

## CAMOSUN COLLEGE - COURSE OUTLINE - Winter 2003

### ENGLISH 084E - FICTION, POETRY, DRAMA RESERVED FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS

**Instructor:** Karyn Marczak  
**Office:** Paul 231  
**Phone:** 370 - 3351 (24-Hour Voice Mail)  
475 - 0396 (home)  
**E-mail:** marczak@camosun.bc.ca  
**Office Hours:** Tue. Wed. Thurs. 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Or by appointment

#### **Class Hours and Room:**

**Monday:** 12:30 – 2:20 p.m.  
**Tuesday:** 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.  
**Thursday:** 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.

**Credit Value:** 3  
**In-class Workload:** 5 hours/week  
**Out-of-class Workload:** minimum 5 hours/week, depending on ability & assignment

**Prerequisites:** English 070 **or** assessment.  
To take English 082E and 084E together, students must have a B average or better in English 070, or high assessment scores.

**Required Texts:** Kirsznier & Williams. *Literature: Reading Writing Reacting.*  
*Compact 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*

Ray Bradbury. *Fahrenheit 451.*

*Supplementary Materials for English 084e*  
Instructor: Karyn Marczak

Reference: any good collegiate English - English dictionary - there are suitable paperback ones in the bookstore.

#### **Course Description:**

This is an introductory course that shows you ways to understand and enjoy different types of literature. It will provide instruction and practice in reading, discussing, interpreting, and writing about the main genres of literature: fiction (short stories, novels), poetry and drama. During the course, you will read a variety of literary works, participate in small group and whole class discussions, take notes in class and write personal responses on your own, make oral presentations, and complete a number of written assignments, including both in-class quizzes and take home assignments.

## Course Objectives:

This course is specifically designed for students who are non-native speakers of English and come from varied cultural and literary backgrounds. It offers **instruction and guidance in understanding, analyzing, and evaluating the genres of literature** (fiction, poetry and drama) by examining literary selections by authors of different cultural backgrounds. The course aims to help students develop the ability to understand and appreciate literature in English, and to recognize how literature relates to the concerns and relationships all people share. The course will help students become aware of the tools and techniques used by writers and enable students to develop the language skills necessary to write effectively about literature.

During this course, **students will read short stories and poems** by a cross-section of world writers, past and present. They will also **read and analyze a selected novel and a play**. Students will examine the themes and explore the language, literary devices, and techniques used in the readings. By the end of the course, successful students will be able to recognize, analyze, interpret, and evaluate the major literary elements and techniques found in these genres. Students will also become aware of the many ways in which writers approach the complex and diverse world around them, with all its ambiguities. In doing so, students will develop an appreciation for the multiple interpretations and levels of meaning that can be created, and found, in a work of literature.

**Instruction will be given in the general principles of effective writing** with special attention to the elements essential to writing about literature. **Writing about literature** requires **1)** an understanding of the text, **2)** an analytical and critical analysis of what is read, **3)** the knowledge of and ability to explain specific technical terms, **4)** the ability to respond clearly to specific questions, and **5)** the ability to propose an idea or opinion and support it with specific references to the text, both orally and in writing. **These five skills are all crucial to success in most academic or professional environments**, so the study of literature is an integral part of any student's education. It has the added benefit of dealing with subject matter in which we are all interested: the human experience of the world around us and within us.

**English 084E is an exciting and rewarding course** if approached with interest and the determination to work hard. Literature is about people: our hopes, dreams, feelings, insights, problems, joys, and relationships to each other and to the world around us. It is also about language, that uniquely human tool for exploring and expressing what we see, feel, and think. Reading, discussing, and writing about literature offers the challenging opportunity to examine and develop your own understanding not only of the texts being analyzed, but also of your own responses and thinking. I want to know what you think about what you are

reading! If you approach the course as a chance to discover and discuss new ideas, you will enjoy it!

