

English 150 Introduction to Literature Spring 2007

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. TTh ACW 136

Dr. James R. Hepworth, 309 Spalding Hall

Office Hours: 11:30-12:30 MW 10:30-11:30 TTh and by Appointment

Email: hepworth@lsc.edu Telephone: 792-2385

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: English 101

I check my Email once a day. Some days I receive as many as thirty or forty Emails in addition to spam. If you must Email me, please limit your Email to three well-written sentences. The college requires that you Email me *only* from your warriormail account. I will not respond to do Email sent to me from personal Email accounts outside the college system, and I do not accept Emailed assignments.

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.

Required Text and Materials

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

- A plain file folder with your **last name followed by your first name** on the flap.
- College Blue Books (please have a supply of two on hand for in-class assignments)

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 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, 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 (6-8 pages) complete with handwritten notes, rough drafts, and revisions.

Quizzes, Exercises, Imaginative Writing. (25 points): Successful students will complete a journal-like series of analytical and imaginative writing assignments both in the classroom and as 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, I may simply give an unannounced quiz. I will call for and collect a selected number of these pieces throughout the semester. The idea here is to write to learn.

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.

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 by a step (B- to C, C to C-). 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. All assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Plagiarism (and other forms 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.

Class Calendar

Week One Tuesday January 17 Thursday January 19

Course introduction. Introduction to short fiction. Read "Fable, Parable, and Tales" in Introduction to Literature (ITL). Assignment: Write and revise a fable, parable, or tale. Be prepared to read aloud and/or share what you write in a small group.

Week Two T Jan 23 /Th Jan 25

Discussion of fiction and point of view: Read Updike, Faulkner, and Welty. Journal Assignment: write and revise the initial paragraphs to a short story three ways: third person limited, third person omniscient, and first-person unreliable. Alternatively, rewrite the initial

paragraphs of the three selected stories above using a different point of view from the author's. Last day to drop a class without a W is January 29 (Monday)

Week Three T Jan 30 /Th February 1

Journal assignments due. Introduction to character. Discussion of Updike, Faulker, Welty. Read Porter, Carver, Chopin, and London. Choose and complete one of the writing assignments or further suggestions for writing in Kennedy. I will provide you with a choice between two assignments.

Week Four T February 6 / Th Feb 8

Be prepared to discuss in writing the characteristics of tone and style in relationship to the stories we have read thus far. Read Hemingway, Faulkner, Crane, Luke, Jackson, Tallent, Le Guin. You may select your own writing assignment from those listed in Kennedy at the ends of the Chapters on "Theme" and "Symbol."

Week Five T Feb 13 / Th Feb 15

Discussion of "Theme and Symbol." Read the Critical Casebook on Flannery O'Connor in Kennedy and choose and complete one writing assignment at the end of the chapters.

Week Six T Feb 20 / Th Feb 22

Discussion of O'Connor. **Exam on Fiction.** Read Yeats, Lawrence, Rich, Spence, Frost, Browning, Stafford, Roethke, Cullen, Dickinson, Saenz, Kees.

Week Seven T Feb 27 / Th March 1

Midterm Exam? Introduction to poetic genres: Lyric, Narrative, Dramatic, Didactic. Read all of chapters 13 and 14, paying special attention to "Writing Critically."

Week Eight T March 6 / Th March 8

Midterm Grades Due 9 March

Introduction to Imagery and short forms. Read all of chapters 15, 16, 17. **Set of Journal Assignments due.**

Week Nine T March 13 / Th March 15

Introduction to Poetics: figures of speech: metaphor, simile, metonymy. . . . Read chapters 18, 19, 20

Week Ten T March 20 / W March 22 **Spring Break. No classes.**

Week Eleven T March 27 / Th March 29

"Song and Poetry": Ballads, Rap, Pop, Blues, Gospel. Read chapters 21, 22, 23, 24

Week Twelve T April 3 / W April 5

Introduction to Open and Closed Forms, Symbol, Myth, Poetry as Personal Identity. Read one critical casebook of your choice in its entirety (Latin American Poetry, Dickinson, or Hughes).

Week Twelve T 14 / Th 16

Exam over poetry. Introduction to drama. Read Hamlet and related critical and background articles in the Kennedy Casebook on Shakespeare and be prepared to answer general questions on the play next Tuesday.

Week Thirteen T April 10 / Th April 12

Discuss Hamlet.

Week Fourteen T April 17 / Th April 19

View and discuss scenes from Hamlet.

Week Fifteen T April 24 / Th April 26

Term paper due.

Week Sixteen T May 1 / Th May 3

Week Seventeen T May 8 Th May 9

No Final Exam Week. Exam on Hamlet and drama.

Week Seventeen

Final Exams