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English 104-03

Approach to Literature

Fall 2008

**Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus:
The Battle of the Sexes in Literature**

Required Texts: Introduction to Literature, a custom reader available in the UNCG bookstore
Taming of the Shrew, William Shakespeare, Dover thrift edition
The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde, Dover thrift edition
A Long Fatal Love Chase, Louisa May Alcott, Random House
AND some E-Reserve Texts

Course Description: In this course, we will use the overarching theme of the battle of the sexes to study a variety of literary genres, including poetry, short fiction a novel and plays. The texts for this course are mainly British and American, spanning over many literary periods. We will study literary terms and identify formal characteristics of the texts we read. My ultimate goal is to help you develop your ability to critically engage and analyze texts and develop an appreciation of literature.

Learning Goals

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and understand varied characteristics of literature
- Apply techniques of literary analysis to texts
- Demonstrate understanding of the diverse social and historical contexts in which literary texts have been written and interpreted.
- Use literary study to develop your skills in careful reading and clear writing

Policies

Attendance: Attendance is crucial to your success in this course because discussion is essential to this course. You get **FOUR** "Freebies" for absences. After the fourth absence, your final grade will decrease a full letter until you reach 6 absences. Missing more than **SIX** classes will result in **automatic failure** in this course. There are no "excused absences." If you are absent, you are absent. An exception to the number of allowed absences will only be made in the case of an extreme emergency. It is the student's responsibility to provide me with appropriate documentation in a timely manner for the extreme emergency and to discuss with me whether the absence will be excused. An absence on the date an assignment is due is not an excuse for missing a deadline. Work missed as a result of an absence cannot be made-up. Additionally, an absence is not an excuse for being unprepared for the next class. You are responsible for determining what you may have missed.

Tardiness: A note on tardiness and leaving class early: It's rude and indicates a lack of regard for this class. You are allowed three tardies only. All tardies after the first three will be counted as **absences**. In order to be counted present, make sure to let me know, after class, that you arrived late. Otherwise, I will count you as absent regardless. If you leave class early more than once, it will be counted as an absence.

Late Papers: Papers are due on the assigned due date. Late papers have a grace period of one class session. For example, if a paper is due on Wednesday, you can turn it in on Friday without penalty. After the grace period, I will not accept the paper. **I do not accept emailed papers.**

Courtesy: Please turn off all electronic devices during class (cell phones, ipods, etc). Laptops may be used in class only to take notes pertaining to our class or to view documents on our Blackboard website. Any student who uses a laptop for any non-classroom activity during class time will not be allowed to use a laptop in class again. To be perfectly clear: one violation means no laptop use.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense. I expect you to abide by the Academic Integrity Policy. Students are responsible for reading and understanding the Academic Integrity Policy. Plagiarism is included in this code and carries stiff penalties. All cases of plagiarism are handled in accordance with the policy and may result in failure of this course. Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy, which may be accessed at http://www.uncg.edu/soe/documents/policy_manual/honorpolicy.htm. Plagiarized work will not be graded, and you will not be allowed to redo it. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is, please ask me. **I am serious about this – no exceptions!**

Resources:

- The Writing Center is an invaluable resource for writers from all disciplines. The Writing Center is a place where you can get feedback, support and assistance with you writing (for free!). The Writing Center is located in 3211 MHRA (334-3125). Their webpage is <http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter>.
- The Speaking Center (256-1346) is another great resource. They can help you with presentation skills, interpersonal skills, and group skills. Their webpage is <http://www.uncg.edu/cac>.

Communication: Please check your email and Blackboard often because this is how I communicate with you about any changes. The website for Blackboard is <http://blackboard.uncg.edu>.

If at any time during the semester you have questions, problems, or special circumstances that arise with regards to this course and your performance in it, please visit my office during office hours or make an appointment. If you have a disability and feel that you need special accommodations, you must notify the Office of Disability Services @ 334-5440. **Do not wait until the end of the term if you have concerns.**

Course Requirements

Participation: Class participation is expected and required. Participation does not simply mean that you are sitting in your chair. Participation means that you are both MENTALLY and physically present in the class. Class discussion, which implies speaking during class, is VERY important to your participation grade. Be prepared to speak and discuss the assigned reading when you come to class. A positive attitude is always a plus too. Note: If you are frequently absent, you are not participating.

Reading Quizzes and Exams: Throughout the semester you will have unannounced quizzes on the assigned reading. There is a mid-term and final examination for this course.

