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English 131

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Aparajita De, ENGL 131, Fall 2005

Aparajita De

Engl. 131, S-04

M-W-F: 10:30- 11:20; 207 Armstrong

Office Room: 125 Stansbury Hall

Office hours: 11:30-12:30 M-W by e-mail or appointment.

E-mail: ade@mix.wvu.edu

ENGLISH 131: INTRODUCTION TO POETRY & DRAMA

Course Objectives:

This course seeks to introduce and thoughtfully engage the undergraduate student to the genres of poetry and drama. It enables them to:

- Read & analyze a variety of texts (poems & plays) from the Classical through the contemporary (British & American) eras.
- Understand and apply relevant terminology to the analysis of poetic form.
- Attempt to discover/read the future of poetry and drama while seeking to make relevant connections between different periods.
- Recognize the value and relevance of such literary works as cultural artifacts.

Course Requirements:

Recommended texts:

Aristotle. *Poetics*. Trans. Malcolm Heath. Penguin Books: 1996.

Ferguson, Salter, & Stallworthy, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. 5th ed. W. W. Norton & Company, 2005.

Gardner, Janet E. ed. *12 Plays: A Portable Anthology*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003.

Oliver, Mary. *Rules for the Dance: A Handbook for Writing & Reading Metrical Verse*. Boston, New York: A Mariner Original Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998.

Highly Recommended:

- A Notebook & a functional pen/pencil.
- MLA style handbook.
- An activated MIX e-mail account. Access MIX through: <http://>

star.wvu.edu, click on "WVU STAR web," then on "WVU STAR system." Follow the instructions to activate your account.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Up to 3 absences without penalty are allowed.

Starting from the fourth absence 2 points will be deducted from your final grade following each successive absence. Leaving class early counts as an absence while being more than 5 mins. late does not earn you a credit for being present in class that day.

No absence in this class earns you a 5 point credit.

Participation: The success of the course is contingent upon your informed participation. I expect you to complete the required reading and writing assignments before class begins and to contribute actively and effectively to classroom discussions. Please be assured that in this class, the teacher's interpretation is not the only valid one, your experience and insight of the literature will be enriched if you actively share your questions, perspectives and ideas with this class.

Cell phone & pager courtesy: please turn off your cell phone, beeper, before coming to class. At no time should any electronic device be audible in the classroom as the same disrupt classroom environment.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Any student caught copying the work of another verbatim, paraphrasing written work or ideas without documentation, or using the work or ideas from a conference, seminar, audio/visual source without documentation, will receive an "F" in this course. Please familiarize yourself with University policies regarding cheating and

plagiarism.

Social Justice Statement:

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon communication, mutual respect and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or nationality. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me accordingly and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Format for all written work:

Response papers must be typed.

You will incur penalties if you do not meet the following criteria:

Typed response using 12- point Times New Roman font.

Proper heading in the upper left corner of p. 1

Your name

English 131, Section.

Ms De

Title/number of assignment

Date

Type a title (not essay #1) centered above the first paragraph below the heading.

Stapled in the upper left corner. Unstapled papers won't be accepted.

One inch margins on all sides.

Page numbers on each page after the first.

Double-space the text.

Use a 'works cited page' as needed.

In-class papers should be in black or blue ink and double spaced. Use a standard 8.5 x 11" blue book. Use only the front of the page.

Turning in Assignments & Late Work: Assignments must be given to me at the beginning of class in which they're due. At the end of this syllabus is a one time use only "Late Work Coupon." This coupon allows you to turn in one assignment one class late without negatively affecting your grade. Simply attach the coupon to your late assignment, and I will accept it, no questions asked. Outside of the Late Coupon, no late work will be accepted.

Problems with printers or other computer and electronic-related difficulties do not qualify as excuses for late papers. Operation of computer equipment should be considered part of students' academic work.

Quiz policy: Make-up quizzes will not be given in this class. Quizzes are usually given at the beginning of class, so if you're late you may miss half or all of it. You can count on having a quiz on

each play. I will announce when there is a quiz over the poetry reading.

Assignments:

In-class Participation: 10%

Essay #1: 15%

Essay #2: 15%

Take home Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Essay Exam (Take Home): 20%

Reading Journal: 10%

Quizzes: 15%

SCHEDULE OF WORK DUE (subject to slight changes announced in class or at instructor's discretion).

