

English 150 Introduction to Literature Fall 2007

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. TTh ACW 134

Dr. James R. Hepworth, 309 Spalding Hall

Office Hours: 12:00-1:30 p.m MW 10:30-12:00 TTh and by Appointment

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Required Text and Materials

Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia.
Portable Edition 10E. New York: Pearson Longman, 2005.

- A plain file folder with your **last name followed by your first name** on the flap.

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: English 101

Course Description and Course Outcomes

We read, critic Harold Bloom says, to strengthen ourselves and to learn of our own authentic interests. With that in mind English 150 introduces students to reading and understanding literature as a method of thinking critically about historical and contemporary aspects of the human condition and about themselves and their cultures. We will attempt to strike a balance between an in-depth study of selected works and a general introductory survey of fiction, poetry, and drama.

We will all work to improve our critical thinking skills by reading and discussing assignments. We will also practice analytical and imaginative writing and take advantage of special events. By the end of the semester I hope you will have increased your enjoyment and confidence as a reader of literature and your knowledge of literary terminology and techniques. You should also come away from our class having clarified cultural and individual values and better knowing how the arts affect cultures. And finally, our work should help us to identify and to better understand social institutions and the roles people play within those institutions.

Grading

Exams (60 points): Students will sit for one exam each over fiction, poetry, and drama. These will usually include literary terms, short essay questions, author and character identifications, direct quotations, and the like.

Term Paper (15 points): I expect each student to produce one piece of polished writing (8-10 pages) complete with handwritten notes and rough drafts and revisions.

Participation: Exercises, Quizzes, Blogs, Presentations (25 points): Successful students will complete a series of analytical and imaginative writing assignments both in the classroom and as online homework. On some occasions students will imitate the forms they are studying by writing their own original tales, parables, scenes, dialog, limericks. . . . On other occasions, students will write one page responses analyzing characters, identifying themes and summarizing plots, comparing and contrasting works

in the same genre. . . On still other occasions, the journal entry may take the form of an unannounced quiz. I will evaluate a selected number of these pieces before and at midterm and again toward the end of the semester. The idea here is to write to learn.

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation. Students who miss a single class will suffer no reduction in grade. Each successive absence, however, will substantially reduce the student's final grade. Six absences will result in an F for the semester. If you arrive late for class or leave early or if it is obvious that you are unprepared for class (e.g. you're missing homework assignments or you obviously haven't read the assignment) I will count you absent. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Plagiarism (or any form of cheating) will result in an automatic F for the semester.

Formatting for Assignments: With the exception of assignments written in class, all work must be formatted in MLA style and keyboarded using a word processing program. Print assignments the night before they are due to circumvent printing problems. Always print two copies and keep one on file in case your first copy is lost or stolen.

Late Assignment Policy: All written assignments are due at the beginning of class. I will deduct two letter grades for late assignments and accept no assignments after the first class period past the deadline (e.g. if an assignment is due on Tuesday, I will not accept it after Thursday). I will not accept late assignments placed under my office door.

Special Needs: If you have a physical disability or a learning disability, be sure you have registered with Disability Services (RCH 111) to verify the disability and to determine suitable academic accommodations. Then during the first week of class, make an appointment to meet with me in my office to make arrangements specific to this class. Later notification may result in the requested accommodations being unavailable.

Email: I check my email once a day, usually early in the morning. Please limit your emails to three well-written sentences. College policy requires that faculty members communicate with students by email exclusively through WarriorMail. I will not respond to students who use their personal email accounts. Please use email reasonably and efficiently. Please do **not**, for example, email me after missing a class and expect me to "tell" you what you "missed," and please do not submit an assignment or an essay by email as an attachment. I will accept only hard copies of written assignments. Email me exclusively at hepworth@lcsc.edu and only at that address.

Incompletes: I will grant you a grade of Incomplete at the end of the semester if (1) you have completed 80% of the work *and* (2) if you have a documented medical or family emergency that occurs in the last few weeks of class.

Calendar of Readings and Class Meetings

Week One: T 27 August Course Introduction Th 30 August Introduction to the oral tradition. Read Fiction 1 “Reading a Story” and answer the questions. Post your answers to your own blog.

Week Two: T 4 September Story Telling. Th 5 September Discuss assigned stories in “Reading a Story.” Read “Fiction 2 Point of View”; “Fiction 3 Character,” and “Part 4 43 Writing About Literature”

Week Three: T 11 September Discuss assigned stories in “Point of View. Th 13 September Discuss assigned stories in “Character”; Read “Fiction 4 Setting” and “Fiction 5 Tone and Style”

Week Four: T 18 September Discuss assigned stories in “Character”; Th 20 September Discuss assigned stories in in “Setting”; Read “Fiction 6 Theme and Fiction 7 Symbol.”

Week Five: T 25 September Fiction card report due. Discuss assigned stories in “Setting”; Th 27 September Discuss assigned stories in “Symbol” Read “Poetry 13 Reading a Poem” and “Poetry 14 Listening to a Voice”

Week Six: T 2 October Fiction Exam. Th 4 October Introduction to Poetry. Read “Poetry 15 Words,” “Poetry 16 Saying and Suggesting,” and

Week Seven: T 9 October Discuss assigned poems. Th 11 October Continue discussion of assigned poems. Read “Poetry 17 Imagery,” “Poetry 18 Figures of Speech,” and Part 4 45 Writing About a Poem”

Week Eight: T 16 Discuss assigned poems. Th 18 October Guest Speaker? Read “Poetry 19 Song, 20 Sound, 21 Rhythm”

Week Nine: T 23 October Discuss assigned poems. Th 25 October Discuss assigned poems. Read “Poetry 22 Closed Form, 23 Open Form,”

Week Ten: T 30 October. Introduction to prosody. Th 1 November Prosody cont.

Week Eleven: T 6 November Poetry Exam Th 8 November Introduction to Drama and Film

Week Twelve: T 13 November In class film. Th 15 November In class film. Paper due.

Week Thirteen: T 20 November Th 22 November **No Class: Fall Break/Thanksgiving**

Week Fourteen: T 27 TBA November T 29 November Drama Exam

Week Fifteen T 11 December Class performances. W 13 December Class performances

Week Sixteen T 18 December **Final Exam Week**