

Missouri Western State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism
English 210-05: Approaches to Literature--1:00-1:50 p.m., MWF, Murphy Hall 105
Spring 2007

Instructor: Mr. Hamilton
Office: Eder Hall 222-Q
Phone: 271-4169
Office Hours: MWF 10:00 to 11:45, and by appointment
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ATTENDANCE POLICY:

We meet only three (3) times per week, MWF for 50 minute sessions. Come well prepared, take notes, enter into discussions, keep on track, stay focused on the subject matter for each class and for each major assignment. ***Read carefully. Think actively. Write with intensity. Improve each time.*** Comprehending literature is a skill best learned incrementally with constant practice and assimilation. Learn something new every day. Do your best and you should do well.

In college, one week of absences (3 classes) is the usual maximum. There are no exceptions and no make-ups for missed in-class work. If you know of circumstances likely to make these requirements difficult for you this semester, you should consult with your academic advisor, the Student Services Office, and your instructor.

Any absence does tend to lower your grade because it represents missed class time. The missed in-class work cannot be made up, and any late work receives a zero or a grade reduction. **There are no excused absences**, but I can make special arrangements for situations *if prior notification is given* for good documented reasons. Keep me posted with any attendance problems.

Being late can count as an absence. Five minutes of a fifty-minute class is a lot. Being disruptive with lateness, or in any other way, can also count as an absence (1/2 or full). Zeros will be given for all missed work and for all work due or given in class while marked absent. Note that out-of-class assignments are usually due at the beginning of the class period, the first few minutes. After that, it is late work. If you're late or miss an entire class session, you must take the responsibility for all material covered and/or assignments given during your absence. If you are unsure of the required work, ask a classmate, talk to me after class, phone my office, drop by during office hours, email me, or arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss any concerns. I will be happy to meet with you.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS:

Abby, Edward. The Monkey Wrench Gang. Avon Book--paperback.
Eiseley, Loren. The Firmament of Time. UNE Press Bison Books--paperback.
Leopold, Aldo. Sand County Almanac. Ballantine--paperback.
London, Jack. The Call of the Wild. Dover Publication--paperback

A good College Dictionary and a Thesaurus are highly recommended.

Notebook (perforated) for in class notes and written assignments
3-1/2" floppy disks (2-3 for this class)
Manila folder(s) or something similar to help you keep organized
Blue or black ink pens only

COURSE GOALS AND CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Primarily, this course will allow you to gain some expertise and confidence with the understanding and uses of literature. College quality thinking, study and writing through many varied assignments will be required. Close

readings of the selected texts will be the primary focus, although you will be asked to do some independent research as well to support your special projects. In writing, strive for quality, not quantity. “Clear thinking well expressed works best. Knowing your reading texts is your best guarantee for success.”

College work often requires two or more hours of study for each single hour of class time. Grades will be earned on two response papers, two projects, and several smaller assignments including quizzes, class participation, and tests. Becoming an expert reader is extremely important at the college level. This should be a good start towards that goal.

For a more detailed description of the MWSU General Studies requirements for English 210, see the Departmental Website: www.missouriwestern.edu/EFLJ/Programs/General_Studies.

FORMAL WRITINGS & ASSIGNMENTS:

If you start off by doing the best you can and keep adding to your knowledge while furthering your skills throughout the semester, you should do well. All completed essays must be word processed, double spaced, properly formatted, carefully proofread and presented neatly with your Name, Class and Section Number, Instructor’s Name, Assignment, and Date appearing single-spaced on the first page to the upper left. All other assignments should be done in blue or black ink pen on non-spiral bound paper.

GRADING POLICY:

Your final grade will be determined by your overall progress as a college reader, thinker and communicator. Appointments with tutors at the Center for Academic Support are recommended and may be assigned to you by me as needed.

Traditional Letter Grades, with +’s and –’s, will indicate grades earned on the two essays and the two projects. A combination of numerical scores, along with a system of “ ‘s,” with +’s and –’s (“ +” = 100%, “ “ = 80%, “ --“ = 60% and so on), will indicate grades for all other assignments, including class work and participation, quizzes and tests. These are combined as shown below.

