

Course Syllabus

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change during the semester . Please check the online version of this syllabus on a regular basis for any updates.

Department : English & Foreign Languages
Course Title : Composition and Literature
Section Name : ENGL 1302.WB8, 1302.WZ8
Start Date : 01/18/2011
End Date : 05/13/2011
Modality : ONLINE
Credits : Three credit hours

Instructor Information:

Name : Dr. Mark W. Jordan
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Course Description:

Catalog description: "Consists of reading and analyzing selected works from the principle genres of literature and introduces research techniques. Requires analytical papers on literature, research exercises, supplemental readings and examinations."

Professor's supplementary description: One purpose of this course is to teach critical thinking skills which may be applied in any walk of life; the second is to give the student a grounding in the types of literature which have helped form our culture and thus have helped form us as well. The first goal will be accomplished via an exploration of the second. Part of this exploration will be teaching the student to apply to literature the principles of effective writing studied in ENGL 1301, as well as expanding these skills by studying the use of secondary sources. The three principal genres of literature (fiction, poetry, drama) are studied, as well as specific strategies of interpreting and writing about literature.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: ENGL 1301 or its equivalent

Scans: SCANS 1, 2, 9

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes):

- 1.0 Read, analyze, and recognize characteristics of fiction, poetry, and drama, and identify essential details and facts in those works;
- 2.0 Demonstrate an ability to read assigned texts closely, develop interpretational analyses of these texts, and clearly articulate the findings of these critical interpretational analyses;
- 3.0 Write analytical papers on one or more literary works in a given genre or genres;
- 4.0 Demonstrate an understanding of standard terminology to describe genres;
- 5.0 Summarize the essential elements of each genre and each literary selection in standard literary terminology;

- 6.0 Organize library research materials and other resources and write a literary research project or paper which demonstrates the proper use of quotations, citations, and list of works cited;
- 7.0 Demonstrate continuing mastery of conventional English; and
- 8.0 Articulate ideas in well-organized, lucid prose that exhibits the application of the aforementioned skills.

Course Policies:

- 1.0 This course is not self-paced. Although as with any web course, students have the freedom to work the course when their own schedule best allows, the boundaries to this freedom are the due dates for various minor assignments, tests, and essays.
- 2.0 Work submitted late for any reason may be penalized five points per weekday (or in shorter terms, ten points per weekday). Any exceptions are entirely at my discretion.
- 3.0 Normally, no extension will be granted if the request is made after the assignment deadline has already passed, but must be requested no later than the day the assignment is due.
- 4.0 This policy applies to major tests and essays as well as daily assignments. All assignments must be submitted in the required file format via Blackboard.
- 5.0 No student can pass this course without completing the final exam, which will be taken via Blackboard also. An Incomplete will not automatically be granted if a student misses the final exam.
- 6.0 Plagiarism in any form is not allowed. Please see the [Plagiarism](#) link. The penalty for intentional plagiarism is an F for the course. *If I suspect a student of plagiarizing, if necessary I will insist that the student meet with me personally and defend his or her claim of authorship of the paper in question. In the case of a student taking the course at a significant distance from Odessa College, I will require that student to arrange a telephone meeting, proctored by some authority who can ensure the student is actually the individual enrolled in the course.*

Required Readings/Materials :

- 1.0 You must purchase the following **required** readings/materials: *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing*. 11th edition. Ed. Kennedy & Gioia. 2010.
- 2.0 You are encouraged to buy the following *optional* books/materials: A standard dictionary.
- 3.0 Every student must have daily extended access to a computer with Internet connection, web browser, email capability, file attaching capability, and word processing capability.

Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments):

- 1.0 **Careful reading of the selected literature**, with the understanding that while this receives no direct credit, it is the foundation for all graded assignments;
- 2.0 **Class participation** will count **5% of your course grade**. This will be judged on several factors chosen to reflect not only quantity of participation but quality as well. Criteria may include such factors as number of days participating, number of messages sent, amount of pertinent questions asked, amount of topics or persuasive points introduced in discussion, and general imaginativeness and focus demonstrated. **Note: this element may not apply during summer term classes.**
- 3.0 **Various short daily worksheets on the readings and other daily assignments (20 % of the course grade)**. Most daily grades will be worksheets on the readings. These, together with the Discussion Boards mentioned in item two, substitute for the crucial element of class discussion of the readings;

