

Course Syllabus

EWRT 1A: COMPOSITION AND READING

Spring 2023

Instructor: Richard Ferrie

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Units: Five

8:30-9:20 on Zoom

Office hours: after zoom class Monday and Wednesday or by appointment on zoom

"Literature is the one place in any society where, within the secrecy of our own heads, we can hear voices talking about everything human in every possible way." --Salman Rushdie

"He was in a state of astonishment but he did not yet know over what."—Gina Berriault

"Who is it can tell me who I am?"—King Lear, from Shakespeare's KING LEAR

"We shall not spend a large expense of time before we reckon with your several loves and make us even with you." –William Shakespeare, MACBETH

Required Materials:

Women in Their Beds by Gina Berriault (Counterpoint, trade paperback)

Macbeth by William Shakespeare (Folger Shakespeare Library)

An unabridged recording to listen to while you read Macbeth. This is REQUIRED.

Course Overview:

Through reading and discussion of these works, students will learn that there is zero degrees of separation between their humanity and the human experience as it may be discovered in literature; this burgeoning awareness will be revealed in a range of writing excursions.

HOMEWORK: READ the assigned story (or, later, Act in Macbeth) **EACH NIGHT (M-T-W-TH-F)** and write a paragraph in response. These paragraphs are turned in at the end of the unit. With Macbeth, there will be four units. Often, with Berriault, a unit per story. Don't summarize. You may interpret, predict, vent (I hate it, I love it, I don't like this character), analyze, compare (to other stories, to your own life), and extrapolate. All phases of critical thinking are in play. Daily paragraphs, collected and organized by you, will be due at the

end of each stated unit. MARK these diary/journal/daily entries as PARAGRAPHS and turn them in when asked with the prompts.

Writing Assignments:

You will be expected to complete five essays. One of these will be an in-class essay. **Rough draft, notes, and works cited page are all required for each assignment—except essay # 1, for which you will need only a full rough and final draft.**

Late work: assignment will be graded down 10% for each day late. DO NOT TAKE ZEROES! (IN OTHER WORDS, TURN IN ALL ASSIGNMENTS.)

A mastery of the story is essential. We take our time. We linger until you have full comprehension.

Note: There is no extra credit available in this class. No discussion of the grade after the final exam period.

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED CAUSE FOR DISMISSAL FROM CLASS WITH AN F. ANY INCLUSION IN AN ESSAY OF PUBLISHED OR INTERNET AVAILABLE MATERIAL, EVEN A PHRASE, MUST BE CITED WITH A NOTE. NOT READING THE ASSIGNED WORK OR READING “NOTES” INSTEAD OF THE ASSIGNED WORK IS CHEATING.

Tests, quizzes:

The paragraphs are your daily quizzes.

Grading:

Essays: 100 points each.

Daily paragraph (response to reading) turned in at end of unit: 50

Mid-term (daily paragraphs and additional prompts) 100

McCarthy era worksheet: 70

These are approximations. Point totals may change somewhat. The over-all total will, however, equal 1000.

Important: Homework each night is reading. Often, this will be re-reading. After each night's reading, write a paragraph in response. These will all be due at the conclusion of the unit (finishing the story)—50 points, sometimes more, sometimes fewer.

Grade scale: A: 1000-900

B: 899-800

C: 799-700

D: 699-600

F: 599-000

NOTE: PLUS AND MINUS GRADES WILL BE APPLIED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

Final Thoughts/Reminders

1. Read every assignment at least twice and come prepared as if you are going to give a report on it.
2. Always make a copy of your work before you turn it in.
3. Save all essays and homework until the end of the quarter.
4. Remember that plagiarism will result in a zero on the paper and affect your FINAL grade.
5. See or e-mail me when you have questions or concerns or if you are struggling with any aspect of a given assignment.
6. Works Cited page due for all assignments.

Essay and Major Test Due Dates:

Essay # 1: Gina Berriault said: “What hurts stays with you.” Respond in a narrative essay concerning a time in your life when something occurred that shows this is true. Examples of successful essays will be read aloud on Zoom April 12. Due Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Essay # 2: Argumentative/persuasive Essay (Berriault stories): Due Monday, May 8, 2023.

Essay # 3 (in-class) Macbeth (self-observation in Macbeth—your best basic argumentative essay 3-5 paragraphs): Monday, May 29, 2023. Honor system in place.

Essay # 4: Standard Argumentative Essay: Berriault/Shakespeare—due: Friday, June 9, 2023

Essay # 5: Who Is It Can Tell Me Who I Am? Berriault stories and the McCarthy Era.

Due Wednesday, JUNE 28, 2023

Last day of class: June 28, 2023, NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED

Final: A final writing project in place of a conventional test.

NO DISCUSSION OF THE GRADE AFTER THE FINAL MEETING.

Student Learning Objectives:

- COMMUNICATION AND EXPRESSION

Students will communicate clearly, express themselves creatively, interpret thoughtfully and logically, and engage actively in dialogue and discussion, while paying attention to audience, situation, and (inter) cultural context. Communication and expression may be written or oral, verbal or nonverbal, informational or artistic.

2) INFORMATION LITERACY

Students will recognize when information is needed and locate, critically evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in various formats. They will use appropriate resources and technologies while understanding the social, legal, and ethical issues for information and its use.

3) PHYSICAL/MENTAL WELLNESS AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Students will recognize lifestyles that promote physical and mental well-being, engage in self-

reflection and ethical decision-making, explore career choices and life goals, practice effective individual and collaborative work habits, and demonstrate a commitment to ongoing learning.

4) GLOBAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Students will recognize their role as local, national, and global citizens. They will participate in a democratic process, respect social and cultural diversity, appreciate the complexity of the physical world, and understand the significance of both environmental sustainability and social justice.

5) CRITICAL THINKING

Students will analyze arguments, create and test models, solve problems, evaluate ideas, estimate and predict outcomes based on underlying principles relative to a particular discipline, interpret literary, artistic, and scientific works, utilize symbols and symbolic systems, apply qualitative and quantitative analysis, verify the reasonableness of conclusions, explore alternatives, empathize with differing perspectives, and adapt ideas and methods to new situations.