Introduction to Literature

Course Information

Instructor: E. “Rick” Hutchins, Jr.
Language & Literature 403I
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(please include “English 105.008” in your subject line for email. Also, I do not respond in any manner to emails received from non @cwu.edu addresses)

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 - 10:45 or by appointment
Online: Fridays 10:00 - 10:45 or by appointment
You may also reach me during office hours and at other times using Blackboard Instant Messenger, which you are required to install this quarter.

Course Time: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 1:00 - 1:50
Fridays, Online Discussion 1:00 - 1:50
Location: Language and Literature Building, Room 415

Course Description

The purpose of English 105 is to provide an opportunity for you to read some of the major works of world literature. Together, we will explore human experience as it is imagined, interpreted, and made significant in early and recent poetry, short stories, novels, and drama. My primary purpose in teaching this course is to stimulate your interest in literature, an interest I certainly hope will continue beyond 105. Second, I hope to provide you with a sampling of good literature, some early and some recent, representing a variety of cultural perspectives. Together, we will read these works and respond to them as enduring works of the creative imagination, as works that reveal a range and variety of human experience. Third, I intend to give you the opportunity to explore these works through small and large group discussion and informal and formal writing in order to develop your understanding of the ways language makes us know, think, feel, and act. (Olson)

Course Texts

Required:
A Raisin in the Sun. DVD; The Old Man and the Sea. DVD. See notes on calendar.
Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, and/or other access to films.
Microsoft Office 2007-2010: NOTE: Microsoft or Macintosh Works, Pages, or other similar programs are not acceptable; MS Word Starter is also not sufficient. You may buy a student version of MS Office 2010 for approx. $89 at the student bookstore, download the free 60-day trial version (wait one week to install it), or use the CWU Computer labs to convert and save your work.

Other texts, viewings, or recordings as assigned.

Highly Recommended: A Writing Handbook that provides information on writing an MLA formatted paper.

All formal papers for this class must be formatted according to Modern Language Association (MLA) requirements and should include an appropriate Works Cited Page. Papers not meeting these standards will be graded down severely and, quite possibly, receive a score of 0.
Winter Quarter 2014 - English 105.008
Introduction to Literature

WHY 105?

Okay, there's always the pragmatic reason: English 105 fulfills the Literary Backgrounds requirement in the breadth category of Central's general education program. In other words, you've got to take it! But there are other reasons, too. Granted, the study of literature can hardly be called “practical” in the most common use of the term; not many of us make our living reading books these days. But when you learn to read and appreciate literature, you acquire invaluable resources that you never lose: ways of observing, means of evaluating, reasons for believing and acting, modes of thinking, opportunities for sharing the experiences of those like you and unlike you with whom you share a common human bond despite historical and cultural differences. In short, literature teaches you empathy--how to feel with and for others, and it teaches you judgment--how to evaluate options and make decisions in a world of complexity and ambiguity. Literature changes you, and it changes the world.

OUTCOMES

- You will read and respond to literary works from a variety of cultures and from a range of historical periods.
- You will read and respond to literary works of poetry, fiction, and drama; you may also read nonfiction, view films, or listen to various narratives, depending on the organization and orientation of class materials.
- You will demonstrate an understanding of how literary elements such as character development, setting, and figurative language relate to literary meaning.
- In accordance with the General Education Writing Requirement, you will submit at least seven pages of writing "that is assessed for content and mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation, and organization)"

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class must send me an electronic copy of their “Academic Adjustments” as soon as possible so we can meet to discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class. Students with disabilities without this documentation should contact the Center for Disability Services Office, Bouillon 140 or ds@cwu.edu or 509-963-1202 immediately.

Blackboard Instant Messenger:

In order to ensure your ability to contact me during online hours, I require that each student download and install Blackboard Instant Messenger. You will find the Instant Messenger under the BBIM button on Blackboard. Blackboard Instant Messenger will inform me when each student completes this task. Beginning on Monday, Jan. 13, at 1:00 pm, each student that does not have Blackboard Instant Messenger installed will receive a 5 point deduction in their grade. This deduction will continue each Monday until the student has completed the requirement. If you need help with this process, email me or post a question in the Discussion Board Q&A Forum.
Citizenship

I expect you to participate conscientiously, "attend" each discussion board, complete assignments on time, conduct yourselves in discussions responsibly, and demonstrate academic integrity.

Attendance Policy for Online Sessions

You are expected to complete each of the weekly activities during the scheduled time periods, which usually span three to four days. Unless otherwise noted, an academic week for this course begins at 12:00 am each Sunday and ends at 11:59 pm each Saturday.

Weekly activities are as follows:

Lectures

Every Monday and Wednesday (following the first week), you are required to meet in the classroom for a short lecture and film viewings. Attendance in this course is a REQUIREMENT. The lecture covers the week's assignment from Foster's How to Read Literature . . ., as well as introducing various literary terms that I will expect you to use in your writing and discussion about literature during this course.

Readings

Needless to say, but I say it anyway, this is a reading course. Each week, you will be assigned various readings from your texts and because film is also a text, a viewing or listening assignment (all viewing assignments can be found on Netflix Instant Play; Amazon, or Hulu; however, you are free to explore other methods of obtaining the assigned films (CWU Brooks Library has a limited selection on a first come, first serve basis) - We will be watching many of these in class. I expect you to read these thoroughly, which will often require at least two readings. The burden for when to read these during the week falls on you, the student; however, keep in mind that the discussion boards require that you have read the week's material before Friday of each week (see below) -- Be diligent. All of the quarter's readings may found on the course calendar after Monday, January 6.

