

Anoka Ramsey Community College – Coon Rapids Campus
English 2202: Introduction to Literature
Summer Session 2003 / Section 55

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Office Hours: 0.5 hour before and after class and by appointment

Class Meetings:

- July 8 – August 14 / Tuesdays & Thursdays / 6:00 – 9:40 p.m. / B 272

Textbooks and Materials:

- Charters, Ann, and Samuel Charters. Literature and Its Writers: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama. Compact 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford-St. Martin's, 2001.
- Hassler, Jon. Staggerford. New York: Ballantine, 1977.
- A class notebook or loose-leaf paper and a two-pocket folder
- A college-level dictionary

Course Description:

- This course introduces students to major forms of literature – novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and creative non-fiction. In this compressed summer session course, we will spend three evenings on poetry, three evenings on drama, three evenings on short fiction, and two evenings on a novel; creative non-fiction will be mixed in along the way. Our focus will be on critical reading and discussion, on the elements of literature, and on the analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of the selected literature.

Course Objectives:

- Read, discuss, and interpret excellent literature—poetry, fiction, drama, and creative non-fiction.
- Expand our literary repertoires by reading and responding (in class discussions and written assignments) to selected works of poetry, fiction, drama, and creative non-fiction.
- Describe and use process-oriented reading and writing models—i.e. we will treat reading and writing about literature texts as cognitive acts deeply influenced by personal experience, literary experience, and broader cultural forces.
- Use literary terminology to describe the technical elements of poetry, fiction, drama, and creative non-fiction.
- Select and apply a critical approach to interpret, analyze, and evaluate selected works of poetry, fiction, drama, and creative non-fiction.
- Present—through activities such as group discussions, journals, response papers, critical essays, reviews, and examinations—a personal interpretation and evaluation of selected works of poetry, fiction, drama, and creative non-fiction.

Requirements:

- Completion of all assigned readings. The reading load will vary depending on the literary genre, but a general guideline might be 10-15 poems, a one-act or full-length play, three short stories, or approximately half of a novel for a particular class session.
- Attendance at all class sessions. Each class session will be primarily devoted to discussing the assigned literature. If you do not attend, you cannot learn from and participate in the class discussions.
- Participation in all class discussions. This is not a lecture course; instead, we will use small groups and class discussions during each class meeting. In addition, the class will be more meaningful and enjoyable if we all participate in discussions. Participation includes active listening, note taking, and contributing to group work and class discussions. Be prepared and willing to share your ideas, opinions, and questions with the rest of us. Perfect attendance without voluntary participation will earn a "C" for the participation portion of your final grade. If you miss more than two (2) class meetings, the participation portion of your final grade will be an "F."
- Completion of nightly reading quizzes and informal written responses. Quizzes will normally include identification and/or short-answer questions; responses will be assigned in class. Quizzes and responses cannot be made up if you arrive late or are absent.
- Completion of four (4) essay examinations – one for each of the four genres/units (poetry, drama, short fiction, and novel). The take-home exams must be word-processed and double-spaced; the fourth exam will be written in class on the final evening. More details will be provided on the assignment handouts.

Evaluation:

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| • Participation | 20% |
| • Quizzes and Informal Responses | 20% |
| • Four Essay Exams (15% each) | 60% |

Other Policies and Information

- Attendance: Note that more than two (2) absences will adversely affect your final grade. Please notify me immediately if you must miss a class due to a medical emergency or a family crisis; we can then keep you current with the class or determine if an incomplete is warranted. If you must miss a class where an exam is scheduled or a paper is due, please notify me before class if possible, otherwise as soon after class as possible – documentation will be required in such circumstances.
- Incompletes: Incompletes will only be granted to students who have a documented medical or family emergency during the last two evenings of the summer session. These students must have completed all the other work for the course with an average grade of "C" or better, must not have more than two (2) absences, and must demonstrate the ability and willingness to complete the work before the third week of the following semester.
- Class Disruptions: Any disruptive behavior – including arriving late, packing up or leaving early, having private conversations, eating, sleeping, receiving cell phone calls or pages, etc. – which adversely affects the teaching and learning in this class will be handled on an individual basis and, if serious enough, may involve the Dean of Educational Services—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

- Plagiarism: Knowingly presenting another person's ideas or writing as your own without clear, correct, and accurate citation and documentation will result in an "F" for that assignment and notification of the Dean of Educational Services—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.
- Late Work: Due dates for the four essay exams are listed on the course schedule. The grade for late exams will be lowered one letter; if the exam is not received by the next class period, the grade will be an "F." However, all four exams must be completed to pass the course.
- Record Keeping: Please make back-up copies of all your work, and keep all quizzes, responses, and papers returned to you. If questions about grades arise, you will need to produce the original documents. In addition, keep track of all your notes and other materials for each paper; if questions about plagiarism arise, you will need to prove you did your own writing.
- Conferences: Please see me during my office hours or schedule an appointment with me if you have questions or problems at any time during the summer session.
- Academic Support Center: The Academic Support Center (ASC), located on the second floor of the College Services (CS) building, offers free, trained writing tutors who work with student writers at any stage in the writing process to improve their writing. Please meet with a writing tutor early in the term so that you can discover how helpful the tutors can be to you.

Note: The course syllabus and schedule are subject to change, and changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for any changes in deadlines or assignments announced during any class you miss.