Syllabus: Introduction to Literature Online

Professor Gregory Belliveau

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The student will define and describe the three genres of Art: Drama, Fiction, and Poetry; describe and demonstrate proficiency in basic concepts concerning literature; describe and demonstrate proficiency in an understanding of Christianity and Literature; analyze/ demonstrate proficiency in selected readings in Drama, Fiction, and Poetry; complete a capstone project that demonstrates his/ her proficiency concerning main ideas from the class.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
• C.S. Lewis. *An Experiment in Criticism*. Cambridge University Press, 2000
• Selected Romantic Poetry – provided online
• Trail Guide - provided in the Interactive Online Classroom

ONLINE MEDIA:
The Interactive Online Classroom: 10 interactive units

ABOUT THE COURSE:
This course covers 10 units of material regarding the three major genres of literature: Drama, Fiction, and Poetry. The units function as consecutive parts to a larger story that I am trying to help you understand; therefore, each week’s lessons will build on previous weeks, all tying into the overarching narrative of C.S. Lewis’ *An Experiment in Criticism*. Basically, you will be analyzing and discussing selected works from each of the three genres then writing papers demonstrating your understanding of those three genres. The capstone paper will be a personal narrative where you will discuss (using points brought up by Lewis in *An Experiment in Criticism*) what you have discovered as you’ve walked through the fictional woods.

INTRODUCTION
  Unit 1: C.S. Lewis and The Fictional Woods

DRAMA
  Unit 2: Shakespeare And His World
  Unit 3: “Madness In Great Ones Should Not Unwatched Go.”
  Unit 4: “Nothing But To Show You How a King May Go a Progress Through the Guts of a Beggar.”

FICTION
  Unit 5: Lingering in the Fictional Woods
Unit 6: “It Was the Poetry of the New Religion.”
Unit 7: Things Fall Apart

POETRY
Unit 8: “A Spontaneous Overflow of Powerful Feelings”
Unit 9: “Oh, For a Life of Sensations!”
Unit 10: “I Celebrate Myself”

DAY TO DAY BREAKDOWN OF THE UNITS:
- **Monday**: Visit the Interactive Online Classroom; Read the Trail Guide and start your Text Reading assignments.
- **Tuesday/Wednesday**: Continue assigned Text Readings for the week. The weekly Text Reading Quizzes open Monday at 5 p.m. and close at midnight on Wednesday.
- **Thursday/Friday**: Participate in the online Discussion Groups in WebCT; Post your prompts and respond to your fellow classmates.
- **Saturday/Sunday**: Visit the Interactive Online Classroom again and interact with the site; complete the image reveals (“Lingering in the Woods”). Work on your drafts for your unit paper due at the end of each unit, and the final draft, which is due every three weeks. The weekly Reveal Quizzes open Saturday 8 a.m. and close Monday at 9 p.m.

ASSESSMENTS: Students will be assessed on their reading and understanding of the material from:

- **Online Quizzes/Discussion Board - 30%**
  For each piece of literature assigned, there will be a quiz. The quiz questions may be drawn from the introductory front-matter that precedes each work. Quiz questions will be multiple choice or short-answer questions. The questions are designed to test your reading comprehension. Quizzes are not open book.

- **Three Essays - 50%**
  At the beginning of each genre, I will assign an essay assignment. The essay will be a 1200 word/ 4 pages response to my prompts. You will be graded on substance (how well you answer the question), organization, and style (grammar and syntax).

  **About the Essays and the Writing Process**
  Good Writing means that you allow the process of writing to work. I have imbedded this process into this class. There are four basic stages of the writing process: rehearsal, drafting, revision, deadline. Each week you will be tasked with one of these stages, so that as the units progress, you are rehearsing, drafting, and revising each of the three papers. You have been assigned a peer-editor (a classmate) whose job it is to review your work, make comments, and send the paper back to you with those comments. The list of Peer-Editor teams are listed on the introduction page of WebCT.

  **About Peer editing and the Peer Edit Process**
  Throughout this online course you will be asked to send rough drafts of your papers to another classmate (assigned to you). Good writing is all about getting
feedback from readers so that you (the writer) can make changes to your paper in content, style, mechanics, etc. . . . Peer editing is one way to receive such feedback. As mentioned earlier, you will write four short papers for this class. After the drafting stage for each paper, you will be asked to send that first draft to a peer editor. That peer editor will read the paper and give feedback: commenting on the content of the paper (what you discussed); style (how you discussed it); and mechanics (grammar and syntax errors). The peer editor will then send those comments to the writer, so he/she can make the appropriate revisions.