Week 1:

08/22: Introduction to the Course. Discuss the syllabus.

08/24: Lecture on the Classical period & ancient poetry & drama. Discuss Aristotle's *Poetics* (specific sections).

Assignment: Read: *Poetics* (1-20).

08/26: Discussion on Aristotle continued. Commentary on *Metamorphosis*, *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, & *The Aeneid*.

Assignment: Read: *Poetics* (20-30, 39-49).

Week 2:

08/29: Reading discussed. Lecture continued.

Assignment: Read Sophocles: *Oedipus Rex* (Gardner 1-45).

08/31: Lecture on Sophocles: *Oedipus Rex*.

Assignment: go through Aristotle and parallelly study Sophocles.

09/02: In-class lecture on Sophocles continued. Concluding thoughts on Attic tragedy: Aeschylus, Euripedes. Be prepared for possible quiz.

Week 3:

09/05: Labor Day Recess. No class.

09/07: Introduction to the Middle Ages (476-1450 [476-1150 = Dark Ages; 1150-1450 = Medieval Period]).

Lecture on the medieval period, including religious drama (mystery, allegories & miracle plays); difference between the epic and the romance (or Breton lais/lays).

Assignment: Go through class handout; reading journal #1 discussed.

09/09: Discuss reading. Introduction to Renaissance drama. Commentary on Ben Jonson (*Volpone*); Marlowe (*Doctor Faustus*). Shakespearean plays introduced.

Assignment: Go through lecture notes; read: *Hamlet* (Gardner 91-212); Reading Journal # 1 due 09/12.

Week 4:

09/12: Discuss *Hamlet*. Lecture. Reading journal due.

09/14: *Hamlet* continued. Other Shakespearean plays commented upon.

Assignment: go through class notes.

09/16: Commentary on the state of drama following the Elizabethan period. Lecture on the Modern & Contemporary periods. Introduction to Ibsen's **A Doll's House**.

Assignment: Read Ibsen's **A Doll's House** (Gardner 213-271). Be prepared for possible quiz.

Week 5:

09/19: Class discussion on Ibsen. Introduction to Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

Assignment: Read Miller (Gardner 390-469).

09/21: Discussion on *Death of a Salesman*. Topic of Essay #1 given out in class. Due 09/28.

Assignment: thoughts on the short essay paper, be prepared to share it with the class.

09/23: Introduction to theater of the Absurd and Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*.

Assignment: Read *Endgame* (Gardner 470-532).

Week 6:

09/26: Discuss Beckett. Wrap up drama discussion.

Assignment: Read drama selected and read/discussed, class notes, plays covered to be prepared for an in-class discussion session before midterm.

09/28: Essay #1 due. Introduction to poetry. Elements of poetry discussed in class.

Assignment: Read *Rules for the Dance* (3-49).

09/30: Discuss reading. Midterm exam handed out. Due 10/07, no exceptions. Discussion on versification. Also refer *The Norton Anthology* (2027-2051).

Assignment: Read *Rules for the Dance* (50-64, 87-99).

Week 7:

10/03: Practice scansion exercises in class.

Assignment: Scansion exercise due. Revisit class lecture on versification.

10/05: Introduction to Old English (O.E.) Poetry. Epic, elegiac, riddles, religious poetry discussed. Selections from *Beowulf*.

Assignment: Read assigned selection.

10/07: Midterm due. Discussion on *Beowulf*. Introduction to O.E. religious poetry; *Cædmon's Hymn*.

Assignment: Read *Cædmon's Hymn*.

Week 8:

10/10: Discussion on *Cædmon's Hymn*; *Commentary on Everyman*.*

Assignment: Read selections from Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*: special ref. to The General Prologue (Norton 19-38).

10/12: Discussion on The General Prologue.

Assignment: Be prepared for possible unannounced quiz.

10/14: Class lecture continued. Introduction to Shakespeare's sonnets, Elizabethan sonnet under Wyatt & Surrey.

Sonnet form revisited. Shakespearean sonnet themes & historicized. Commentary on Spenser & Sidney.

