

Fall 8-15-2011

ENG 2009G-002: Literature And Human Values: Race, Age And Gender

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ENG 2009G-002, Literature and Human Values (Race, Age, Gender)
Fall 2011, T/TH 9:30-10:45am, Coleman Hall 3609

Assistant Professor Lania Knight, PhD
Coleman Hall 3751, 581-6121
Office Hours: TBA; Email: ldknight@eiu.edu

Course Description, Design, and Goals: English 2009G is a writing intensive course centered on literary representations of race, age, and gender – three important modern concepts of self-definition. We will read novels, memoirs, and graphic or wordless novels and analyze the place these issues have in each text. To improve our analytical skills – one of the important goals of the course – we will spend class time discussing the assigned readings and the issues they raise. The goal is to improve, with practice, our reading and thinking skills as we learn from memoirists, novelists, and graphic novelists how issues of race, age, and gender can influence the development of the individual.

Texts (in the order we will read them):

Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*.
Hemon, Aleksandar. *The Lazarus Project*.
Baker, Kyle. *Nat Turner*.
hooks, bell. *Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood*.
Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*.
Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior*.
Bechdel, Alison. *Fun Home: A Tragicomic*.
White, Edmund. *A Boy's Own Story*.
Bound notebook, minimum 100 pages, sewn or spiral

Academic Honesty

Please note the English Department's statement on plagiarism (that is, the intentional or unintentional use of another writer's intellectual property without proper acknowledgment):

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 own 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 Judicial Affairs Office.

Students with Documented Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, you must make arrangements through the Office of Disability Services; you should contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Communicating with the Professor

If you need to contact me outside of class, please meet me at my office during office hours, or email me. Please keep all communication with me clear, respectful, and timely.

Be Prepared for Class

To prepare for each class, please do the following:

1. Bring your textbook(s) and journal with you to class.
2. Read the assigned material **before** class.
3. Respond to the assigned reading in your journal **before** class:
 - A. For each day, please write a **List of Ten**. This can include any list of ten things you found interesting about the reading. If more than one chapter or section of a book is assigned for a class, divide your list evenly among the readings.
 - B. Class discussion will be structured around students' **Lists of Ten**, which each student will read out loud during class. Each response is worth around 25 points. **To receive full credit**, you must 1) be present in class, 2) read some or all of your list out loud, 2) provide page/paragraph numbers for each item on your list, and 4) be able to explain why the items on your list are relevant to your understanding of the text.

Attendance and Timely Arrival

If you miss class, please provide a signed note from an appropriate authority (doctor, athletic director, etc) on letterhead. If you have a signed note, you may submit a copy of your List of Ten along with your note during the next class period. Otherwise, you will not receive credit. The Mid-Term and Final Exam cannot be made up if missed. Any student missing four (4) classes without a signed note will fail the course for lack of attendance. Please arrive to class on time. Arriving up to five minutes after class begins twice will count as an absence. Arriving later than five minutes after class begins is an absence.

Grades

<u>Lists of Ten:</u>	600
<u>Mid-Term:</u>	200
<u>Final Exam:</u>	200
TOTAL:	1,000 points

This is a writing-intensive course. You may submit the essay portion of your mid-term exam from this class for your EWP. For more information, visit the assessment website:
<http://www.eiu.edu/~assess>.

Tentative Schedule

Week One

Tuesday, 8/23: Introduction and overview; video: *A Class Divided*, The Daring Lesson

Thursday, 8/25: Video: *A Class Divided*, Day Two; Discuss *The Arrival*, Sections I, II, & III

Week Two

Tuesday, 8/30: Discuss *The Arrival*, Sections IV, V, & VI

Thursday, 9/1: Discuss *The Lazarus Project*, pp 1–63

Week Three

Tuesday, 9/6: Discuss *The Lazarus Project*, pp 64–112

Thursday, 9/8: Discuss *The Lazarus Project*, pp 114–200

Week Four

Tuesday, 9/13: Discuss *The Lazarus Project*, 202–246

Thursday, 9/15: Discuss *The Lazarus Project*, 248–292

Week Five

Tuesday, 9/20: Discuss reading from *Understanding Comics*

Thursday, 9/22: Discuss *Nat Turner*, chapters I & II

Week Six

Tuesday, 9/27: Discuss *Nat Turner*, chapters III & IV

Thursday, 9/29: Discuss *Bone Black*, chapters 1–20

Week Seven

Tuesday, 10/4: Discuss *Bone Black*, chapters 21–40

Thursday, 10/6: Discuss *Bone Black*, chapters 41–61

Week Eight

Tuesday, 10/11: Prepare for Mid-Term Exam

Thursday, 10/13: Mid-Term Exam

Week Nine

Tuesday, 10/18: Discuss *American Born Chinese* (pages TBA)

Thursday, 10/20: Discuss *American Born Chinese* (pages TBA)

Week Ten

Tuesday, 10/25: Discuss *The Woman Warrior*, “No Name Woman”

Thursday, 10/27: Discuss *The Woman Warrior*, “White Tigers”

Week Eleven

Tuesday, 11/1: Discuss *The Woman Warrior*, “Shaman”

Thursday, 11/3: Discuss *The Woman Warrior*, “At the Western Palace”

Week Twelve

Tuesday, 11/8: Discuss *Fun Home*, chapters 1–2

Thursday, 11/11: Discuss *Fun Home*, chapters 3–4

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, 11/15: Discuss *Fun Home*, chapters 5–6

Thursday, 11/18: Discuss *Fun Home*, chapter 7

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, 11/22: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thursday, 11/24: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week Fifteen

Tuesday, 11/29: Discuss *A Boy's Own Story*, chapters One & Two

Thursday, 12/1: Discuss *A Boy's Own Story*, chapter Three

Week Sixteen

Tuesday, 12/6: Discuss *A Boy's Own Story*, chapters Four & Five

Thursday, 12/8: Discuss *A Boy's Own Story*, chapter Six; video: *A Class Divided*, Teaching it to Adults; Final Exam Prep

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 14th, 8:00am–10am