

Instructor: Mr. Palsgaard

Class: English 1B

Time: Tue. 6:00-7:50

SELMA

Introduction to literature is a course designed to display the importance of literature in our society. My desire is not for students to see the difficulty in reading literature nor is it to present an academic study of poetry, short stories, novels and plays. My hope is that by the end of the course, you will be able to see literature as a relevant part of your everyday life. Writers begin their works by observing the everyday world around them and attempt to make comments upon our relationships with society, nature, God, and ourselves. In essence, writers try to say what it means to live in a particular day and age, under particular historical, governmental and religious structures, issues we must deal with whether in an active or passive manner.

Books: Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness. Ed. Ross C. Murfin

Vesterman, William. Literature: An Introduction To Critical Reading.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) Four essays (3-4 pgs.) worth a hundred points each will be assignment at the end of each section of literature.
- (2) Presentations: You will have to conduct at least one presentation on either a short story, a poem, a play, or a portion of the novel (Heart of Darkness). All presentations will be given in a group of no more than three, will last at least fifteen minutes, and will be worth 50 pts.
- (3) Journal: I will require you to keep a journal and make a half page to a full page entry for every poem, short story, novel (will spend four weeks on Heart of Darkness; thus, you need to make four journal entries) & and play we read. I will collect the journal twice during the semester--midterm & final. I will not make comments on your journal entries, but you will loose points for every literary work not commented on. The journals are worth one hundred points
- (4) Quizzes: I reserve the right to give a quiz during any given class. Quizzes are worth 20 pts. each.
- (5) Attendance: If you miss more than three class periods, you will be automatically dropped from the class.
- (6) Class participation is a must. We will be discussing literature every class session.
- (7) Late Papers: I will accept late papers; however, you drop one letter grade for every class period the essay is not turned in.

Paper Format: All essays should be typed, double-spaced and have one inch margins on all sides.

Grades:

Four papers--100 pts. each (400 pts)

Journal--100 pts.

Presentation--50 pts.