Intermediate Exposition with Modes of Literature

Instructor: Prof. Susan Blalock
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Class Hours & Rooms: 6:00 – 7:50 pm MTWR
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REQUIRED TEXTS:
O’Brien, Tim. The Things They Carried

A Standard College Hardback Dictionary--The American Heritage Dictionary is the best in its price range.

ENGL 211X
“What’s Love Got to do with it?” : Reading Poetry, Stories, Plays & Novels

We have all experienced love, its permutations and its absence. Writers often explore the nature of love and show manifestations of it in unexpected places and objects. We will delve into this subject in all its richness in poetry, short stories, a play and Tim O’Brien’s war novel, The Things They Carried.

COURSE WORK:
The graded course work will consist of 3 in-class exams, 3 essays of approximately 1000 words, a research paper of 2,000 words, Writing Center usage, and responses to daily assignments. Missing daily grades receive a 0; all essays and exams must be completed and turned in on time in order to pass the course. Under extraordinary conditions, the student can contact me to get an extension BEFORE the due date, but not after it.

PARTICIPATION, RESPONSES AND QUIZZES: 10% Short responses to works, answers to study questions or library/Internet search exercises will often be assigned one class period prior to their discussion. It is your responsibility to obtain and complete these assignments. In-class responses or brief informational quizzes will be given in class without prior announcement. None of these "class participation" exercises can be made up. ATTENDANCE POLICY: Class discussions and our collective sharing of experience are central to our development of this course. More than three absences will cost you a letter grade; more than six will earn you a zero for participation, responses and quizzes. Read Tom Wayman’s poem “Did I Miss Anything?” p. 452 in our text. Actually, you won’t have a clue what is going on if you miss. Come to class! We enjoy your company.
WRITING CENTER: 5%  From brainstorming, organizing and drafting to revising and editing, the Writing Center offers assistance in all phases of the writing process. Tutors are experienced readers and, in many cases, are teachers themselves; as such, they can help you to focus your essay in a way that best presents your ideas. Each session lasts 1/2 an hour and will center on the areas you wish to discuss. In order to receive an "A" for this part of the course, you must participate in 3 sessions; for a B," 2 sessions; for a "C," 1 session. Be sure to take them a written copy of the instructions for the assignment and your draft.

ESSAYS: 55%  The 3 short essays are worth 10% each, and the research paper is worth 25%. Essays should reflect a great deal of thought and care and utilize techniques and information learned in class. Incorporating research material is not required for them, but is certainly admissible. The research paper must be researched using material referenced in the Rasmusson Library or on the Internet. Use of other material should be cleared with the professor.

All papers must be typed using MLA format. Use 12 point type, and letter quality print. Keep a paper copy for yourself; never count on disks or hard drives as reliable storage.

You may revise the 3 short essays one time to improve your grade. You can improve each essay by two letter grades (i.e., a "C" can become an "A"; a "D" can become a "B"). Along with your revision, you must turn in your original draft with my comments and a one-page summary of how you revised the essay (this may be hand-written). For me to accept your revision, you must also have it tutored in the Writing Center.

POETRY EXAM: 10%  This exam will cover the poetry section of the course. It will consist of identification of poetic and narrative terminology explained in your text and discussed in class, spot quotations from the poems read and discussed, and an essay question. The essay question usually counts about half of the total exam.

STORY EXAM: 10%  This exam will cover the short story section of the course. It will consist of identification of narrative terminology explained in your text and discussed in class, spot quotations from the stories read and discussed, and an essay question. The essay question usually counts about half of the total exam.

DRAMA EXAM: 10%  This exam will cover concepts developed in the lectures, in your text's explanation of technique, and on handouts on the drama section. The format will be similar to that of the previous two exams. It will be held during the final exam period.

Exams must be taken on the due date [DON'T MAKE PLANE RESERVATIONS UNTIL YOU KNOW YOUR EXAM SCHEDULE].

PLAGIARISM: You will be expected to do your own work and note correctly any sources that you do use using the correct MLA citation format. Both quotes and paraphrases must be properly introduced in the text. It must be absolutely clear where the borrowed words or ideas begin and end. If you do not understand how to use sources properly or have any doubts concerning the circumstances of any of your papers, consult me BEFORE you turn the paper in. Be sure to hold on to all drafts, notes and source references for any paper you write.
Welcome to the Introduction to Literature Course.

