Dr. Richard Baker  
English 203  
Major Themes in Literature  
Office: ES 325/Phone: 587-7965  
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I. Course Title: Major Themes in Literature

II. Course Number: English 203

III. Credit Hours: Three (3) Credit Hours

IV. Prerequisites: English 101

V. Catalog Description: This course is designed to expose students to a variety of literatures and to develop critical and effective thinking, reading, and writing skills.

VI. Curricular Relationships: This course is designed to hone writing and oral communication, reading, and critical thinking skills that will carry over into any discipline the student may choose to follow.

VII. Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to

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

to apply new technology to research, writing and presentations

VIII. Content Outline: The course will pivot on a chosen theme and will be anchored in several classical literary works. Using the theme as a cornerstone, the course will research the development of this theme through a variety of literature, from the classical period through the twentieth century.

IX. Course Procedures and grading:

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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The following list is a tentative schedule of assignments; therefore, you must attend class regularly and read the assigned material. There will be a midterm exam (100 points) and a final exam (100 points). A term paper (100 points) must be written on a work of literature that we cover in class—no biographies please. These essays must be typed, 4-5 pages in length, and adhere to the rules as set up by the MLA (Modern Language Association)—avoid using the plastic binders please. The student must turn in a typed paragraph as to the nature of the essay before the paper is due. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade for each class day they are late. Students will participate in several group activities and class participation is strongly encouraged because part of your grade is based on this (100 points—buy the book, read it, bring it, and come to class prepared). Your participation should be civil so have respect for others in class and their different, yet informed attitudes. Quizzes may be given to make sure the material is being read. The standard system of grading applies: 90-100=A, 80-89=B etc. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course, and academic integrity will be respected in this class. If I catch you looking at another student’s quiz or test, you get an “F” for the assignment and an “F” for class participation. This includes talking to another student during a quiz or test. Attendance is mandatory (you must attend at least 80% of the class to pass), but I excuse absences for the following instances: hospitalization or serious illness (a note from the doctor), death in the family (a note from the funeral home), marriage (a wedding invitation), athletic or music contests (a note from the coach or music professor), and jury duty (legal matters)
or traffic tickets (a note/ticket from the court). I do not excuse absences for any other reason (i.e. work or oversleeping). Promptness is mandatory too because I will lower your grade for consistent tardiness. Any form of tobacco is prohibited in my class as are cell phones and pagers. It is the student’s responsibility to note the required assignments even when s/he is not in class. All work must be turned in to receive credit for this class. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. I also encourage you to visit the ASC website to evaluate this class towards the end of the semester.

**Tentative schedule:** Occasionally we will lag behind, so attend class regularly to keep abreast of where we are at in regard to the syllabus—remember always to stay current with the reading assignments and keep a journal (write in pen and use 8x11 paper) for extra credit—one point per author/per page. The slashes below indicate MWF.

1st week: Introduction to the class/Oedipus Rex/film
2nd week: Othello/Othello/Othello
3rd week: Hawthorne 735-744/Cather 211-226/Crane 376-396
4th week: Wright 1626-1635/Baldwin 21-44/ Faulkner 490-503
5th week: Hemingway 757-61&poetry handout/Fitzgerald 597-12/Twain 264-68
6th week: **Midterm exam Feb. 13**/ Poe 1358-71 (poetry)/snow day
7th week: Bradbury 136-46 & film/625-633/8-20
8th week: 1498-1502/1544-1549/1290-1300
9th week: Ellison 468-75/term paper paragraph due (typed)Mar.8 &10
10th week: spring break
11th week: Indirection 261-263/582-596(Freud lecture)/same
13th week: Coherence: pp. 186-196/449-58/1240-44
14th week: Conrad pp. 269-331/film Apocalypse Now
15th week: Conrad continued/term papers due on April 19
16th week: Conrad continued/poetry handout on metaphors
17th week: Kafka pp. 885-918
Final exam: see final exam schedule