class

APRIL

W 2 *Hamlet*, Act I and Act II

F 4 " " Act II; **ESSAY #2 DUE!!!**

M 7 " " Act III

W 9 " " Act IV; Essay # 3 Assigned

F 11 " " Act V

M 14 *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (D 939-84)

W 16 " "

F 18 " "

M 21 *Death of a Salesman* (D 997-1041)

W 23 " "

F 25 " "; **ESSAY # 3 DUE!!!**

M 28 Videotape of *Death of a Salesman*

W 30 " "

MAY

F 2 Last Class Day: Finish Video; Review for Exam # 3 on drama

M 5 - F 9--Exams

Final Exam Dates and Times

10:00 Section: Monday, May 5 from 10:15 to 12:15

12:00 Section: Wednesday, May 7 from 12:30 to 2:30

1:00 Section: Tuesday, May 6 from 12:30 to 2:30

STUDENTS MUST TAKE THE EXAM AT THEIR ASSIGNED TIMES UNLESS THEY HAVE THREE FINALS ON THAT DAY. IF SO, SEE ME BY FRIDAY, MAY 2 AT THE LATEST TO SCHEDULE AN ALTERNATE TIME!!!! I WILL NOT OTHERWISE DEVIATE FROM THE EXAM SCHEDULE.