

ENGLISH 160 - An Introduction to Literature section 8 Winter 2005

Instructor: Kristine Kerins
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30am –1:30pm (or by appointment)

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NOTE: Responses to email will likely be quicker than those to voice messages; however, hotmail accounts are rather unreliable as both a sender and receiver of messages. If you can, use a different server.

Home Page: www.camosun.bc.ca/~kerins

Calendar Description:

This course, which is a discussion of fiction, poetry, and drama, introduces students to the study and analysis of literature. Students are exposed to a diverse and challenging range of materials, and are assigned 3 essays minimum. Individual assignments range from 300-2000 words in length (course total of 4000-5000 words).

Course Credit Value: 3

Course Prerequisite: English 150

The instructor will expect to see the standard essay format (which is taught in English 150) in the essays and final exam for this course, and very little lecture time will be devoted to discussion of essay writing. You will also be expected to be able to cite sources according to MLA standards. If you are not confident in either your essay writing or documenting ability, you will want to postpone your enrollment in English 160.

A basic ability with grammar, punctuation and spelling is also expected for all English courses at the 100 level, and these elements will factor into the grading of essays and exams.

Course Objectives:

READING:

Students will be encouraged to make connections, consider meaning, make and support inferences, and evaluate. Instructors will select course materials and provide information to enable students to:

- a. Analyze literature in the genres of poetry, fiction and drama from different periods.
- b. Analyze literature by men and women from various cultural backgrounds.
- c. Identify literary forms, elements, and techniques.

DISCUSSING:

Students will be given the opportunity to develop and communicate responses and interpretations using varied methods and resources. Students will be expected to:

- a. Distinguish between literal and figurative meaning.
- b. Use literary terms such as metaphor, irony, character, setting, and plot.
- c. Use vocabulary associated with analyzing fiction, poetry, and drama.
- d. Analyze themes.
- e. Identify a variety of literary theories.
- f. Develop an informed critical response

WRITING:

Students will be expected to explain, support, and illustrate points in essays by:

- a. Using a critical approach with appropriate language.
- b. Comparing pieces of literature in English.
- c. Documenting sources using current MLA bibliographic conventions.

Required Texts:

English 160 Course Package (Kerins). [Approx. \$25]

Griffith Jr., Kelley. Writing Essays About Literature: A Guide and Style Sheet.
6th ed. San Diego: Harcourt, 2002. [Approx. \$40]

McInerney, Jay. Bright Lights, Big City. New York: Vintage Contemporaries-
Random House, 1984. [Approx. \$15]

Recommended Texts:

A good Dictionary (Oxford, Webster's ...)

A good Thesaurus (Roget's ...)

Assignments:

In-class quizzes	5%	(throughout)
Short Fiction Test	15%	
1000 word short fiction essay		20%
Poetry Test	15%	
1500 word drama essay	20%	
Final Essay Exam - novel	25%	(TBA)

	100%	

* all dates are subject to change*

Evaluation:

A+ = 95-100%	B+ = 80-84%	C+ = 65-69%	D = 50-59%
A = 90-94%	B = 75-79%	C = 60-64%	F = below 50%

A- = 85-89%	B- = 70-74%		
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Grades for all assignments will be given in percentages.
Percentages will be tallied and translated into a letter grade at the end of the course.

SPECIAL NOTE: Be sure to keep all rough drafts and marked material

Late Essays:

- Essays are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified.
- 10% per day (even Saturdays and Sundays) will be deducted for lateness.
- Nothing will be accepted after 5 days (incl Saturdays and Sundays) past due date.
- Requests for extensions will be considered under special circumstances, but only if the request is made before the due date.

Missed Tests:

Unless you can prove a medical emergency with a doctor's note, all tests must be written in class on the date specified. A missed test without a medical note will result in a grade of zero for that test. If you already know that you are going to be unable to sit for a test on the date scheduled, please come and see me A.S.A.P. If your absence is justifiable, I will schedule you a re-write. Quizzes cannot be re-scheduled.

Readings:

As with any course, it is vitally important that you have completed all assigned readings before coming to each class. I will also be giving random reading quizzes to insure you have done the reading. Since our class time will consist mainly of group discussion, you must also have read the assigned works thoroughly enough to be able to intelligently participate in that discussion.

Participation and Attendance:

It is quite impossible for you to do well in this course if you do not regularly attend. Class time is your opportunity to clarify your ideas, responses and understanding of the works. Coming to class and participating in discussion will also help you anticipate the test questions and gather material for you essays. If you find it necessary to miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed and complete the homework BEFORE the next class. I would also suggest you make a trustworthy friend in the class from whom you can borrow thorough, reliable notes.

Finally, although you may decide not to come to class occasionally, repeated absences will result in my request that you drop the course.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the conscious theft and/or use of another person's ideas and/or words. When you do not clearly identify the source of your information, you are implying that those thoughts or phrases are your own. This is a very serious offense and will be dealt with severely. At the very least, it will result in a mark of zero for the assignment. If you do not fully understand how to avoid plagiarism, or if you have any specific concerns, I will be more than happy to help you.