

ENG 203 ES Major Themes in Literature

Objective: The purpose of this syllabus is to guide the participant in the requirements, demands, logistics and expectations of this course.

Getting Help:

To receive technical assistance on issues related to WebCT contact:

Academic Instructional Technology Help Desk
ES 102
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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Welcome from your instructor

Welcome to one of the many English courses that I teach for Extended Studies. My name is Koos Daley, and I am a retired Professor of English from Adams State College where I taught Communication Arts 101 and 102, Introduction to Poetry and Drama, Mythology, Writing on Literature, and seminars in Chaucer, English Literature, Renaissance Literature, World Literature, and Seventeenth Century Poetry. I am a native from the Netherlands and have two sons. My husband is also retired and runs the household among enjoying more serious pastimes such as taking photographs and fly-fishing. I am an avid skier, both downhill and cross-country, like to camp and hike, do a bit of fishing, and a lot of bicycling and have been known to teach my students how to knit in addition to how to enjoy literature. I hope that you have received the book(s) from the bookstore and have read the rest of the syllabus where I explain what is required from you for each assignment period. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me by e-mail. I check my e-mail almost every day and always answer questions and concerns.

When you submit your first assignment or in the discussion board, please tell me a bit about yourself, such as why you are taking this course, any time constraints we need to work under, and other such information. After each completed assignment, I will post your grade in the gradebook, instructions about your mistakes, if any, and advice on how to become a better writer, reader, and/or critical thinker.

Sincerely,

Koos Daley
Professor of English
Extended Studies
Adams State College

Course Description:

This course is designed to expose students to a variety of literatures and to develop critical and effective thinking, reading, and writing skills. In this course, students will read literature from three major genres: poetry, short stories, and drama. The students will learn basic literary terms and different approaches to literature. Students will come to understand that major human concerns are depicted by literature across time and cultures. There will be units on the following themes: family, men and women, human vulnerability, freedom and responsibility, and quest.

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- understand, appreciate, and communicate about literature and its enhancement of American and World culture
- understand their place within a multicultural environment
- read with comprehension and clarity
- think and write critically
- broaden their artistic and ideological perspectives
- define fundamental literary terms
- recognize major human concerns as depicted in literature

Credit Hours: Three semester hours

Course Prerequisites: None

Required Textbook:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1021** to order books from Bookstore site.

Henderson, Gloria, William Day, Sandra Waller, ed. *Literature and Ourselves: a Thematic Introduction for Readers and Writers*, fifth edition. Longman, 2006. ISBN: 0321277139

Course Requirements:

The student will complete reading assignments and write five reaction papers to be submitted through the Assignment tab on the left. There will be two exams, including essay questions on the unit themes, which will be completed through the Assessment tab on the left. The essay

questions will be modeled after the ones at the end of each unit in your textbook. The midterm must be completed within two hours and the final within three hours.

Course Instructions:

The student will be required to write a short reaction paper on each unit studied. This paper needs to be one to two pages in length, double-spaced, and typed. Each paper should relate the theme studied to at least one selection of poetry, one selection of short fiction, and one selection of drama. Personal insights and responses to the reading selections are encouraged. Any questions or comments about the readings are welcome and will be answered when each reaction paper is returned.

Study Guide

Please read the following notes with care and study the textbook where required!

Poetry Notes

Poetry is written in verse form. Its primary units are lines and stanza rather than sentences and paragraphs. Short poems, also called lyrical poems, often lack a definitive plot or a connected series of related events; rather they focus on the speaker's response to a single event, object, situation, or person. Let us see how some poets themselves have defined their craft. Wallace Stevens said, "poetry gives us a sense of the world." It tells or uncovers for us some truths about our lives. William Wordsworth claims that it is, "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings recollected in tranquility." Samuel Coleridge says, "The best words in the best order." Walt Whitman defines poetry as, "I want the reader to stand by me and look in the mirror with me."

Poetry is one of the oldest forms of expression: it predates drama by many years. In the English language, we have poetry in the earliest form of our language: Anglo-Saxon. It has a haunting quality, stark and melodious. Again, as in drama, all aspects of life are its province: our life from birth to death and beyond is portrayed. There is in poetry, compared to other forms of expression, a difference in degree. Poetry is short: all words, meter, rhyme, punctuation marks, pauses need to work on several levels at once. Words will always have at least two values: denotative and connotative. The denotative meaning is the exact dictionary meaning of a word; the connotative meaning carries inherent in it the social and cultural baggage that echoes backwards and forwards in time and reaches out to attentive listeners. Moreover, words have power: they become a rite, a sacred process of naming. Please read pages 12-20 in the textbook.