**Evaluation will be based on the following:**

**1. Four in-class quizzes** on the literary works studied in class. Contextual knowledge as well as knowledge of the aspects of literature explored in class will be examined. Each quiz will be worth 20 points. **80 points**

**2. Short Story Review:** Students will prepare a major review of a short story, chosen from a list of selected readings. Take-home assignment. **25 points**

**3. Analysis of a Poem:** Students will answer specific questions focusing on theme, language and literary devices used in a poem that has not been studied in class. Take-home assignment. **25 points**

**4. Analysis of a Play:** Students will present an analysis of certain aspects of the play studied in class. Oral presentation. **10 points**

**5. Essay on the Novel:** Students will write an essay discussing, evaluating, and analyzing specific elements of a prescribed novel, in response to an essay topic or question. Take-home assignment. **25 points**

**6. Journals and in-class participation.** This includes completion of assigned journal writing, regular attendance, and active participation in class discussions and projects. **15 points**

**Total possible marks: 180 marks**

**Important Notes:**

1. Students) who have completed all major assignments and whose total mark for the term is between 50 - 59% will be awarded a "D" Grade (Pass). This is a passing grade; however, it is not a prerequisite for students planning on continuing into University Transfer courses or Technology / Business courses. A "C" grade is the minimum prerequisite for higher level courses.

2. In cases where the total mark is below 50%, students will receive an "F" grade. Students who drop out of the course without officially withdrawing at Registration will receive an "F" grade.

3. Except in cases of verified illness or other legitimate reasons, **all assignments must be handed in on the due dates.**  
**All assignments must be neatly done, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Take-home assignments should be key-boarded.**

**4.** Failure to complete assignments on time during the term could result in **a loss of up to 10%** of the grade per day late. Extreme lateness without a reasonable excuse may lead to a failing grade for the assignment.

**5.** Without good attendance, you will not be able to do well in this course. For most students, at least 80% attendance is required to perform adequately. **If you are sick or have another valid reason for your absence, please telephone or email the instructor or relay a message through a friend or class-mate regarding your absence.** This will ensure that the instructor will be prepared to discuss opportunities to make up missed work or in-class assignments.

**6. All assignments** must be completed to fulfill the requirements of this course and receive a passing grade.

**7. Plagiarism** is unacceptable: all work must be your own. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged copying of someone else's words or ideas. **If any assignment, or part of an assignment, is plagiarized, the student may receive a zero for the assignment. Extreme cases may lead to failing the course.** Don't "borrow" stuff from the Internet! Be aware that your instructor knows how to use the Internet too and will be familiar with your style and level of writing.

**Evaluation / Grading:**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Description</i>
A+	95 - 100%	Superior level of achievement
A	90 - 94%	
A-	85 - 89%	
B+	80 - 84%	High level of achievement
B	75 - 79%	
B-	70 - 74%	
C+	65 - 69%	Satisfactory level of achievement
C	60 - 64%	Sufficient level of achievement to proceed to the next level of study.
D	50 - 59%	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.
F		Student received below 50% in course work or did not complete course work required but did not formally withdraw.
I		Work is not complete, but instructor has granted an extension. Mark will become an "F" unless the work is completed within six weeks.

## LITERARY ELEMENTS:

### FICTION--The Short Story / The Novel:

Theme: Its development and expression  
Plot: The events and how they unfold --  
Exposition, Complication, Conflict, Climax, Resolution  
Characters: Characterization: development and interaction  
Setting: Social / historical implications  
Mood / Atmosphere  
Language & Literary devices: Imagery and symbolism  
Tone: Irony, humour, suspense, etc.  
Relevance: Specific Cultural and Universal Issues  
Social / psychological issues  
The author's insights and attitudes: Relationship to the author's life & era

### POETRY:

Theme and its development  
The language of poetry  
Two levels of meaning - denotation, connotation  
Poetic devices:  
Imagery, including metaphor, simile, personification  
Symbolism  
Tone - humour, irony, satire, anger, etc.  
Sound and rhythm: Metre, rhythm, rhyme  
Alliteration, assonance, consonance  
Relevance  
The poet's insights and attitudes

### DRAMA:

Theme and its development  
Elements of drama and the stage production:  
Plot, Setting, Characterization, Acts and Scenes, Stage  
Directions and Dialogues  
Relevance  
The playwright's insights and attitudes

### OVERVIEW:

Fiction, Poetry, and Drama - Similarities and Differences