- 4.0 **Two tests, one over fiction, one over drama (15 % each)**. The Fiction Test consists of two sections, a short-answer section covering concepts and terminology and an essay section which asks students to apply the concepts to the particular works covered in the worksheets. The Drama Test consists of an essay section similar to the first test, with the other section asking for identification of quotations from the dramas read. Tests are "open book" and may be taken from home; consequently, more elaboration is expected than on similar tests taken by campus students;
- 5.0 **One interpretive essay (10 %)**. In this essay the student uses the same concepts and terminology as tested in item 4.0, but in a more formal and thorough way, exploring the meaning of one short fiction work, usually one of those already covered in class;
- 6.0 **A formal research paper utilizing secondary sources (15%)**. The student will interpret the meaning of a short fiction work from the textbook, but *not* one having been already covered in the course. The student's own interpretation is supported by secondary sources found in the research process. All sources used, including the short story being interpreted, are formally cited according to MLA research citation format, which is taught in this course;
- 7.0 **A comprehensive final exam (20 % of the course grade)**. The first section of the final (20% of the test grade) tests the selection of poems covered in the worksheets, usually with either several essay questions or a greater number of short answer questions. (Poetry is not tested separately as are Fiction and Drama.) The second and main section of the final exam (80% of the test grade) consists of an interpretive essay spanning works from all three genres, to be 1000 words or more in length. More specific instructions for this and all other assignments are given within Blackboard.

Summary of Assignments & Activities

Item Name	Type	Description	Time Frame
Unit One	Fiction	The first part of the course studies the genre of Fiction. It also includes the study of fundamental concepts and literary devices applicable throughout the course. The two major assignments for this unit are a unit test and an interpretive essay (see Course Requirements for descriptions of these and all major assignments).	This unit usually lasts about five or six weeks and covers four to five short fiction works in depth. <i>Starting and ending dates of this and all units depend on various factors such as the degree of classroom discussion and the pace of student learning, which in turn may add to or subtract from the list of works studied. All specific assignment due dates are announced in class.</i>
Unit Two	Drama	Unit Two studies the genre of drama. Most of the same concepts and terminology from Unit One are also applicable to Drama, with suitable modifications. The one major assignment for Unit Two is a unit test.	Unit Two usually lasts about four weeks and normally covers one short drama (one act) and one full length drama.
Unit Three	Poetry	Unit Three studies the genre of poetry, including interpretive strategy and terminology suitable to the genre. This genre is not tested separately but rather in one section of the final exam, the rest of which is comprehensive.	Unit Three lasts the remainder of the semester, but is interspersed with Unit Four (see below). Class days are given over to lecture over poetic interpretation, discussion of particular poems (usually eight to twelve, as time permits), interspersed with class time given over to topics having to do with Unit Four.
Unit Four	Research Methodology	Unit Four teaches methods of college-level research, including use of print and online specialized indexes, and it also teaches MLA-style citation of research sources. For this unit the student researches and composes a formal research paper.	Unit Four, as already noted, is interspersed with the study of poetry in Unit Three. Class time devoted to research methodology is spent teaching research methods and MLA-style citation of sources, supported by supervised time for research in the OC library.

Grading Policy:

In the Odessa College grading system pertaining to overall course grades for this and most courses, the standard range is A ~ B ~ C ~ D ~ F, as shown below.

90-100 = A = 4.0 gradepoints

80- 89 = B = 3.0 gradepoints

70- 79 = C = 2.0 gradepoints (the lowest transferable course grade)

60- 69 = D = 1.0 gradepoints (a passing course grade, but not accepted by most colleges and universities to which you might wish to transfer)

Below 60 = F = zero gradepoints

In my evaluation of individual assignments, I use a similar range as shown above from "A" to "F," where "A" = 95, "F" = 55, and so forth. Additionally, a grade of A, B, C, or D may be shown with a minus (-) or a plus (+) with the minus equaling a "2" and the plus an "8". For example, a "B+" on an assignment equals 88 points; a "B" equals 85 points; a "B-" equals 82 points. The A, C, and D ranges work the same way. I also on some occasions may give the following grades:

Below 55 = F- (may be given when an assignment is turned in but in such a condition that even the most generous evaluation cannot justify giving even 50 out of 100 possible points; used rarely. The actual point value may range anywhere from 10 to 50 points, at my discretion.)

Zero = No points (when an assignment is not turned in at all).

Special Needs:

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Learning Resource Center (Library):

The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian " service provide additional help.

Student E-mail:

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. All online assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.

Technical Support:

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm.

Important School Policies:

Information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students' and instructors' rights to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.