Reading Journal

You are required to post to your reading journal each academic week in the form of one entry of at least 225 words or three entries (one for each response category - see instructions under course documents) of at least 75 words each. There is no maximum length for journals. These entries must be posted regularly each week throughout the quarter. In other words, you may not read all ten weeks of material and post ten 225 word entries in a single week. In your journal entry(ies), you must discuss three aspects from your reading as directed in the "Journal Entry Instructions." You can download the instructions from the link found under the "Course Documents" section of Blackboard. Your first entry is due before 11:59 pm, Saturday, January 11, 2014.
Weekly Discussion Boards

Each week there will be a Discussion thread opened on the week's readings. The Discussion board will open each Friday at 12:50 pm and close the following Wednesday at 12:00 pm. I will not reopen discussion boards for further posting; however, after scoring, I will open the boards for your later perusal.

With the exception of the first week of posts, complete instructions are posted in the "Course Documents" section of Blackboard under the title "Discussion Board Instructions." Questions about the process may be posted there, and I will do my best to clarify issues for you there. In a nutshell, here is how the boards work. Each week I will post a group of questions as an opening salvo. You must make an initial response to each of these questions by 1:50 pm, Friday (This is the schedule class period for the quarter). You may find it easier to compose your responses in a word processor before posting it to Blackboard, and then using "cut and paste" to post it. Following your initial post to Blackboard, you will be required to respond to the posts of four (4) of your peers. Two of these peers will be assigned to you each week; the remaining two will be your choice. Each weekly discussion board is worth twenty points of your final grade: 10 points for your initial post and 2.5 points for each response. The instructions for the first week's discussion board can be found in the forum "Who Am I?" found under the Discussions Link on Blackboard.

Weekly Quizzes

Each week there will be a quiz on the material assigned for the previous week. The quizzes will become active at 12:00 pm, noon, each Tuesday and deactivate promptly at 3:00 pm each Tuesday. It is your responsibility to log in to Blackboard during this time period and take each quiz. Quizzes will not be reactivated for students for any reason, including Internet outages, computer malfunctions, power outages, etc. Quizzes will have an assigned limited time once you begin them. The total number of points will be significantly higher than the value of this portion of your grade. At the end of the quarter, final quiz totals will be calculated by multiplying the total number of questions a student has correct for the quarter by 100 and dividing by the total number of quiz questions asked, with the result round up to the nearest point. For example, if there were 300 total questions and the student correctly answered 268, the final value for the quiz category will be (268 x 100)/300 or 90 (89.333).

NOTE: Missing 3 or more of either quizzes, discussion boards, or journals, or missing 5 or more of any combination of these activities may result in immediate failure from this course.

Exams

There is a final exam in this course. The exam will take place online and will consist of 100 randomly chosen multiple-choice questions from the weekly quizzes. Each question will be worth 2 points for a total of 200 points. The points will be counted as quiz points and averaged into your final quiz score. The exam will be available for the twenty-four hour period on the day of the scheduled final exam in this course.

FINAL EXAM: POSTED March 17, 2014 - 12:00 am - 11:59 pm
Papers

There are three papers in this class. Not completing any one of them will likely result in a failure for the course. The complete rubrics for these papers can be found under the PAPERS button of the Blackboard Course approximately three weeks before their respective due dates. All papers should follow standard MLA formatting principles. Those that do not will receive severe deductions in the score and quite possibly receive a zero.

PAPER 1: Short Summary-Response (2-3 pages)  
DUE: Jan. 27 - 12:00 pm

PAPER 2: Short Compare-Contrast (3-4 pages)  
DUE: Feb. 19 - 12:00 pm

PAPER 3: Thematic, Researched Compare and Contrast (5-7 pages)  
DUE: Mar. 19 - 12:00 pm

Late paper policy

Papers may be turned in one day late for an automatic 10 percent reduction, two days late for an automatic 20 percent reduction, or three days late for an automatic 50 percent reduction. Papers more than three days (72 hours) late and up to one week late will be accepted with no score. Papers will not be accepted more than one week late under ANY circumstances and will result in the lowering of your final grade by the number of points the paper was worth in addition to the loss of the paper score (i.e. double the points). (Note: the standard policy for students who miss major assignments is to immediately fail the student from the course.) Papers submitted in a non-readable (i.e. not .doc or .docx) format are considered late until they have been submitted correctly.

Academic Honesty (or lack thereof)

Plagiarism is presenting as your own the IDEAS OR WRITING of someone else without proper recognition of the sources. Plagiarized papers or tests will receive an F, at least. I may fail you for the course for plagiarizing a single assignment. University Policy requires that serious cases of plagiarism, which are a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, be reported to Student Affairs. (See CWU’s policy on academic dishonesty in The Student Handbook.)

The complete, detailed schedule of assignments and readings for the quarter can be found on the Blackboard Course Calendar (top right column of the Home Page). You will also find a copy of the calendar in .PDF form under the Course Documents section. For your convenience, you will also find a QR code that will allow you to download the Calendar to your mobile device under the Course Documents section.

Disclaimer

While I make every effort to have an accurate syllabus and to abide by the grading and schedule as set forth herein, I reserve the right to make minor adjustments as necessary to accommodate time and error.