Some Notes on Short Stories

A short story is a brief work of prose fiction. Short stories, as are longer works of fiction such as novels, are made up of the following elements: Point of View, Setting, Style, Character, Plot, and Theme. Please read the section on fiction in the textbook, pages 6-12, where these terms are explained in detail.

Some Notes on Drama

Drama is the form of composition designed for performance on stage, in which the actors take the role of the characters, perform the indicated action, and utter the written dialogue. Please read the section on drama on pages 20-25 in the textbook.

Terms

In the back of our textbook, there is a glossary of terms, starting on page 1487; I want you to be familiar with the following terms as they will make you a more informed reader of literature and they will show up on the midterm and final examinations:

Alliteration, allusion, antagonist, assonance, character, climax, comedy, conflict, connotation, consonance, denotation, denouement, dramatic irony, dramatic monologue, epiphany, exposition, foil, foot, harmartia, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, meter, metonymy, narrator, omniscient, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, paradox, parody, personification, plot, point of view, protagonist, pun, rhyme, rhythm, set, setting, simile, soliloquy, sonnet, stage directions, symbol, synecdoche, theme, tone, tragedy.

Study Strategies

Independent study can be one of the best of all instructional modes or one of the most challenging. As an instructor I have the enjoyment of working with each of you one on one. This allows me to answer your specific questions. It allows you to explore the course topic to its fullest. The challenge is that you need to be a disciplined student. It is easy to put off your assignments or deal with the course content in a piecemeal way as the assignments or content are not tied to specific class meetings.

The following strategies may help you in successfully completing this course:

1. Set up a specific time for “class”. Allow enough time to accomplish a specific amount of work (i.e., read a chapter and answer study questions for the exam)
2. Align the course expectations. The course requirements (i.e., readings, case studies and exams) are not separate from each other. They build on each other.
 - Before reading the chapters in a lesson, read and familiarize yourself with the case study options and the exam questions.
 - Now read through each chapter in the lesson.
 - Go back through the chapters looking for the specific information needed to address the case studies.
 - Finally, go back through each chapter and answer the study guide questions.
3. Study for the exam. You have been provided with a study guide to direct your attention to key concepts and reoccurring themes.
4. Take the exam.
5. Choose and write your case study following the case study instructions.
6. Go on to the next lesson.

Enjoy the course! I look forward to working with you.

Course Schedule

Assignment I

We will start with the unit on **family** (pp. 48-204). Read at least three fiction selections, including the essays, ten poems, and one play. You are welcome to read all selections, including the essays, but are not required to do so. Be sure that you choose selections that include literature written by women, men, and minorities. Write a reaction paper as outlined in the Course Instructions. If you have questions or additional comments, please attach them to your paper. I will return the graded paper and answer your queries if any.

Assignment II

Our next unit will look at **men and women** (pp. 288-531). Again, read several selections in the three genres under study (fiction, poetry, and drama) and write a reaction to the readings, incorporating your own experiences.

Assignment III and Midterm

Study and memorize the literary **terms** listed at the end of the Course Overview up to and including the term Irony. At least ten of these terms will appear on the midterm. The midterm will also include two essay questions, one on each unit. I will choose questions modeled on the ones that conclude each unit (p. 286 and p. 531). Reread some of the literature in each unit so that you can use support from the readings in your essay.

When you have submitted all preceding assignments, you are ready to take the Midterm Exam. This exam is closed book; please complete the exam within the two-hour time limit.

Assignment IV

Our next unit will study **Human Vulnerability** (pp. 532-818). In the latest edition, this chapter is now called Fear and Loss. Read several selections in all three genres and write a reaction to the readings, incorporating your own thoughts and experiences.

Assignment V

The next unit examines **Freedom and Responsibility** (pp. 822-978). Read several selections from each genre and write a reaction to the readings, incorporating your own experiences.

Assignment VI

Our last unit examines the **Quest** (pp. 1210-1471). Read several selections from three genres and write a reaction to the readings, incorporating your own experiences.

Assignment VII and Final

Study and memorize the literary terms, starting with metaphor. At least ten of these terms will appear on the final. There will be three essay questions, modeled on the suggestions for writing given at the end of each unit studied.

When you have submitted all preceding assignments, you are ready to take the Final Exam. This exam is closed book; please complete the exam within the three-hour time limit.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Reaction Papers	50%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

Scale:

900-1000 Points	A
800-899 Points	B
700-799 Points	C
600-699 Points	D
599 Points and Below	F