Commonplace Books: You will keep a commonplace book this semester. You will receive a handout that outlines the details of the commonplace book.

Small Projects: At the end of each literary element study, you will have a short project that will ask you to demonstrate your knowledge of the concepts for each form.

Grading:

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|-----------------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| Participation: 15% | A+100-97 | A 96-94 | A- 93-90 |
| Reading Quizzes: 15% | B+ 89-87 | B 86-84 | B- 83-80 |
| Commonplace Book: 15% | C+ 79-77 | C 76-74 | C- 73-70 |
| Short Projects: 20% | D+ 69-67 | D 66-64 | D- 63-60 |
| Mid-Term: 15% | F 59 and below | | |
| Final Exam: 20% | | | |

English 104 Calendar

Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

**Note: Readings must be completed by the start of the class period they are listed under.
Additional critical readings will be added to the required reading assignments at the
instructor's discretion**

Week 1

8/25: Introduction to course

8/27: Why Read Literature, Why Study Critical Methodologies (1-5 Custom text, hereafter noted as "CT")

8/29: How to Read a Story, Reader-Response Theory, Arthurian Legends (CT 10-11, 75-91)

Week 2

9/1: Labor Day—No class

9/3: The Birth-mark, (CT 92-107, review Reader Response Theory), Ligeia (e-reserve)

9/5: Desiree's Baby, A Rose for Emily (CT 108-114, 131-140)

Week 3

9/8: The Yellow Wallpaper, Psychoanalysis (CT 9-10, 115-130)

9/10: The Horse-Dealer's Daughter (CT 141-155)

9/12: Hills Like White Elephants, What We Talk About When We Talk About Love (CT 156-174)

Week 4

9/15: Sarah Cole: A Type of Love Story, New Criticism (CT 6-8. 175-195)

9/17: The Burning House, Shiloh (CT 196-224)

9/19: **Short Fiction Project Gallery**

Week 5

9/22: How to Read a Poem, Formalism, Lovesong (CT 5-6, 21-28, 61-62)

9/24: The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd; The Passionate Shepherd to His Love (CT 29-32), **CP books due**

9/26: Sonnets: Wyatt, Surry, Spenser (e-reserve), Shakespeare (CT 33-36)

Week 6

9/29: Metaphysical Poetry: The Flea, A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning (CT 37-39)

10/1: Carpe Diem poems: To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time and To His Coy Mistress (CT 41-45)

10/3: La Belle Sans Merci, She Walks in Beauty, My Last Duchess (CT 46-54)

Week 7

10/6: Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock, Living in Sin (CT 55-60, 63)

10/8: Midterm Review

10/10: Midterm Exam

Week 8

10/13: Dover Beach, Dover Bitch, Postmodernism (CT 14-16, 65-70)

10/15: Sweep me through your many chambered heart, John and Mary (CT 71-74) and Dancing on the Grave of a Son of a Bitch (e-reserve)

10/17: **Poetry Projects and CP books due (Last day to drop without penalty)**

Week 9

10/20: Fall Break—No Class

10/22: Postcolonial and Feminist Studies (CT 16-17, 18-20), *A Long Fatal Love Chase*, Chapters 1 through 4

10/24: *A Long Fatal Love Chase*, Chapters 5 through 9

Week 10

10/27: *A Long Fatal Love Chase*, Chapters 10 through 15
10/29: *A Long Fatal Love Chase*, Chapters 16 to the end
10/31: Fiction Projects

Week 11

11/3: Fiction Projects, **CP Books due**
11/5: How to Read Drama, New Historicism *Taming of the Shrew* thru the end of Act 1 (CT 17-18, 225 to end)
11/7: *Taming of the Shrew* Acts II and III

Week 12

11/10: *Taming of the Shrew* Act VI
11/12: *Taming of the Shrew* Act V
11/14: Marxism (CT 11-12), *Importance of Being Earnest* Act I

Week 13

11/17: *Importance of Being Earnest* Act II
11/19: *Importance of Being Earnest* Act III
11/21: Finish Drama section, class time for scene revisions

Week 14

11/23: Class time to work on scene revisions, **CP book due, turn in any revisions at this time**
11/25: Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class
11/27: Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class

Week 15

12/1: Class time to work on scene revisions
12/3: Revision Performances
12/5: Revision Performances

Week 16

12/8: Final Exam Review Day

Final Exam Period: December 10, 12-3pm