

English 131

Mark Brazaitis, ENGL 131, Fall 2005, Poetry and Drama

Professor Mark Brazaitis

Office: 458 Stansbury

Office telephone: 293-3107 ex. 33402

Email: mbrazait@mail.wvu.edu

Class Hours: TTh, 1 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

Class Location: Armstrong 207

Office Hours: Tuesday (12:00-1:00), Thursday (2:30-3:45) and by appointment

Objective : In this class, you will acquire a broad understanding of the art of poetry and drama. You will be able to speak and write knowledgeably about important poems and plays, poets and playwrights. You will have a solid grasp of terminology associated with both artistic disciplines.

Requirements : Over the course of the semester, you will be doing a lot of reading, including more than sixty poems and four plays. You will also be expected to take notes during class discussions and class lectures in order to prepare for quizzes. In addition, you will write two analyses of poems by Jim Daniels and Lucille Clifton. The analyses will be worth thirty percent of your grade (fifteen percent for each analysis). Finally, you will write one imitation poem based on a poem by either Jim Daniels or Lucille Clifton. This will be worth ten percent of your grade.

Quizzes : There will be six quizzes given over the course of the semester. They will be based on both the readings and class discussions/lectures. The quizzes will each be worth 10 percent of your grade. If you miss one of the quizzes, you will be allowed one make-up, to be given at the end of the semester. (The make-up quiz will be a cumulative quiz, addressing both poetry and drama.)

Texts : *Immortal Poems of the English Language* (Oscar Williams, editor), *Places/Everyone* (Jim Daniels); *Blessing the Boats: New and Selected Poems 1988-2000* (Lucille Clifton); *Oedipus Rex* (Sophocles); *The Glass Menagerie* (Tennessee Williams); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Tennessee Williams); and *A Raisin in the Sun* (Lorraine Hansberry).

Final Grades : Final grades will be determined based on your quiz grades, your analyses and your imitation poem.

Class Attendance and Participation : You are expected to come to every class—and to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Although class participation doesn't factor directly into your grade, consideration will be given to students who participate regularly in class discussions.

Student Responsibilities : If you miss a class for any reason (and it should be a good one), you are responsible for knowing what went on in class. The best way to do this—indeed, the only way to do this—is to contact a fellow student in the class and ask him or her what happened and, if necessary, copy the student's lecture notes.

Class Schedule and Day-to-Day Assignments

Tuesday, August 23 Get acquainted/Song Lyrics vs. Poetry

Thursday, August 25 Review poetic terms. Read: “From Fairest Creatures” (page 55), “When Forty Winters” (page 55), “Look in Thy Glass” (page 56), “Devouring Time” (page 56), and “Shall I Compare Thee” (page 57)

Tuesday, August 30 Review poetic terms. Read: “My Mistress' Eyes” (page 67), “Death, Be Not Proud” (page 89), “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time” (page 97), “To His Coy Mistress” (page 141) and “A Poison Tree” (page 233) in *Immortal Poems of the English Language*.

Thursday, September 1 Review poetic terms. Read: “Daffodils” (page 250), “Kubla Khan” (page 267), “Ozymandius” (page 295), “When I Have Fears...” (page 329), “Annabel Lee” (page 364), and “O Captain! My Captain!” (page 410) in *Immortal Poems of the English Language*.

Tuesday, September 6 Quiz on poetic terms and readings.

Thursday, September 8 Review poetic terms. Read: “I Saw in Louisiana a Live-Oak Growing” (page 420), “Animals” (page 422), “A Hub for the Universe” (page 425), “Success is Counted Sweetest” (page 443), and “To An Athlete Dying Young” (page 486) in *Immortal Poems of the English Language*.

Tuesday, September 13 Review poetic terms. Read: “Non Sum Qualis Eram Bonae sub Regno Cynarae” (page 496), “Richard Cory” (page 498), “Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening” (page 504), “The Golf Links” (page 511) and “Recuerdo” (page 548) in *Immortal Poems of the English Language*.

Thursday, September 15 Review poetic terms Read the following poems by Jim Daniels: “Digger Drives to Work” (page 31), “Digger Goes Hunting” (page 33), “Digger Shovels the Snow” (page 37); “Digger Thinks About Numbers” (page 52). Read the following poems by Lucille Clifton: “moonchild” (page 15) and “donor” (page 17)

Tuesday, September 20 Quiz on poetic terms and class readings.

Thursday, September 22 Due: Bring to class an analysis of one of the following poems by Jim Daniels: “Digger Gets a Dog” (page 50); “Digger Laid Off” (page 54); “First Job” (page 57); “A Good Customer” (page 58); and “Hold Up” (page 57). (Your analysis should be one to five typed, double-spaced pages.)

Tuesday, September 27: _Due_: Bring to class an analysis of one of the following poems by Lucille Clifton: “my dream about the second coming” (page 45); “my dream about the poet” (page 47); “white lady” (page 60); “sleeping beauty” (page 63); “wishes for sons” (page 71). (Your analysis should be one to five typed, double-spaced pages.)

Thursday, September 29 _Due_: Bring to class one imitation poem (i.e. a poem of your own creation) based on one of the following poems by Jim Daniels—“Short-order Cook” (page 61); “May’s Poem” (page 62); “Places Everyone” (page 65); and “Anita, a New Hire on the Line” (page 72)—or Lucille Clifton: “note, passed to superman” (page 95); “telling our stories” (page 109); and “lumpectomy eve” (page 117)

Tuesday, October 4 Lecture: Drama. Read: *Oedipus Rex*

Thursday, October 6 Lecture: Drama. Continued discussion of *Oedipus Rex*

Tuesday, October 11 Read *A Raisin in the Sun*, Act I

Thursday, October 13 Read *A Raisin in the Sun*, Acts II & III

Tuesday, October 18 Quiz on *Oedipus Red*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and related topics

Thursday, October 20 Read: *The Glass Menagerie*, Scenes One to Four

Tuesday, October 25 Read: *The Glass Menagerie*, Scenes Five to Seven

Thursday, October 27 Watch the Paul Newman-directed version of *The Glass Menagerie*

Tuesday, November 1 Watch the Paul Newman-directed version of *The Glass Menagerie*

Thursday, November 3 Quiz on *The Glass Menagerie*

Tuesday, November 8 Read: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Scenes One to Five

Thursday, November 10 Read: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Scene Six to Eleven

Tuesday, November 15 Review *A Streetcar Name Desire*

Thursday, November 17 Quiz on *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Tuesday, November 29 Return to poetry...read and discuss modern poems (handouts).

Thursday, December 1 Read and discuss modern poems (handouts).

Tuesday, December 6 Quiz on modern poems.

Thursday, December 8 Make-up Quiz (if you missed one of the quizzes given during the semester). Also, today you may pick up your last quiz and, if you completed all previous quizzes and assignments, your final grade.

Note: There is no final exam in this class.

Core Values/Social Justice at West Virginia University

The following core values establish the foundation for Social Justice at West Virginia University.

Every person has intrinsic worth and dignity;

Respect for the law is fundamental;

Freedom from fear is universal;

A climate of opportunity, mutual respect, and understanding engenders a feeling that the future should be shared by all community members;

There is an absence of discrimination and harassment based on age, color, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, race, religious beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran status; and

The rich diversity of people, their cultures, and the bonds that tie people together are appreciated and celebrated.