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ENG 1002G-039: Composition and Literature

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English 1002.39
“Composition and Literature”
2:00 – 2:50 PM MWF, in Coleman Hall 3609
Instructor: Assistant Professor Weihsin Gui

Instructor’s contact information:

Office: English Department, Coleman Hall, Room 3821

Office Hours: MWF 3:00 – 4:00 PM and by appointment

E-mail address: wgui@eiu.edu**Work submission e-mail address: drwgui@gmail.com**

Course description: This course is a general introduction to reading and writing about literature. It also serves as an introduction to college-level writing, building on the skills you have learnt in ENG1001. We will read and write about three different genres of literature -- poetry, prose, and drama -- as well as learn about and apply some important literary concepts. Through a series of short papers and longer assignments, we will develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills that you can use in other courses in future.

Course objectives: By the end of this course, you should be able

- 1) *Understand* and *recall* some basic literary concepts such as metaphor and simile, protagonist and antagonist, flat and round characters, among others.
- 2) *Apply* these concepts to your reading of literary texts and in your written assignments of these texts.
- 3) Develop good reading and writing skills for college-level writing.

Course policies:

* **Attendance:** You are expected to attend class regularly. If you are absent for more than 6 class meetings your course grade will be lowered by one letter grade. If you foresee problems with regular class attendance, you should reconsider taking this course.

* **E-mail contact:** If you wish to communicate with me outside of class, come to my office hours or schedule an appointment. **Do not e-mail me for an “update” or for missed assignments/handouts, or to explain an absence.** If you need to catch up on what we did in class, e-mail one of your breakout/writing group members.

* **Breakout groups:** You will be assigned to breakout groups of 7-8 people. Occasionally we will meet in these breakout groups for discussion. I will let you know when these occasions arise.

* **Writing groups:** Within your breakout groups you will be assigned to writing groups of 3-4 people. You will be expected to exchange drafts of your longer papers with your writing groups members and give helpful feedback.

* **Writing assignments:** There will be regular in-class writing assignments, quizzes, response/analysis papers, two longer papers, and one final examination.

* **Grading breakdown:**

Section 1: Participation and breakout/writing groups = 15%
Section 2: Quizzes = 15%
Section 3: Response and analysis papers (1-2 pages) = 15%
Section 4: Midterm examination = 10%
Section 5: Final examination = 10%
Section 6: Longer papers (3-4 pages) = 35%

* **Response/analysis papers:** I will grade these using the following scale:

✓- (check-minus = needs improvement) ✓ (check = ok) ✓+ (check-plus = good)

To get the full 15% for this section, more than half of your papers must be ✓+, otherwise you will get a 10% score. If you have 3 or more papers with ✓-, then you will only get a 5% score.

*** **You must complete all written assignments and the final examination to pass this course.**

*** **Do NOT e-mail or ask me about your grade. I will show you how to calculate your grade in class.**

* **Revising essays:** I have set aside 2 weeks for paper revision and individual conferences, one in the middle and another at the end of the semester. You may revise your essay for a higher grade, **provided you submitted the original draft in the first place.** Also, staff at **The Writing Center** can help you. They are located in **Coleman Hall, Room 3110**, tel. **581-5929**.

* **Students with disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583).

* **Academic Honesty:** All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be original and independent. Do not resort to prefabricated papers and research materials found on the Internet. Make sure that you understand the meaning of plagiarism and the policy of the English Department: *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 assignment of the grade of F for the course, as well as to report the incident to the university's Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.*

* **E-mail submission and "Track Changes."** For this course, you will submit almost all written assignments to me using e-mail. I will also return your work to you by e-mail. Use this e-mail address for work submission:

drwgui@gmail.com.

* When you send me your assignment, the subject/title line of your e-mail should follow this format:

1001.39 [assignment number] [your name]

So if your name is Clive Owen and you are e-mailing me your second response paper, the subject line should read:

1001.39 Response Paper #2 Clive Owen

* **I will ignore all e-mail that does not follow this title format. You will get a ZERO/ "F" GRADE for that assignment, even if it is attached to the e-mail.**

* **You must save your documents as a Microsoft Word 97/2000/2003 document (*.doc) or a Rich Text document (*.rtf).** I will show you how to do this in class. If I cannot open your document, you will get a ZERO / "F" GRADE for that assignment, even if you did complete it.

* **It is your responsibility to make sure that your work gets to me punctually.** Sending your work to the wrong e-mail address is NOT a valid excuse. You can ask me to confirm that I have received your assignment by writing a polite request in your e-mail. Use a reliable e-mail client or server, and have a backup in case the first one is temporarily offline. I will not remind you that your work is overdue. **Late work will be lowered by one letter grade for every day past the due date.**

* I keep detailed records of all e-mail and documents received and sent from my account(s). Do not try to alter or change my comments or grades on your assignments. That is considered cheating. **I will impose a course grade of "F" on anyone who does so, and will report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.**

Texts for this course:

- * *Writing Essays about Literature* by Kelley Griffith (WE)
- * *Poetry: A Pocket Anthology* by R. S. Gwynn (PA)
- * *Short Fiction: Classic and Contemporary* by Bohner and Grant (SF)
- * *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Drama* by Lee A. Jacobins (DR)
- * **Course packet** available from **Copy-X** on Lincoln Avenue (near Morton Park) (CP)

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PART 1: POETRY

WEEK 1 1/12 – 1/16

* Readings from WE and PA

WEEK 2 1/21 & 1/23

* Readings from WE and PA; Response Paper #1

WEEK 3 1/26 – 1/30

* Readings from WE, PA and course packet

WEEK 4 2/2 – 2/6

* Readings from WE, PA and course packet; Response Paper #2

PART 2: PROSE

WEEK 5 2/9 & 2/11

* Readings from WE and SF

WEEK 6 2/16 – 2/20

* Readings from WE and SF; Response Paper #3

WEEK 7 2/23 – 2/27

* Readings from WE, SF, and course packet

WEEK 8 3/2 – 3/6

* Writing groups; Paper #1 due

WEEK 9 3/9 – 3/13

* Individual conferences for revision

WEEK 10 3/16 – 3/20

SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES

PART 2: PROSE CONTINUED

WEEK 11 3/23 – 3/27

* Readings from WE, SF, and course packet; Response Paper #4

WEEK 12 3/30 – 4/3

* Midterm Examination

PART 3: DRAMA

WEEK 13 4/6 – 4/10

* Readings from WE and DR

WEEK 14 4/13 – 4/17

* Readings from WE and DR; Response Paper #5

WEEK 15 4/20 – 4/24

Writing Groups; Paper #2 due

WEEK 16 4/27 – 5/1

Individual Conferences for revision

***** FINAL EXAMINATION: date and time to be announced**