

**SYLLABUS**  
**ENG 204:02 Introduction to Literature: Poetry & Drama**  
**M/W/F 8:00-8:50, Kethley 138**  
**Fall 2009**

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:00 and 11:00-12:00; TR 3:00-5:00 and by appointment  
Mailbox: Languages & Literature Dept Office, Kethley 202  
Writing Center: Kethley 201

ENGL 204 is designed to introduce students to the study of poetry and drama and to teach students to write academically about literature. Students will write two fully developed essays and, by then end of the course, should be able to 1) identify the elements of poetry and drama and understand their aesthetic and persuasive functions; 2) define the basic terms and concepts related to the analysis of these genres and apply them critically; 3) analyze and interpret given works individually and in relationship to other works; and 4) communicate a critical understanding both in oral and written form.

***On-Line Information About DSU's Library Resources***

The Roberts-LaForge Library has created a web page to help familiarize students with what our library has to offer. Several links are available from the main web page to help you learn more about the library and effective research strategies. I encourage you to visit the guide to circulation page at the following URL address:

[http://www.deltastate.edu/docs/library/Circulation\\_Services.pdf](http://www.deltastate.edu/docs/library/Circulation_Services.pdf)

Library personnel are always ready to help with any questions you might have about library use. Stop by the Information/Reference Desk with your questions or concerns.

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

- The Poetry Handbook. 2nd edition. John Lennard. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Drama: A Pocket Anthology. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. R.S. Gwynn. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2009.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

***Essays***

You will write two fully developed and revised essays this semester.

Please follow this format for all of your essay rough drafts and final copies:

- Final drafts should follow the MLA format. An example of a paper in MLA format can be found on page 117 in the MLA Handbook.
- Essays must be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper, and with standard one-inch margins on all sides of the page.
- The font used for all drafts should be **12-point Times New Roman**.
- Pages must be numbered with your last name and page number in the upper right-hand corner.
- Your essays must have a title, but please do not make a separate title page.

- When you submit a final copy of an essay, please include with it a rubric, the assignment sheet, all of your drafts, and your prewriting.

### ***Readings and Reading-Response Assignments***

We will be reading many essays and articles along with various selections from our course books. You will often be required to prepare a reading-response assignment in addition to our regular essay work. These assignments are designed to reinforce what you are learning in class and to help you understand the writing process.

### ***Attendance***

Daily attendance is required for this course. If you miss classes on a regular basis and therefore are not present to work with your peers, I will not be able to evaluate the essay on which you are currently working. More than three absences will result in your final grade being lowered by one letter. More than five absences is cause for failing the course. Please notify me immediately if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from coming to class on a regular basis.

### ***Late Work***

All work – rough drafts and final copies – must be turned in on time and during class. I will not accept late work unless you have made a personal arrangement with me; essays turned in to my mailbox will not be accepted. If you are unable to turn in an assignment for emergency reasons, please inform me personally and as soon as possible. Please make use of my email if you are unable to contact me by phone. The decision of whether or not I accept late work, regardless of excuse, is solely mine.

### ***Turnitin***

In this course you may be asked to submit some or all of your assignments for review by an on-line plagiarism service. This service will compare the content of your work to content found on the internet and several proprietary databases. Any work submitted to this service may become part of the service's permanent collection of submitted papers. After your work is submitted, the service will generate an originality report which will be sent to your instructor. Any student who submits plagiarized work will be subject to the penalties outlined in DSU's Academic Honesty Policy found in the Student Handbook.

### ***Plagiarism***

Please consult DSU's Student Handbook (<http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/304.asp>) for policies concerning plagiarism and academic honesty. All policies and penalties for violations stated in these materials apply to our class. Please visit <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/1268.asp> for information on what constitutes plagiarism.

### ***Disabilities Services***

Delta State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992. If you have a physical, medical, psychological, or learning disability that is going to impact your attendance or require accommodation, please let me know. In order to ensure that your learning needs are appropriately met, you will need to provide documentation of your disability or medical condition to the ADA Coordinator of Disability Services in O.W. Reily Student Health Center, 846-4690. The Office of Disability Services will then provide a letter of verification of disability that describes the accommodations needed for this class. For more information, please visit <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/978.asp>

