

CAMOSUN COLLEGE - COURSE OUTLINE
ENGLISH 160: AN INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE W05

Instructor: Gordon Alexander

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Office Hours: 10:15-11:15 am Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment

Credit Value: 3 **Out-of-class Workload:** 6 - 10 hrs/week

Prerequisites: English 150

Texts: *The Harbrace Anthology of Literature* 3rd ed. Eds. J. Scott, R. Jones, R. Bowers

Nelson: 2002. ISBN 0-7747-3727-1

One of the following novels in any edition

M. Atwood *Edible Woman* R. Davies *Fifth Business*

T. Findley *The Wars* J. Hodgins *Invention of the World*

M. Laurence *The Stone Angel* M. Richler *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*

Calendar Description:

This course, which is a discussion of fiction, poetry, and drama, introduces students to the study and analysis of literature. Students will be exposed to a diverse and challenging range of materials, and will be assigned a minimum of 3 essays. Individual assignments range from 200-1,200 words in length (course total of 4,000-4,500 words).

Welcome to English 160.

The course involves readings from a wide range of styles and periods, several short assignments, two home essays (see below), and two formal examinations--a midterm and a final in the exam period, both requiring essays (see below).

Three general goals of this course are as follows:

- that you will gain insight into human experience through literature,
- that you will increase your ability to read serious literature independently with enjoyment, and
- that you will be able to express your views about literature with greater facility.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Explore meaning in literature by explaining how the elements of literature (plot, characterization, theme, setting, figurative language, point of view, tone, and style) contribute to our understanding.
2. Formulate an interpretation of a work based upon evidence explicit or reasonably implicit in the text.
3. Compare literary works for their handling of themes and/or techniques.
4. Use the terminology associated with fiction, drama and poetry.
5. Write analytic essays on the literature studied, using a planned form, effective language, and the MLA parenthetical citation system.

The course is organized in six sections:

1. sonnets on love and more;
2. short stories addressing the wonder and despair of love (and hate);
3. a novel revealing stages of self-awareness;
4. poems reflecting male and female perspectives of self, love, and life;
5. short stories concerning parents;
6. a play dealing with the individual in society, likely *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

Readings in the three genres of poetry, fiction, and drama have been selected for their relevance to these themes.

The essays require students to explain in clear English their views on selected works' themes and techniques in 900 to 1200 words. The tasks for both essays are similar, allowing students to build upon their achievements.

The formal examinations require students to write clearly and appropriately about poetry, short fiction, a novel, and a drama. The midterm will consist of two parts: the first will confirm reading and comprehension of the assigned material, and the second will be an inclass essay related to the novel prepared by the student. The three hour final exam will consist of three parts: the first will confirm reading and comprehension of the assigned material, the second will be a substantial task related to *The Importance of Being Earnest* assigned beforehand, and the third may be a sight work to be explicated at an appropriate level, demonstrating clear English, familiarity with literary terms, and the ability to analyze complex works of literature for their themes and techniques.

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|-------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Mark Distribution | essay 1 (poem) | 15% |
| | essay 2 (short story) | 20% |
| | midterm exam | 25% |
| | final exam | 25% |
| | journal tasks 2x5 | 10% |
| | other | 5% |
| | for a total of | 100% |

Some course work may be graded by a marker as well as by the instructor.

Grades:

95 - 100% = A+ 80 - 84% = B+

90 - 94% = A 75 - 79% = B

85 - 89% = A- 70 - 74% = B-

65 - 69% = C+ 50 - 59% = D

60 - 64% = C 0 - 49% = F

Incomplete = May be negotiated with the instructor in exceptional circumstances

Work is to be completed within 6 weeks of the semester's end.

- Attendance is expected. Repeated absences will result in a request that you withdraw.
- The last day for withdrawal without academic penalty is March 14, 2005 (check).
- A plagiarized paper will receive an F. (Also see College Calendar on Student Conduct)
- Both major essays and both examinations must be completed for credit in this course.
- To receive a course grade of C or above, the final examination score must be 60% (C) or more.

Assignments are due in P322 (under the door) on the dates specified. *If requested in advance*, extensions may be granted on an individual basis. Otherwise, late papers will be accepted only within two weeks of the due date and will lose a grade (5%) per day.

The English 150/160 Guidelines committee makes the following recommendations about assignments and weighting in English 160: Accepted in principle Nov. 25, 2004

1. Students should write a minimum of two out-of-class essays, each worth 15-25 % of the final grade. Out-of-class essays should range from 800-1200 words in length.
2. In addition to the final exam (see #3), students should write one in-class essay or one in-class exam that includes a significant piece of written analysis. Such in-class writing should be worth 15-25% of the final grade.
3. Students must write a final examination that includes at least one essay-length answer. The examination should be worth 25-40% of the final grade for the course and should be scheduled during the college's final exam period.
4. Minor tasks and assignments (such as presentations, reading quizzes, and so on) may be worth 5-15% of the final grade.
5. Students must write and/or be tested on each of the four genres (poetry, drama, short fiction, novel) covered by the course.
6. Students should study 6-12 short stories, 15-25 poems, 1-2 plays, and 1 novel during the course.
7. All literary essays should be documented according to MLA style.

Essay topics to be distributed later.