

W.93

1

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

ENGLISH 1010

Critical Reading and Writing

Instructor: David Yates

Credit: 6 (Full-year equivalent)

Description:

English 1010 provides training and experience in close and accurate reading of poetry and of prose in a variety of genres, both fiction and non-fiction, from several periods of literature (but limited to works after 1800). Works to be studied will be drawn from the following categories: poetry, the modern novel, the short story, the essay, journals, utopias, and historical writings. An attempt will be made to demonstrate various critical approaches to literature throughout the course. The emphasis will be more upon showing some options in understanding literature than in training students in any one methodology.

Throughout the course, students will be consistently encouraged to examine works using the principles of rhetoric. The practical application of these principles will be stressed in the portions of the course devoted to composition.

Objectives:

1. To acquaint students with some of the generally acknowledged "great" writers of poetry and prose.
2. To develop contextual sketches, both critical and historical, in which to examine the works.
3. To improve skills in close reading of individual texts.
4. To practice skills of analysis -- comparison and synthesis -- amongst various works.
5. To provide extensive opportunities to improve oral and written expression through discussion of the works and through assignments and examinations.
6. To foster a sense of the richness of the literary tradition with a view to engendering a desire for further exploration.

Requirements:

1. Three essays totalling at least 1250 words each (excluding quotations), typed.
2. One class presentation, 15-30 minutes
3. A mid-term, in class examination
4. A final examination
5. Class participation and discussion

Students are advised to ensure access to a good dictionary and to the MLA Style Sheet (or similar reference -- Turabian or Chicago Manual of Style, etc., are fine) for guidance in scholarly writing. Bibliographic styles presented in the Handbook for Writers will be acceptable.

Reading List:

The Oxford Anthology of English Literature, Volume II only.
Oxford University Press, Current Edition.

Pirsig, R. Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.
Toronto: Bantam (Bantam Ed., 1975).

Thoreau, H.D. Thoreau: Walden and Other Writings. Edited by
Joseph Wood Krutch. New York: Bantam, 1971. (Other
inexpensive editions exist. Any will do provided it
includes Walden.)

Handbook for Writers. Tenth Edition (or later). Englewood
Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1988.

Other Recommended Sources:

Shorter Oxford English Dictionary
Strunk and White: Elements of Style

Other materials will be circulated in class.

Students are required to discuss topics for both class presentations and essays with the instructor and obtain approval before commencing work. Duplicate topics for presentations will be discouraged. Students are encouraged to choose and clear topics as soon as possible.

Note: This is a demanding course and our time is limited. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Marks will be awarded as follows:

3

Essays: 10%, 10%, 20%
Presentation: 10%
Mid-Term Exam: 15%
Final Exam: 25%

Participation in class discussion and assignments: 10%.