## THE GRADING SYSTEM

### *Essay Grades*

- **An A essay** demonstrates a superior command of the subject matter and presents information and argument so effectively that the reader enjoys reading the essay and learns from it. The A essay shows a clear pattern of organization, original thought, and critical thinking which captivates the audience and keeps readers involved through all stages of the essay. Moreover, the A essay reveals a sophistication in style and an original voice; sentences are appropriately varied in length and construction; transitions and metadiscourse are used to produce a smooth flow for the reader; connections between sentences and ideas are clear. The A essay is the work of a writer who is able to deal comfortably with complex material and can present that material effectively for others. As a result of its careful organizational structure and development by example, all factors, both in content and style, combine to form a unified whole.
- **A B essay** contains few mechanical errors (none of which impede communication), and it effectively delivers a substantial amount of interesting information. The specific points are logically ordered, well-developed, and unified according to a clear organizing principle. The introduction and conclusion are effective, but not as engaging as in the A essay. The essay exhibits an understanding of metadiscourse, and transitions are adequately smooth and logical. The writing in a B essay is organized, clear, coherent, and correct.
- **A C essay** is generally competent and reasonably well-developed and organized. The C essay demonstrates an average knowledge of the subject matter, but the presentation of that information is often vaguely stated and superficially connected. The essay may lack adequate transitions and use of metadiscourse. The sentence structure is often not varied in either length or construction. It may contain some mechanical or grammatical errors, but they do not interfere significantly with meaning. Though the C essay fulfills the assignment, it is not especially engaging or enlightening.
- **A D essay** minimally demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter or an ability to synthesize materials from various sources to formulate a coherent and valid argument. It may also have serious flaws in organization, development, syntax, word choice, and/or mechanics and grammar.

### *The Course Grades*

It is possible to receive a “WF” (**Withdraw Fail**) in this course. If you should stop attending this class for any reason without going through the university’s official procedure for dropping a class, you will receive a “WF” for this course, the grade will appear on your transcript, and an “F” will be calculated into your grade point average.

### *Letter Grade/Point Scale for English 204*

Your final grade in English 204 will be based on the following weighted scale.

Assignment	Weighted Percentage
Quizzes	20
Essay #1	25

Essay #2	25
Final Exam	20
Participation/Attendance	10 (This includes turning in all work on time, coming to class on time, and participating in class discussions and group activities)

Once all points have been awarded, add the total together and use the following scale to determine your final grade for the course:

100-90 points = A  
89-80 points = B

79-70 points = C  
69-60 points = D

59 and below = F

### IMPORTANT DATES

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Monday, August 17         | First day of class                 |
| • Monday, August 24         | Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz          |
| • Monday, August 31         | Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz          |
| • Monday, September 7       | Labor Day Holiday                  |
| • Wednesday, September 9    | Chapter 3 & 4 Vocabulary Quiz      |
| • Monday, September 14      | Chapter 5 & 6 Vocabulary Quiz      |
| • Monday, September 21      | Chapter 7 & 8 Vocabulary Quiz      |
| • Friday, October 2         | Final Draft of Poetry Analysis Due |
| • October 14 – October 16   | Fall Break                         |
| • November 23 – November 27 | Thanksgiving Break                 |
| • Monday, November 30       | Drama Outlines Due                 |
| • Friday, December 4        | Final Draft of Drama Analysis Due  |
| • Tuesday, December 8       | Final Exam, 8 A.M.                 |

POETRY = The Poetry Handbook

DRAMA = Drama: A Pocket Anthology

#### *Week 1*

### ***INTRODUCTION TO POETRY***

#### **--Meter**

Monday, August 17

**Assignment:** Read chapter 1 in POETRY (pp 1-30) and begin familiarizing yourself with the terms at the end of the chapter – quiz on Monday.

Wednesday, August 19

**Assignment:** Print Clare's "An Invite to Eternity"  
(<http://ssad.bowdoin.edu:8668/space/An+Invite+to+Eternity>) and scan it – due Friday.

Friday, August 21

**Assignment:** Study for vocabulary quiz on Monday. Begin reading chapter 2 in POETRY (pp 33-75) – due Wednesday.

**Week 2**

**--Form**

Monday, August 24

**Assignment:** Finish reading chapter 2 in POETRY (pp 33-75) and begin familiarizing yourself with the terms at the end of the chapter – quiz on Monday.

Wednesday, August 26

**Assignment:** Locate a formal poem and bring to class on Friday – be sure there is no indication on the page of what form the poem is written in.

Friday, August 28

**Assignment:** Study for vocabulary quiz on Monday. Read chapter 3 in POETRY (pp 81-101).

**Week 3**

**--Layout & Punctuation**

Monday, August 31

**Assignment:** Read chapter 4 in POETRY (pp 105-148). Begin familiarizing yourself with the vocabulary at the ends of both chapter 3 and 4 – quiz on Wednesday, September 9.

Wednesday, September 2

**Assignment:** Select a poem to bring to class on Friday. Remove all the punctuation and lineage from the poem. Bring your copy and the original to class.

Friday, September 4

**Assignment:** Study for the vocabulary quiz on Wednesday. Read chapter 5 in POETRY (pp 153-185). Begin to familiarize yourself with the vocabulary for the quiz on Monday, Sept 14.

**Week 4**

**--Lineation & Rhyme**

Monday, September 7

No Classes – Labor Day Holiday

Wednesday, September 9

**Assignment:** Read chapter 6 in POETRY (pp 189-218). Begin to familiarize yourself with the vocabulary for the quiz on Monday.

Friday, September 11

**Assignment:** Study for the vocabulary quiz on Monday. Read chapter 7 in POETRY (pp 222-259) and begin to familiarize yourself with the vocabulary for next Monday's quiz.

