



NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY

Cedar Hill, TX Program Center

Term Winter 2008

Course Syllabus

Course Number & Name: ENG 385 Studies in Literature

Number of Credits: 4

Dates: Saturdays: February 2, 9, and 16, 2008

Times: 9 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Number of Sessions: 3

Location: Cedar Hill, TX

Instructor: Dr. Geoffrey Grimes

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Prerequisite(s)

See the Northwood University Catalog

Course Materials

Textbook Required: Hawthorne, Nathaniel. (1998) Young Goodman Brown and Other Tales. New York. Oxford University Press.

Faulkner, William. (1966). Three Famous Short Novels. New York. Vintage Press/Random House.

ONLINE READINGS:

“The Gilgamesh”

“Song of Roland”

“The Iliad”

“The Odyssey”

“The Aeneid”

Melville, Herman. “Bartleby, the Scrivener”

Faulkner, William. “Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech.”

Miller, Arthur. “Tragedy and the Common Man.”

The Course website: <http://www.distancelearningassociates.com/ENG385>

Other Materials/Resources: Paper (tablet), pen e-mail address, access to Microsoft Word, access to the Internet and a computer printer.

Course Description

The course explores the concept of the hero in Western literature as an expression of the world view and the value sets that define the various cultures from which the concept of the hero evolves.

Course Outcomes

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, Northwood wants students to:

1. Understand the Modern World better having been exposed to the ideas of the past that have shaped those of the present day.
2. Be conversant on the various manifestations of the hero and its place as a defining role in the society from which it emerges.
3. Be able to trace the conception of the nature of gods/God and man's relationship to divinity through the cultures as exhibited in the concept of the hero.
4. Be able to contrast the classical, Shakespearean, and moral hero with the ironic/anti hero and the “pop culture” hero.
5. Understand the use of irony and symbolism and their place as a value and technique of these cultures.
6. Have an insight into character and the essential immutability of Man's search for purpose and duty.
7. Understand the evolution of such themes as fate and the hero as they were defined by each of these cultures.
8. Be familiar with a variety of literary forms ranging from epic poetry to drama to short fiction, their construction and techniques and their purpose.

9. Understand literature as an expression of the historical, economic, political, social, religious values of a culture.
10. Appreciate that cultural differences exist to make us useful to one another.
11. Understand the impact of these writings on popular culture.
12. Understand the interrelationships between all forms of art.
13. Focus on a clearly defined, often limited, topic in imaginative literature.
14. Examine how texts create multiple meanings.
15. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the significance of literature in exploring human consciousness and experience.

University Outcomes

We measure our success by the outcomes our students achieve.

1. Understand the tradition of freedom
2. Have a broad, practical understanding of their chosen field
3. Are familiar with ideas driving enterprise leaders
4. Communicate effectively in speech and writing
5. Understand complex global issues
6. Have a constant attraction to new ideas
7. Can explain their personal values
8. Understand the aesthetic, creative and spiritual elements of life
9. Are effective self-evaluators
10. Are action oriented
11. Are skilled at detecting and solving problems
12. Seek lifelong education

Code of Ethics

Integrity

In all our actions we shall be guided by a code of behavior which reflects our values, unimpeded by circumstance, personal gain, public pressure or private temptation.

Respect

We will treat all others with consideration for their circumstances and with thoughtful regard for their value as human beings.

Honesty

We will embrace truthfulness, fairness, probity, and demand the absence of fraud or deceit in ourselves and others with whom we act.

Responsibility

We will be accountable for the care and welfare of others and responsible for the intended and unintended consequences of our actions.

Freedom

We will exercise personal freedom while insuring others be immune from arbitrary interference on account of condition or circumstance, insuring that freedom will be constrained only by our responsibility for its consequences.

Empathy

We will endeavor to understand the feelings, thoughts and notions of others in order that compassion and fairness of our actions may result.

Spirituality

We will seek the spiritual development necessary for our happiness and growth and encourage an environment that supports this growth for all.

Achievement

We will exercise our skills to create high achievement and applaud the high achievement of others.

Northwood Mission

The mission of Northwood University is to prepare qualified undergraduate and graduate learners of any age or station with the tools, skills, and intellectual capacities for productive leadership careers in a global economic network of free markets and private enterprise. The University emphasizes experiential learning and innovation at graduate and undergraduate levels for both traditional and non-traditional students. Through general education and focused discipline study, learners are prepared for varied management careers. Additionally, our programs emphasize:

- the dynamics of a free enterprise society in which management and entrepreneurial skills predominate and where individuals can take risk for individual and common good and gain,
- the aesthetic, creative, and spiritual elements of life and their relative importance to living in the fullest sense, and
- the global, diverse, and multi-cultural nature of enterprise.

Omniquest Selection

Since 1991, Northwood University's Omniquest program has offered insightful and challenging books each term for simultaneous study by students, faculty and staff. The Omniquest Committee, made up of students and faculty, selects a general or business related book to discuss and incorporate into the classroom experience. Although we will not specifically address the Omniquest selection in this course, it should be considered recommended reading for all students in the University College program. The title of the current Omniquest for this term is Science of Success. The Omniquest selection can normally be found on the "current titles" shelf in any major bookstore. You can find a complete listing of current and past Omniquest selections at www.northwood.edu/omniquest

Course Practices

We will begin on time each Saturday, taking a break each hour. We will have 45 minutes for lunch and will continue our studies afterwards. I will reserve the last thirty minutes of so to work with individuals.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions. If absence is unavoidable, the instructor should be notified. One absence will result in a failing grade for the course. Students who miss one class in a three-class session should drop the course.

