

There is an essential experience that you owe yourselves, one which . . . finally depends on you, in all your interactions with yourself and your world. This is the experience of taking responsibility toward yourselves . . . Responsibility to yourself means refusing to let others do your thinking, talking, and naming for you, it means learning to respect and use your own brains and instincts, hence grappling with hard work. Adrienne Rich



School of Arts and Science  
English Department  
English 160-03 & 06  
Winter 2009  
Course Outline

### 1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Moira F. Walker and Jane Griffith
- (b) Location: Paul 235
- (d) Telephone: 370-3330
- (e) Email: walkerm@camosun.bc.ca and griffithj@camosun.bc.ca

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

In reading literature, 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, non-fiction, and drama from different periods.
- b. Analyze literature by men and women from various cultural backgrounds.
- c. Identify literary forms, elements, and techniques.

In discussing literature, 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, drama, and non-fiction.
- d. Analyze themes.
- e. Identify a variety of literary theories.
- f. Develop an informed critical response.

In writing about literature, 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.

### 3. Required Materials

- (a) Texts: *Readings for English 160, Winter 2009*  
King, Thomas. *Medicine River*. Toronto: Penguin Books, 1989.
- (b) Other: A good dictionary, for example, the *Gage Canadian Dictionary*.

#### 4. Course Content

During this course, we will read selected pieces of literature by writers of varying nationality, ethnicity, language group, economic class, sexual preference, and religious creed. We will discuss the material in class, and you will write about formally in two essays, and a final test. The purposes of the course are to increase your appreciation of literature as a valuable and crucial form of human expression, and to extend your understanding of yourself, others, and our society through the study of a novel, a play, short stories, and poems.

#### 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) Assignments	Two essays	Value: 25 + 30
(b) Quiz on <i>Medicine River</i>		Value: 8
(c) Other: Writing-practice journal		Value: 2
	In-class exercise	Value: 8
	Drafts of the two essays	
	Presentation	Value: 2
	Final test	Value: 25

#### 6. Grading System. The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ =90-100	B- =70-72
A =85-89	C+ =65-69
A- =80-84	C =60-64
B+ =77-79	D =50-59
B =73-76	F =0-49

#### 7. General Information

- (a) Please respect the manners to which we will agree on the first day of class.
- (b) Please make a commitment to yourself to prepare for class by reading the works of literature assigned, to attend all classes, and to participate in class discussions.
- (c) Please submit work when due at the beginning of class. Do not email assignments to me, and be sure to retain all of your marked work until you have received your final grade for the course.
- (d) Please make a commitment to do your own work; it is, after all, “an essential experience that you owe yourself,” as Adrienne Rich has said.
- (e) To review literary terms and the MLA style of documentation, please consult these sites:

[http://www.galegroup.com/free\\_resources/glossary/glossary/index.htm#a](http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/glossary/glossary/index.htm#a)  
[http://www.landmark-project.com/citation\\_machine/cm.php](http://www.landmark-project.com/citation_machine/cm.php)

To assist your studies at Camosun, the college offers a number of services, workshops, and centres. Do make use of them!

Computer Labs—Ewing, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Counselling—Dawson 202

Learning Skills Centre—Dawson 202; Learning Skills Workshops—Paul 107

Library: Please acquire a library card as soon as possible.

Writing Centre—Dawson 207

See the College Calendar, the Registrar’s Office, or the College web site at

<http://www.camosun.bc.ca> for further details.