

Missouri Western State College, Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism
English 210
Fall 2009

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Office Hours: 8:30-9:00 WF, 11:00-12:00 MWF, 3-4 W and by appointment
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Required Texts

The Beat Reader- ed. Ann Charters
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest -K. Kesey
How I Became Hettie Jones-Hettie Jones
Minor Characters-Joyce Johnson
Highway 61 Revisited-Mark Polizzotti
Highway 61 Revisited-CD by Bob Dylan

We will use our texts in class; be sure to bring the appropriate one daily. There will also be a few assignments from handouts that I will distribute.

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 1960's. We will read, listen to, and view a variety of artifacts from this era in effort to understand both the cultural milieu that produced these artifacts and to interpret them as artistic works. I see the class as a conversation about the interconnectedness of these factors and how they work together to create art.

Grading Criteria and Assignments

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

Participation, attendance, quizzes and journal assignments-10%

Final presentations-15%

Paper (due at final) -15%

Exams-60%

Journal Responses and quizzes

Sometimes I will ask you to prepare specific responses for the assigned readings, and sometimes I will give short quizzes on the readings. Other times I will ask you to bring questions to class that you have written about what we are studying. Responses are not plot summaries. Responses are your opportunity to show that you can enter the conversation about this era and discuss the readings in a knowledgeable manner, which is a goal of this class. We will use responses as a springboard for class discussion, and they also are good practice for exams. Therefore, they are important and should be taken seriously.

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 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 also should be present for, attentive to, and responsive to your peers' presentations.

Exams

We'll have **three** essay exams. In order to do well on these, you must know how to write an essay. I may select passages from our readings for you to comment on or ask you to further discuss questions or topics that we have been discussing in class. You should therefore take notes that go beyond facts and that record the nature of our class discussions and related issues. The exams also may include some short answer questions and identifications.

Since the exams don't test just reading comprehension, it will be very difficult to do well on the exams if you have not been in class.

Attendance

In order to improve student learning as well as to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100 and 200 level courses. You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. All other absences will be deemed unexcused. The maximum number of unexcused absences allowed for this class before the midterm report on October 15 is five. When you have six unexcused absences, you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class. The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate.

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 will 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 discussions, 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.

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 note carefully the statement on plagiarism on the departmental website, found at <http://www2.mwsc.edu/eflj/plagiarism.html> Please note that any material in pop 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; thus I consider these an accomplishment and evidence that you are becoming an educated and mature individual, which is beneficial for your grade.

I also expect you to behave respectfully in class. This means: be on time, do not interrupt, do not walk in front of anyone who is talking, do not 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, i-pods, i-phones and other electronic devices 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.

Beginning assignments:

8/24- Introductions ; *The Fear and the Dream* (video)

8/26- Finish video; Intro to *Beat Reader* pp. xv-xxxvi

8/28- Discuss video and Beats

8/31- Video/Beat response due. Read "East Coast Beats" p. 1-7; Kerouac "Spontaneous Prose" pp. 57-9, and *On the Road* pp. 10-43.

9/2-Finish Kerouac

9/4- *The Beat* video.

9/9- -Quiz; N. Cassady pp. 187-95; *The First Third* pp. 212-19. C.

Cassady *Off the Road*. pp.449-58.

9/11- Ginsberg : "Howl" and "Supermarket" pp. 62-72 ; "America" pp.74

9/14- *Quiz*; Corso pp. 174-185. Review

9/16-**Exam I**

9/18- SF Renaissance 227-32; Rexroth 233-41; Ferlinghetti 245-57