ENG 102—Intro. to Literature                Spring 2010/Prof. Dan Giancola
Section 22592(T/T 12:30-1:45)               giancod@sunysuffolk.edu
Section 22590(M/W 12:30-1:45)               Orient 131   548-3578
Section 23117(R 6:00-9:00)

NATURE OF THE COURSE: This course is tailored for the student who wishes to
develop and broaden her literary perception and taste. We will read short
stories, poetry, and plays. We will examine literary craftsmanship, learn how
authors work words, forms, and conventions. Students will be asked to respond
genuinely to new worlds they are exposed to through literature, on both
emotional and intellectual planes. Ultimately, the success of this course
depends on students' reactions to new expressions and perceptions of the natural
world, good and evil, the workings of the heart, truth.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of ENG 102, the student will be able to

1. demonstrate an understanding of such aspects of short stories and novels as
plot, setting, character development, point of view, tone, style, theme, and use
of language.

2. demonstrate an understanding of poetic language and form, including such
elements as
   a. type of poem (for example, sonnet, dramatic);
   b. subject matter and speaker;
   c. use of language (diction, denotation, and
      connotation);
   d. figurative language and imagery (simile, metaphor,
      symbol, analogy, allusion);
   e. verse form;
   f. rhythm and meter; and
   g. theme.

3. demonstrate an understanding of such elements of the drama as plot,
structure, character development, setting, staging, and of forms such as
tragedy, comedy, and modern realism.

4. analyze and interpret the literature studied through written presentations
that demonstrate
   a. a focused response appropriate to the assignment;
   b. a clear statement of student's purpose (thesis);
   c. a coherent organization appropriate to the student's
      thesis;
   d. pertinent textual details and excerpts supporting or
      illustrating the thesis.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE COURSE: Students will not be
restricted to responding to literature verbally; in addition, three short papers
are required. The due dates for these essays are as follows:
M/W:   #1 (Fiction) 3/1; #2 (Poetry) 4/12; #3 (Drama) 5/12.
T/TH:  #1 (Fiction) 3/2; #2 (Poetry) 4/8;  #3 (Drama) 5/11.
R Eve.:#1 (Fiction) 3/4; #2 (Poetry) 4/15; #3 (Drama) 5/13.
Of course, each student is expected to read the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them in detail. I reserve the right to spring surprise quizzes if I sense the class hasn’t been reading, the response-flow ebbing.


ATTENDANCE POLICY: If a student has three or more unexcused absences from class, that student may be dropped from the course. Yes, missed classes will affect your grade. Do not make appointments with doctors, dentists, cosmetic surgeons, etc. during class time; visits to doctors during class time count as absences. Illness does not excuse you from class—you’re allowed three absences, so save them for when you are sick. If a student is late three times, that will count as an absence.

GRADING: 3 papers—30% each; Class Participation—10% (which will include quiz grades if they are given); Repeated violations of classroom decorum WILL result in a lower final grade or expulsion from the class. Violations include, but are not limited to, tardiness, talking out of turn, sleeping in class, habitual bathroom use, and cell phones chiming, ringing, chirping, or beeping. You will be asked to leave the class and take an absence if I see you texting anyone during class. If you can’t find it possible to be out of communication with someone for more than an hour and fifteen minutes, you don’t belong in college. Show respect for your classmates and your professor—please don’t be rude!

"Every day we slaughter our finest impulses. That is why we get a heartache when we read those lines written by the hand of a master and recognize them as our own, as the tender shoots which we stifled because we lacked the faith to believe our own powers, our own criteria of truth and beauty. Every man, when he gets quiet, when he becomes desperately honest with himself, is capable of uttering profound truths. We all derive from the same source. There is no mystery about the origin of things. We are all part of creation, all kings, all poets, all musicians; we have only to open up, only to discover what is already there."
—Henry Miller—

Plagiarism is a serious offense. Do not claim anyone else's work as your own—not even a sentence. Plagiarism will result in a FAILING GRADE for the term. Do your own work. See the college catalog for this institution's official policy on plagiarism.

Late papers will be docked one full letter grade for each class they are late. Turn your work in on time. Students are expected to turn in their essays in the classroom; no e-mail submissions will be accepted.