**About Good Essay Writing**

A good essay will have a clear, defining thesis that guides the piece, sound evidence to support that thesis, and a conclusion that is provocative and somewhat memorable. Each essay should have a title. See note on Good Essay Writing posted on WebCT

**About the Capstone Project (Personal Narrative discussing what you have learned)- 20% - Due TBA**

Your Capstone Project (4-5 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, title page) will consist of three genre essays (topics given at the beginning of each genre), and one final essay (A personal narrative concerning your engagement with the genres and with Lewis’ *An Experiment in Criticism*). When you are ready to submit your final essay, please go to the WebCT homepage and click on the “Assignments” link under the Course Tools menu.

**Taking Online Quizzes:**

When you are ready to take a quiz, please go to the WebCT homepage and click on the “Assessments” link under the Course Tools menu.

**About The Quizzes:**

During each weekly unit, you will be asked to participate in two online quizzes: after the Reading portion and after the Reveal portion. Be sure to log onto WebCT and take the appropriate quiz at the appropriate time.

**Submitting Individual Essay Assignments:**

When you are ready to submit the essays, please go to the WebCT homepage and click on the “Assignments” link under the Course Tools menu. **Important:** please put your submitted file in the following format: Your last name_Drama paper.doc. Insert “Fiction” or “Poetry” in the appropriate place when you get to that genre.
Introduction:

Video: The Prologue

Unit 1: Introductions

Video: Unit 01
Trail Guide: Introduction video

Read: *An Experiment in Criticism*: chapter I,II

Reading Quiz

Discussion Prompts: read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

Reveal: Watch the video concerning chapter I, II of *An Experiment*.

Reveal Quiz

Unit Paper on Drama: Rehearsal Stage: Identify passages throughout Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* where Shakespeare demonstrates moments whereby the reader is forced to receive the play, where it is impossible to use it. Hint: look for all those places where Shakespeare makes the story of *Hamlet* difficult to understand from a modern reader’s perspective.

Unit 2: Shakespeare And His World

Video: Unit 02
Trail Guide: The World of Shakespeare; The Great Chain of Being; The Medieval World of Order vs. Chaos; Shakespearean Special Effects; The Elizabethan Tragedy in Five Acts; The Elizabethan Soliloquy

Read: *Hamlet* Act I,II

Reading Quiz

Discussion Prompts: read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

Reveal: Watch the video concerning *Hamlet* Act I,II.

Reveal Quiz
Unit Paper on Drama: Drafting Stage: Shakespeare’s Hamlet is a perfect example of a play whereby both the Few and the Many are able to appreciate the story. Indeed, both peasants and nobility seemed to appreciate Shakespeare’s art. Write a short paper (1200 words/ four pages). Using quotes from the play to back up your points, discuss one of the following issues:

1. The Great Chain of Being and how it dovetails into the medieval idea of Order vs. Chaos throughout the play Hamlet.
2. The theme of “antic disposition” or playing a role as it evolves in the play. Be sure to include Ophelia, Claudius, and Hamlet as examples of such role players.
3. Claudius as a Master of Rhetoric in Act four when he convinces Laertes to return his kingdom.
4. The elements of tragedy in the character of Hamlet or Claudius: be sure to incorporate – the tragic flaw, the tragic action, the tragic resolution.

Unit 3: “Madness In Great Ones Should Not Unwatched Go.”

Video: Unit 03
Trail Guide: Tragedy; The Importance of Conversations; Lewis’ “Using vs. Receiving

Read: An Experiment, ch III; Hamlet Act III

Reading Quiz

Discussion Prompts: read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

Reveal: Watch the video concerning Hamlet Act IV, V; chapter III of An Experiment.

Reveal Quiz

Unit Paper on Drama: Critique stage: Send your first draft (as an attachment to an email) to your assigned peer editor. Critique the paper for content and mechanics, then send the paper (along with comments) back to the writer. Revise the paper before the due date next Sunday.

Unit 4: “Nothing But To Show You How a King May Go a Progress Through the Guts of a Beggar.”

Video: Unit 04
Trail Guide: A Master of Rhetoric; Psychologically Complex Characters; Tragic Resolutions

Read: Hamlet Act IV, V; An Experiment ch. IV

Reading Quiz
Discussion Prompts: read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

Reveal: Watch the video concerning chapter I, II of An Experiment.

Reveal Quiz

Unit Paper on Drama: First Paper due by Sunday. Please log into WebCT/Assignments/ upload your revised essay.

Unit 5: Lingering in the Fictional Woods

Video: Unit 05
Trail Guide: The Great Interpretation Machine; The Fictional World; The Fictional Woods; The Basic Elements of Fiction; Culture and the Fictional Woods; Helpful Pronunciations in Things Fall Apart; Chapter VII of An Experiment

Read An Experiment, ch VII; Achebe’s Things Fall Apart, Part One, (ch 1-13)

Reading Quiz

Discussion Prompts: read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

Reveal: Watch the video concerning chapter VII of An Experiment; Things Fall Apart - Part One.