**Week 5**

**--Diction & Syntax**

Monday, September 14

**Assignment:** Read chapter 8 in POETRY (pp 263-285) and begin to familiarize yourself with the vocabulary for the quiz on Monday.

Wednesday, September 16

**Assignment:** Choose a poem with at least twenty lines. Go through the poem and determine the verb tense for each verb used. Rewrite the poem with a different verb tense. How does the poem change? Bring both to class on Friday and be prepared to discuss.

Friday, September 18

**Assignment:** Study for the vocabulary quiz on Monday. Have a nice weekend.

**Week 6**

**--Critical Responses to Poetry**

Monday, September 21

**Assignment:** Read sample essays on Geoffrey Hill's poem (essay 1 and 4) at the following website: <http://www.oup.com/uk/booksites/content/0199265380/essays/>. Be prepared to discuss in class on Wednesday.

Wednesday, September 23

**Assignment:** Go to: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/tool.poem.cat.html> - select Poets, select By School or Period, select a school or period that interests you. Each link will give you a list of poets who fall under that category. Click on the link of the poet you're interested in, this will take you to a brief bio of the poet and a selection of poetry that you may read online. Spend a little time looking through this site. Select the poet and poem you would like to write about for your first essay. Bring three copies of the poem to class on Friday.

Friday, September 25

**Assignment:** Finish your detailed outline for essay one. Read the two Louis MacNeice essays at <http://www.oup.com/uk/booksites/content/0199265380/essays/>. Bring your outline and poem to class on Monday.

**Week 7**

**--Poetry Essay Workshops**

Monday, September 28

**Assignment:** Complete the rough draft of your essay. Bring two copies to class on Wednesday.

Wednesday, September 30

**Assignment:** Make final revisions to essay one – final draft due Friday. You will submit your essay online through TurnItIn.com as well as in hard copy form in class.

Friday, October 2

**--Final Draft of Poetry Analysis DUE**

**Assignment:** Have a great weekend!

**Week 8**

**INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA**

**--Dramatic Terms & Conventions**

Monday, October 5

**Assignment:** Read the introduction in DRAMA (pp 1-25) – excluding Film Versions: A Note. Begin familiarizing yourself with the elements of drama as discussed in the introduction.

Wednesday, October 7

**Assignment:**

Friday, October 9

***In Class Activities:*** Begin in class reading of Antigone

***Week 9***

***--Sophocles: Antigone***

Monday, October 12

***Assignment:*** Finish reading Sophocles' Antigone.

Wednesday, October 14

**No Classes – Fall Break**

Friday, October 16

No Classes – Fall Break

***Week 10***

***--Sophocles: Antigone (continued)***

Monday, October 19

***Assignment:*** Create a rough outline of an essay on Antigone – paying close attention to the details you might wish to analyze in an essay on this play.

Wednesday, October 21

***In Class Activities:*** Begin the in class viewing of Antigone

Friday, October 23

***Assignment:*** Add a section to your outline on Antigone that addresses the similarities and differences between the play and the production.

***Week 11***

***--Tennessee Williams: The Glass Menagerie***

Monday, October 26

Wednesday, October 28

Friday, October 30

***Assignment:*** Create a rough outline of an essay on The Glass Menagerie – paying close attention to the details you might wish to analyze in an essay on this play.

***Week 12***

***--Williams: The Glass Menagerie (continued)***

Monday, November 2

Wednesday, November 4

***Assignment:*** Add a section to your outline in which you discuss the similarities and differences in the play and the production.

Friday, November 6

**Assignment:** Work on the production of your group's interpretation of the play.

**Week 13**

**--Albee: *The Sandbox* & Ives: *Sure Thing***

Monday, November 9

**Assignment:** Write an outline of a paper you might write about this play.

Wednesday, November 11

**Assignment:** Write an outline of a paper you might write about this play.

Friday, November 13

**Week 14**

**--Athol Fugard: *Master Harold***

Monday, November 16

Wednesday, November 18

Friday, November 20

**Assignment:** Read the short essay on Writing About Drama in DRAMA (pp 29-35). From the five plays we've read, choose one for your second essay topic. Write a rough draft of your second essay and bring two copies to our next class meeting after Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful holiday!

**Week 15**

**--No Classes – Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 16**

**--Writing About Drama & Workshops**

Monday, November 30

**--Drama Outlines DUE**

**Assignment:** Begin revising your final essay – due Friday.

Wednesday, December 2

**Assignment:** Complete the revisions to your final essay and submit it to TurnItIn.com by noon on Friday. Also email a word document copy of your final essay to me ([gscala@deltastate.edu](mailto:gscala@deltastate.edu)) by noon on Friday. No class on Friday – begin studying for the final exam.

Friday, December 4

**--Final Draft of Drama Analysis DUE by noon**

**--NO CLASS – FINAL EXAM PREP**

**--FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 8 A.M.**