Class Cancellation Policy:

University Closing Policy in Case of Weather and/or Emergency

In the event the University needs to be closed or report time adjusted, please note the following plans which will be announced via:

- Northwood e-mail to all students, faculty, and staff
- Central telephone number 972-291-1541
- Local media:
- TV channels 4, 5, and 8 and
- Radio stations KRLD 1080 am and WBAP 820 am.

Closing or time adjusting plans:

Plan A: Due to the weather and/or announced emergency, day classes have been cancelled. Essential staff should report by 10:00. An announcement for evening classes will be made at 3:00 PM. today.

Plan B: Due to the weather and/or announced emergency, the campus will open today at noon: Classes will meet for 50 minutes instead of the block schedule according to the following plan:

- 8:00 classes at noon
- 10:00 classes at 1:00 PM
- 12:00 classes at 2:00 PM
- 2:00 classes at 3:00 PM
- 3:00 classes at 4:00 PM
- 4:00 classes at 5:00 PM

All evening classes will meet as usual.

Plan C: (For Final Exam Week Only) Due to weather and/or announced emergency today, finals have been delayed until tomorrow at their regular time, and the exam schedule will be moved back one day. In the event of an extended weather and/or emergency closing, Thursday and Friday will be used as make-up days, and a revised exam schedule will be e-mailed to faculty and students at their NU e-mail addresses, and listed on a recording at the central telephone number 972-291-1541.

Other Questions About This Class:

What is the primary focus?

The primary focus of this course is your active reading of each of the assigned texts. "Active reading" is annotated readings, complemented by notes that help you to find passages immediately in your readings to assist in class discussions.

How much time will it take to complete the readings?

Several hours each week. You need to allow at least five to six hours for each week.

How important is writing?

Each of you will complete an analytical essay of one or a selection of related readings. This is a major project in the course. To successfully complete this essay, you must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the readings that go beyond what we were able to discuss in class. Additionally, you should reference recommended online resources as well as your class notes.

Grading Scale

Grades are reported as letter grades "A" through "F" with honor points assigned as follows:

LETTER INTERPRETATION HONOR POINTS-PERCENTAGE

A Excellent	4.0	94-100%
A-	3.7	90-93%
B+	3.3	87-89%
B Good	3.0	84-86%
B-	2.7	80-83%
C+	2.3	77-79%
C Average	2.0	74-76%
C-	1.7	70-73%
D+	1.3	67-69%
D Unsatisfactory	1.0	64-66%
D-	.7	60-63%
F Failure	.0	Below 60%
I Incomplete		
W Withdrawal		

Evaluation Methods and Grading Scale

Evaluation methods, points, and percentage weights used in this class are indicated below:

<u>Method</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Tests Over Readings	25% (3)
Analytical Essay	25%
Report	25%
Final Exam	25%

Detailed Outline and Course Schedule

PRE-ASSIGNMENT DUE None

Class One:

General Introduction

Class session organization

The Syllabus

Review of "Tips for Active Reading"

Read "Three Dirges" (see handout) and discuss the story as a study of heroism.

Review instructional materials and the sample essay.

Lunch Break

Introduction to the Epic Heroes of Ancient Cultures: The Sumerian "Gilgamesh," the Mayan Popol Vuh, the Homeric Epics, "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," and the Roman writer, Virgil's "Aeneid"

View "The Popol Vuh" as an example of the mythic hero.

Key Greek Concepts: The Greek Tragic Hero, the Golden Mean, and Greek Drama

View "Oedipus The King" (modern version)

Test 1

Assignments for Session 2:

Read actively Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story, "Young Goodman Brown." "The Minister's Black Veil," and "Rappaccini's Daughter"

Class Two: Shakespeare, Tragedy, and the Elizabethan World View

View selections of a Shakespeare's Play (TBA)

Lunch Break

The American Hero: From Poor Richard, to Natty Bumppo, to the "Moral Hero"

Discuss Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown," "The Minister's Black Veil," and "Rappaccini's Daughter"

Test 2

Assignments for Session 3:

Read Faulkner's "The Bear" and Melville's "Bartleby, the Scrivener" (online).

Follow the "Study Guide" questions found in the course website.

Print out a copy of Faulkner's "Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech" and Arthur Miller's "Tragedy and the Common Man"

Complete the Literary Analysis Essay

Class Three: Submit the Literary Analysis

Introduce the Modern Hero, the Pop Culture Hero, and the Ironic/Anti Hero

Discuss Faulkner's "Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech" and Miller's "Tragedy and the Common Man"

View and discuss "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

Discuss Faulkner's "The Bear"

Lunch Break

Oral Reports on the “Pop Culture” Heroes

Final Exam

POST-ASSIGNMENT DUE: Complete the Final Exam essay section.

Class Format

We will begin each session with the presentation of new materials and then review the associated readings assigned the previous class sessions. The exams will be given at the end of the session.

Notes