DAILY SCHEDULE: You will notice that the schedule below is largely generic. I am hoping that YOU will choose most of the poems, short stories, and plays you will read and write about this term. The book is HUGE, and we aren't even going to attempt to do it all. Just before we start each section, browse the texts for works you'd like to talk about. I have provided a thematic list of the poetry and short stories to help you decide within each section. We'll settle on works through consensus and majority vote.

Week One:
T 5/28 – 5/30
- T 5/28 Introduction and diagnostic essay. The essay will not be graded, but I will comment on areas you will want to work on before embarking on the graded assignments. This essay is also part of the English Department Outcomes Assessment Project and must be kept in a portfolio to be turned in at the end of the semester. I may require a grammar and mechanics diagnostic in the Writing Center for those who have more than two or three areas to work on.
- Quick trip to Writing Center.—Write a brief introduction of yourself and print out a copy to hand in.
- Handout of possible love poems to vote on in next class

W 5/29
- Read the poems from “Discovering Themes in poetry “ 637 – 40 “Poems about Love.” Choose one poem and paraphrase the content (i.e. tell us the "story" of what's going on.) Write it out and pick two other poems from this group that you'd like to discuss in detail in class. Make written notes on them.
- Vote on 3 poems from handout from last class to discuss on Thursday.
- Begin reading the novel: The Things They Carried

R 5/30
- Discussion of love poems chosen by the class last period.
- Vote on 3 poems from “Poems about parents” pp. 620-628 for next class.
- Choose one poem for your poetry analysis paper I. – Bring a short paragraph to class explaining why you chose your poem.

Week TWO  6/3-6
M 6/3
- Discussion of 3 poems chosen last class
- Bring 2 copies of the THESIS for your poetry paper to class for in-class workshop
- Figures of Speech Matching Quiz
- Text: “Irony” pp. 445- 450, Chapter 21,Form, pp. 558 -594

T 6/4
- Bring draft of Poetry Analysis paper to workshop in class

W 6/5
- One more review to polish Poetry Analysis paper. Bring new, improved paper from last class.

R 6/6
- Poetry Paper due at beginning of class
- Review for Poetry Exam on Monday
Week THREE  6/10 - 6/13

M 6/10
- Poetry Exam—first hour

  **Prose Section: Short Story and Novel**
  - Intro to Fiction: The Parable and the Beast Fable – handouts in class
  - Text: Chapter 4, “Understanding Fiction,” 62-74

T 6/11
- Text: Chapter 7: Plot 110-127 includes “Story of an Hour” and Chapter 8: Character 138-147 includes “A&P”
- The Things They Carried – discuss plot and character
- Preview stories in Chapter 9 “Setting” and pick one to discuss next class

W 6/12
- Text: Chapter 9 “Setting” 171 -196
- The Things They Carried—discuss setting

R 6/13
- The Things They Carried—discuss Point of View (varies in different chapters)
- Choose between “The Secret Lion” (401) and “Two Kinds” 405 for next class

**WEEK FOUR**

M 6/17
- Text: Chapter 13: “Theme,” 328-339 includes “A Worn Path” and story chosen last class
- Short Story Analysis— Bring Thesis for your paper on a story
- The Things They Carried—Discussion of Themes

T 6/18
- Workshop Short Story Analysis Draft in class
- Turn in Research Citations on The Things They Carried—correct MLA citation format. At least 6 possible sources
- Summarize one of your research sources and present it orally to the class

W 6/19
- **Short Story Analysis paper due** at beginning of class
- Text: Chapter 11: Style and Tone 244-251, “A Good Man is Hard to Find,” 256

R 6/20
- Oral Presentation of Thesis for Research Paper. Turn in Outline for Research paper
- Workshop Outline in class

**WEEK FIVE**

6/24
- The Things They Carried -- Workshop completed draft in-class

T 6/25
- Text: Chapter 12: Symbol, Allegory and Myth –328
- Review for Short Story Exam
W 6/26
- **Short Story Exam first hour**
- Text: Understanding Drama 720-730,
- Text: Chapter 26, p. 744 including 10 minute plays performed in-class

R 6/27
- Text: Plot 762-784 includes “Nine Ten” and “Trifles”
- **Research Paper on The Things They Carried due**
- Choose modern play for next week -- *The Glass Menagerie*, p. 1164 or *Fences*, p. 1111

Week Six
M 7/1
- Discussion of Classical Play—*Oedipus the King* p. 1061
- How to Write about plays

T 7/2
- Discussion of Modern Play chosen last Thursday
- Generate Essay Questions to serve as prompts for Drama Analysis paper.

W 7/3 Final Exam on Drama——
- Drama Analysis paper due