Reveal Quiz

Unit Paper on Fiction: Rehearsal/Drafting stage: Identify passages throughout Achebe’s Things Fall Apart where the culture/mythology of the Obi people are discussed. Identify passages where Okonkwo’s attributes or characteristics are similar to any man’s: courageous, mean spirited, prideful, loving, etc. . . . Then, write a short paper (1200 words/ four pages). Using quotes from Things Fall Apart to back up your points, discuss how this novel is both an unfamiliar and familiar fictional woods. Be sure to include in your essay those quotes that discuss Umuofia’s mythology and Okonkwo’s universal character traits.

Unit 6: “It Was the Poetry of the New Religion.”

Video: Unit 06
Trail Guide: Christianity/Culture and the Fictional Woods; Lewis – on misreading by the Literary
Read *An Experiment*, chapter VIII; Things Fall Apart, Part Two (ch 14-19)

**Reading Quiz**

**Discussion Prompts:** read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

**Reveal:** Watch the video concerning chapter VIII of *An Experiment; Things Fall Apart*, Part Two

**Reveal Quiz**

**Unit Paper on Fiction:** Critique Stage: Send your first draft (as an attachment to an email) to your assigned peer editor. Critique the paper for content and mechanics, then send the paper (along with comments) back to the writer. Revise the paper before the due date next Sunday.

**Unit 7: Things Fall Apart**

**Video:** Unit 07
**Trail Guide:** Turning Your Back on Kitsch; An Experiment, ch IX


**Reading Quiz**

**Discussion Prompts:** read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

**Reveal:** Watch the video concerning chapter IX of *An Experiment; Things Fall Apart*, Part Three.

**Reveal Quiz**

**Unit Paper on Fiction:** Second paper due by Sunday. Please log into WebCT/Assignments/ upload your revised essay.

**Unit 8: “A Spontaneous Overflow of Powerful Feelings”**

**Video:** Unit 08
**Trail Guide:** Introduction to Poetry; Romanticism and the Sublime; The Preface to the Lyrical Ballads; The Welcomed Influences of Romanticism; How to Read a Poem;

**Read:** *An Experiment*, chapter X; Preface to the Lyrical Ballads (online); Wordsworth’s Selected Poetry (online)
Reading Quiz

Discussion Prompts: read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

Reveal: watch the video concerning chapter X of *An Experiment*; Explications of Wordsworth’s poetry.

Reveal Quiz

Capstone Project and Unit Paper: Rehearsal/Draft Stage: Identify passages throughout the selected poems that demonstrate Romantic Characteristics found in Wordsworth’s *Preface to the Lyrical Ballads*. Then, write a short paper (1200 words/ four pages). Using quotes from the selected poets and their poems explaining how the sublime and Romanticism has changed from Wordsworth – Whitman.

Capstone Project – Begin to identify/clarify several main points concerning what you have learned about various genres of literature and how that ties into C.S. Lewis’ *An Experiment in Criticism*. Hint: find quotes in *An Experiment* that seemed to resonate with you. You will use those as the backbone for your final personal narrative.

Unit 9: “Oh, For a Life of Sensations!”

Video: Unit 09
Trail Guide: Coleridge; *Biographia Literaria*; Keats; Adam’s Dream and the Spider Web

Read: *An Experiment in Criticism*: chapter XI; Selected poems by Coleridge and Keats

Reading Quiz

Discussion Prompts: read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

Reveal: watch the video concerning chapter XI of *An Experiment*; Selections from Coleridge’s and Keats’ poetry.

Reveal Quiz

Unit Paper on Poetry: Send your first draft (as an attachment to an email) to your assigned peer editor. Critique the paper for content and mechanics, then send the paper (along with comments) back to the writer. Revise the paper before the due date next Sunday. Capstone Project – Write a short paper (1200 words/four pages) in a first person narrative style where you discuss your walk through the fictional woods. Be sure to tie in quotes from Lewis’ *An Experiment in Criticism*.

Unit 10: “I Celebrate Myself”
**Video:** Unit 10

**Trail Guide:** Biography of Walt Whitman; Life of Walt Whitman; Whitman’s Poetic Techniques; The Structure of “Song of Myself”; Themes of “Song of Myself”

**Read An Experiment in Criticism:** Epilogue, Selected Stanzas from “Song of Myself”

**Reading Quiz**

**Discussion Prompts:** read and respond to my discussion prompt, and then read and respond to a classmates response.

**Reveal:** watch the video concerning Whitman’s “Song of Myself”; Epilogue An Experiment.

**Reveal Quiz**

**Capstone Project:** Third paper/ Personal Narrative due by Sunday. Please log into WebCT/ Assignments/ upload your revised essay.