

English 160 (Introduction to Literature)

Winter 2004

In this course, we will be reading and responding to a broad range of works of literature. Our purpose is to study our language, culture and writing in a context that promotes analysis and interpretation. As a prerequisite, students should already be able to write college-level essays with appropriate documentation of primary and secondary works (this is covered in English 150).

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Texts:

- *English 160 Coursepack*
- Guterson, David. *Snow Falling on Cedars*
- A good reference guide for writing (e.g. Buckley's *Checkmate*)

Calendar Description:

A study of fiction (novels and short stories), poetry, and drama, introduces the student to literary criticism and analysis. The student will read selected works in each genre and will learn to recognize and discuss, orally and in writing, the elements of literature: plot, theme, characterization, setting, point-of-view, narrative technique, etc.

Course Objectives:

Students in English 160 are encouraged to:

- make connections, consider meaning, make and support inferences, and evaluate.

Instructors will select course materials and provide information that will enable students to

- read literature in the genres of poetry, fiction, and drama from different periods;
- read literature by men and women from various cultural backgrounds;
- recognize literary forms, elements, and techniques.

In discussing literature, students will be expected to:

- develop and communicate responses and interpretations
- distinguish between literal and figurative meaning;
- use literary terms such as metaphor, irony, character, setting, and plot;
- use vocabulary associated with analyzing fiction, poetry, and drama;
- analyze themes;
- develop an informed critical response.

In writing about literature, students will be expected to explain, support, and illustrate points in essays by

- using appropriate language;
- comparing pieces of literature in English;
- documenting sources using current MLA bibliographic style.

Important Course Policies:

1. Late assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late assignments will lose 10% per day for the first two days. After this they will not be accepted at all.
2. If you miss in-class work/exams, you will receive a zero (unless you can prove a medical emergency). Check with me beforehand if you know in advance that you will be unable to attend.
3. Please be careful when using other people's words or ideas. Using them without identifying the author constitutes fraud (plagiarism) and can have a lasting impact on this course and your future studies. See me if you are in any doubt about where to draw the line between your work and someone else's.

Evaluation:

Journals	10%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Best two (of four) take-home essays (2 x 25)	50%
Final Exam	15%
Participation (including presentation)	10%

Important notes:

1. **Students who cannot pass the in-class assignments or exams will NOT pass the course.**
2. **"Participation" means contributing to discussions in class in a genuine and generous way. Obviously, you can't participate if you aren't here.**