

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE

ENGL 220

FALL 2009

Instructor: Ben Sword

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Office Hours:

Monday: 1:00-2:00 p.m..

Tuesday: No Office Hours (Contact me via e-mail)

Wednesday: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday: No Office Hours (I'm in Denton)

Friday: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Texts: Irving, John. *The World According to Garp*. – Publisher: Ballentine – ISBN: 034536676

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*.-- Publisher: Filiquarian. – ISBN: 1599869497

Williams, Tennessee. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. -- Publisher: Signet. -- ISBN: 0451171128

Other readings as assigned.

Prerequisites:

Tarleton State University requires you to have successfully completed the freshman-level composition courses (ENGL 111 and ENGL112 or their accepted equivalent from another university/college) before enrolling in this class.

Course Synopsis:

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of major genres in literature (fiction, drama, and poetry). The major emphasis of the course will be on the relationship of the works we read to human experience. All human cultures produce art; the study of literature is thus a humanistic study, broadening one's understanding of what it is to be human.

Course Objectives:

1. To increase your understanding of the primary genres of literature (fiction, drama, and poetry).
2. To increase your competence in identifying major themes and conflicts in literature, themes and conflicts which originate in and reflect upon the human experience.
3. To increase your awareness of structural and stylistic techniques in the primary genres of literature.

4. To provide you with an introduction to the ways literature can be analyzed and evaluated through oral and written communication.

5. To provide you with the opportunity to learn about a broad variety of human experiences which can be useful in understanding yourself and your place in the world.

Course Requirements:

There are three major examinations over the course of the semester. The material for each exam will come from the selections we will read and any material given in class lectures and handouts.

There will be one out of class paper for this course. It will be a 3-5 page paper that demonstrates your ability to produce and academic work in keeping with the level of this class. You will need to demonstrate your ability to produce a work that is well documented using MLA style, as well as, a work that is clear, well developed, and free of mechanical errors. Any paper that is turned in without proper documentation of outside sources will receive an F.

Plagiarism:

Do your own work and avoid the temptation of having someone else "correct," revise, or even copy your assignments before you hand them in, even if that person is your roommate, mother, father, sibling, or high school English teacher. In all of these cases, you are still committing academic dishonesty, which is also known as "plagiarism," or, more bluntly put, "cheating."

If I find out that a major assignment has been plagiarized, I will automatically give it a failing grade and make a request to the English Department head that the student be given a failing grade for the course. For legitimate help on writing assignments, go to the Writing Center (located in the Humanities Building, Room 210). Obviously, you are more than welcome to come by my office to talk to me about your paper as well. My policy has always been that I will read drafts of your paper only as many times as you will bring them in.

Grades:

Exam 1	20%	
Exam 2	20%	
Exam 3	20%	
Paper	15%	
Professionalism	25%	(quizzes, plot summaries, attendance, discussion)

Grade Scale. My grade scale for the course is the same one used throughout University: A=superior; B=above average; C=average; D=below average; F=unacceptable; 0=not completed.

You are expected to turn in ALL of your papers and take ALL of your exams, including the final, in order to pass the class. Failure to turn in any of these major assignments will result in a failing grade for the semester.

Participation/Professionalization:

Regular attendance is expected in order to demonstrate your professionalism as a student. Remember that we will have daily reading quizzes/plot summaries for the stories that are assigned. If you choose to miss 10 or more days of class activities, then you will fail the course. Of course participating doesn't mean simply attending class. It means taking part in class and/or group discussion. To be successful in this class you must turn off your cell phone, participate in class activities and be a part of what we are examining as a class. Failing to do so will negatively affect your professionalism grade.

Late Work:

I WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. Your papers are due on the date listed on the assignment sheet. If the paper is not turned in on the day, and at the time listed on the sheet, I will not accept it. Because you must complete all tasks to pass the course, failure to get an assignment turned in on time will result in failure of the course.

Learning Disabilities.

If you have a certified learning disability, please be sure that it is on record with at the Office of Student Services. *I cannot legally consider a student's disability (or even talk about it) unless it is a matter of official record.* See the director of Disabilities Services, Ms. Trina Geye in the Math Building. Then, please set up a time to visit with me to go over a plan for your accommodations.