

Missouri Western State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism
English 210
Winter 2007

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Required Texts:

The Beat Reader ed. Ann Charters
Player Piano-L. Vonnegut
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest -K. Kesey
How I Became Hettie Jones—Hettie Jones
Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams-Sylvia Plath
All My Pretty Ones—Anne Sexton
Readings for Writers: Lit of the 50's and 60's (Custom reader)
Journal with removable paper
Storage disk

Recommended: *Anne Sexton: Self Portrait in Letters* Ed. Sexton and Ames

We will use our texts in class; be sure to bring the appropriate one daily.

Course Description

ENG 210, a sophomore general studies course, introduces students to different literary genres. The theme of our section is the Culture and Values of the 1950's and early 1960's. We will read, listen to, and view a variety of artifacts from this era in effort to both understand the cultural milieu which produced these artifacts and to interpret them as artistic works.

Grading Criteria

Grades will come from the following. Point values are approximate, and I reserve the right to alter some assignments.

Quizzes and journal assignments-10%

Participation and attendance-10%

Project presentation -10%

Project paper (final) -10%

Exams-60%

Journals and quizzes

We will keep a reading journal for everything we read; sometimes I will ask you to prepare specific journal responses. We will use these as a springboard for class discussion, and they also are good practices for the exams. In addition, particularly when I sense people are not reading or understanding the material, I will give short reading quizzes, which may include journal type responses.

What is Participation?

Your participation grade will include several things and will be assessed at the end of the semester. Just showing up or even reading material does not mean you are participating. Nor

does constant talking constitute participation; one might talk constantly and actually detract from the others' participation and learning. I expect that you participate in such a way that contributes to the course and is worthwhile for everyone. To achieve this kind of participation, you need to read the material well; it is impossible to show quality participation otherwise. Participating also means trying to answer questions, challenge positions, and offer thoughtful and valid opinions. I suggest you come to class with one or two points or questions each day, even when not assigned to do so. Don't just show up.

Participation also means you should be present for, attentive to, and responsive to your peers' presentations at the end of the term.

Exams

We'll have **three** exams. Exams are essay type. I may select passages from our readings for you to comment on or ask you to discuss questions that we have been covering in class. You should therefore take notes that go beyond facts and that record the nature of our discussions and related issues. The exams also may include some short answer questions. Since the exams don't test just reading comprehension, it will be very difficult to do well on the exams if you are not in class.

Attendance

The MWSC *Policy Guide* states "each instructor will determine and make known to the class the requirement for attendance" (45). This is a sophomore level class in which we will be doing a variety of activities and conducting enlightening discussions, most of which cannot be found elsewhere or reproduced. I am not here to police your whereabouts, but if you are not present, you will miss a lot. You also receive a grade for participation (defined above), which evaluates your total participation performance, not just your presence. Obviously, if you are not here, you cannot participate. In addition, exams draw heavily from class work, and I often make announcements or assignments in class; thus you cannot know these things if you are not here. In short, if you're not here, it is your responsibility to know what you missed and suffer any consequences.

Late and Missing Work

I reserve the right to refuse any late work. Presentations must be made on their pre-scheduled date. No exams may be made up unless arrangements are made prior to the exam. Make up exams are more difficult. If more than one student needs to make up an exam, I will schedule a make up exam time. I expect everyone to attend this make up exam time, or forfeit taking the exam and receive a zero.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is claiming another's words, writing structure, images, or ideas as your own. This includes anything found on the internet. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and may result in your failing the assignment or the course or being suspended or dismissed from the college. Please read carefully the statement on plagiarism on the departmental website. Please note that any material in power points or papers **MUST** be properly documented and acknowledged; otherwise it is plagiarism and the work will receive an "F".

Classroom behavior

I expect you to respect everyone in this class. Part of learning is exploring ideas. No doubt some people will have ideas different than yours. One of our goals is to learn to understand and respect other's ideas. Remain open-minded; you may even change your own ideas. Understanding and developing ideas is a natural outcome of the reading and writing, and therefore of this class, and thus I consider these an accomplishment and evidence that you are becoming an educated and mature individual, which is good for your grade.

I also expect you to behave respectfully in class. This means: be on time, do not interrupt, walk in front of anyone who is talking, or leave your seat or the room while class is in session unless it is

an emergency. It also means that you turn off cell phones before you enter the classroom, and that you leave them off until you have exited the classroom.

Students with Disabilities

Any student in this course who has a disability that requires different contexts for either evaluation or expression should contact me in the first few weeks of the course so that those needs can be considered.