To track your earned points, you might record them here:

	Grade	% Points	
Response Essay #1: Persuasive Essay, 600 words: 10%			
150 Points.		_____ x 1.5	_____
Special Project #1: Group Time-Line Assignment 10%			
100 Points.		_____ x 1	_____
In-class and out-of-class Assignments: 5%			
50 Points.		_____ x 1	_____
Quizzes from Readings & Lectures: 10%			
100 Points.		_____ x 1	_____
Midterm Test: Short Answer & Essay Exam: 10%			
100 Points.		_____ x 1	_____
“Native America Day” Attendance & Participation 5%			
50 Points.		_____ x .5	_____

Special Project #2: As Selected

100 Points. _____ x 1 _____

Response Essay #2: Problem-Solving, 750 words: 15%

150 Points. _____ x 1.5 _____

Class Participation and Other Assignments: 10%

100 Points. _____ x 1 _____

Final Exam: Short Answers and Essay Response

100 Points. _____ x 1.5 _____

Earned Total of the 1,000 Possible Points = _____/10

Final Letter Grade = _____

GRADE PERCENTAGES AND POINTS EARNED:

Traditional Letter Grades: A=95, B=85, C=75, D=65, and F=55 with "+" or "-" indicating 2.5 points: 72.5=C-, 75=C, 77.5=C+, etc

There is a 1,000 Point Total for the Course. For example: Essay #1=15%=150 points, and a "B" grade therefore earns 85 x 1.5 = 127.5 of those possible 150 points. Keep track of your earned points as they accumulate during the semester. If you need to come talk with me, please do so.

STUDENT SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students with any temporary or permanent special need that hinders the fullest expression of their abilities should contact Missouri Western's special needs coordinator, Michael Ritter for expert recommendations and assistance. You should also contact me personally the first few days of class to discuss class requirements and any needed special accommodations. To contact Mr. Ritter: 271-4330, email at mritter @ missouriwestern.edu, or drop by Eder Hall 202B.

EVERY DAY EXTRA HELP:

Your instructor is here to help you succeed. Office hours are posted, and other arrangements can be made by appointment whenever necessary. Contact me when you have questions or when you need help or clarification. Simple things can often help a lot.

Free tutoring! MWSU has many excellent support systems and they are here just for you:

Center for Academic Support offers free tutoring in writing, reading, math and all other subject areas. Walk in or contact them next to the Library at 271-4524. Corla Dawson, Writing Coordinator, 271-4531. Cathy Gann, Reading/Study Skills Coordinator, 271-5621.

Student Services Office has many programs to keep you progressing toward your goals: from finding your way around campus, to special academic/career advising or availability of Child Care. Contact them in Eder Hall 209 at 271-5990.

Non-Traditional Student Center can get you re-oriented toward academic life even if you're 25 or 40! There are seminars, associations, and honor societies for older students. Contact them in Eder Hall 202, at 271-4280.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All work should be NEW and ORIGINAL, done by you for this class as assigned and handed-in on time.

So... if you need to show that the work or writing was indeed done by you, save it all so that you can meet this burden of proof. Zeros will be given for cheating and/or plagiarism and failure for the course is probable. Stronger evidence showing flagrant cheating and/or plagiarism may lead to penalties by the Dean of Students, even dismissal from the university. Please note carefully the statement on plagiarism on the EFLJ departmental website, refer to your Student Handbook for these and additional codes of conduct since they are always in effect.

CIVILITY AND COOPERATION:

Missouri Western requires all students to help maintain good classroom conditions and a campus environment conducive to both learning and teaching. All students should treat their classmates, instructors, and student assistants with civility and respect, both inside and outside the classroom. Remember, your accomplishment is the primary objective. Everybody is here to help you achieve your goals.

Success will happen! I hope you have an excellent and enjoyable semester. If I can help you further, please let me know.

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