Assignment: Read sonnet # 18, 30, 73, 116, 130 (Shakespeare's sonnets). Spenser: Selections from *The Faerie Queene*, Sonnet # 1, 75). Sidney: Selections from *Astrophel and Stella* (1, 31, 48).

Reading journal #2 reminder. Due 10/19.

Week 9:

10/17: Discuss sonnets.

Assignment: Read and revisit class notes.

10/19: Discussion on sonnets continued. Brief lecture on Ben Jonson (revisit earlier class lecture on Jonsonian drama).

Assignment: Read Jonson (Norton 331).

10/21: Discuss reading. Introduction to Metaphysical poetry. Characteristics, themes.

Assignment: Read poetry of Donne (Norton 293, 296, 306, 320); Herbert (Norton 375, 379); Marvell (Norton 475, 478).

Week 10:

10/24: Discuss reading. Brief lecture on John Milton & Protestant Movement.

Assignment: Reading *Paradise Lost* (Norton 421-422). Be prepared for possible unannounced quiz.

10/26: Lecture only on The Restoration Period (1660-1710).

10/28: Introduce the Age of Romanticism: characteristics & beliefs.

Assignment: Read: Blake (Norton 734, 743, 744); Wordsworth (Norton 765); Coleridge (Norton 809).

Week 11:

10/31: Discussion on reading. Topic of Essay # 2 given out.

Assignment: Read: Byron (Norton 834); Shelley (Norton 870, 876); Keats (Norton 935, 938, 939). Start thinking about essay #2; be prepared to share thoughts in class. Essay # 2 due 11/07.

11/02: Class discussion. Lecture on the poems due for the reading assignment.

Assignment: Read Tennyson Ulysses (Norton 992), Crossing the Bar (Norton 1008). Browning: Porphyria's Lover (Norton 1009), My Last Duchess (Norton 1012).

11/04: Introduction & lecture on the Victorian Period (1800-1901); discussion on the poems read for assignment.

Week 12:

11/07: Discussion the poetry of Matthew Arnold (Norton 1088,

1101). Class reading & lecture.

Assignment: Read: Christina Rossetti (Norton 1128), Thomas Hardy (Norton 1155), G. M. Hopkins (Norton 1167).

11/09: Essay #2 due. Discuss reading. Revisit earlier class lecture on modern & contemporary periods. Yeats (Norton 1191, 1199); Frost (Norton 1232, 1237).

Assignment: Read: T.S.Eliot (Norton 1340); Wilfred Owen (Norton 1389); Langston Hughes (Norton 1433, 1435); W. H. Auden (Norton 1471).

11/11: Discuss reading. Discuss characteristic & themes in the poetry of: Blunden (Norton 1405); Spender (Norton 1505).

Assignment: Read: Dylan Thomas (Norton 1567, 1572); Allen Ginsberg (Norton 1713).

Week 13:

11/14: Discuss reading. Lecture & themes on characteristics of the poetry of Thom Gunn (Norton 1769); Adrienne Rich (Norton 1796); Ted Hughes (Norton 1812).

Assignment: Read and revise class notes.

11/16: Discuss reading. Lecture on the postcolonial poets: A.K. Ramanujan (Norton 1801); Derek Walcott (Norton 1820).

11/18: Continue lecture. Discuss poems of Sylvia Plath (Norton 1843); Margaret Atwood (Norton 1894); Seamus Heaney (1906, 1907).

Assignment: Revisit class notes. Be prepared for possible quiz

following thanksgiving.

Week 14:

11/19-11/26: Thanksgiving Recess. No classes. Enjoy.

Week 15:

11/28: Continue reading & discussion. Read Vikram Seth (Norton 1994). Final essay question given out. Due 12/07. No exceptions.

11/30: Revision exercise in class.

12/02: In class discussion. Bring over your doubts & questions.

Week 16:

12/05: Final essay due.

12/07: No class.

12/09: Grade and essay given out in brief conference in my office.
No regular class meeting.

COUPON

This coupon entitles you to in one assignment one class late. It cannot be used for the midterm & the final essay paper. Each student is permitted one coupon one semester. Unused coupons can be redeemed at the end of the semester. Students must sign, date and turn in this Coupon with the late work.

I, ----- wish to redeem my late assignment coupon. I will turn in my assignment during our next class meeting on

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