ENGL 150-11H

Honors Advanced Freshman English:

The American Dream

Fall 2017 – M – 4:00-6:30p

**Professor:** Ross K. Tangedal, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours:** MWR 11:00-12:00 [CCC 325]

**Meeting Place:** CCC 240

**Course Catalog Description:** Research and writing using appropriate rhetorical strategies for students with potential for accelerated reading, writing, and research.

*“No one forgets the truth; they just get better at lying.”*

*“If you don’t try at anything, you can’t fail…it takes back bone to lead the life you want.”*

*“You want to play house, you got to have a job. You want to play very* nice *house, very* sweet *house, then you got to have a job you don't like.”*

*“If my work has a theme, I suspect it is a simple one: that most human beings are inescapably alone, and therein lies their tragedy.”*

-Richard Yates (1926-1992)

***Welcome to ENGL 150: Advanced Freshman English.*** This course is a critical thinking, reading, and writing course. In addition to essay writing, students will learn basic research and information literacy from reading assignments, class assignments, and their own primary research. Your writing will be carefully monitored and reviewed as the semester progresses, by both myself and your fellow classmates (through peer reviews). Your writing shall function as an important part of our public discourse. Small group discussions and other activities will be included in the learning process. As a writing intensive course, the method and execution of your personal writing style will be crucial to the development of the class themes, as will discussion and personal research. Throughout the course you will engage in “inspired” research surrounding the “American Dream,” meaning that you will take something from the pieces we read and write about that topic for class. Have fun with this. Writing can get students down at times, but if you choose to engage in a topic that sparks some real writing inspiration, then I say go for it. This is not a literature course, however, the skills we use to analyze and talk about literature (we will be reading the work of Richard Yates this term, as well as short stories by Sherwood Anderson, Ernest Hemingway, Washington Irving, Willa Cather, and F. Scott Fitzgerald) are transferable across many courses and writing genres that you will be exposed to during your college years. This course will prepare you to think critically, write clearly and with purpose, articulate rhetorical positions, and read texts closely. I want projects and papers about things that matter to you, and the methods learned will undoubtedly become a key part of your continued college writing success.

**Required Course Texts (purchase):**

Yates, Richard. *Eleven Kinds of Loneliness*. 1962

---. *Revolutionary Road*. 1961.

**Required Course Text (rental):**

*The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings*. 3rd Ed. Eds. Richard Bullock & Maureen Daly Goggin. W.W. Norton & Co., 2013.

\*Various stories available on D2L

**GEP Learning Outcomes & Course Objectives:**

Upon completing this, course students will be able to:

1. Identify basic components and elements that shape successful writing such as topic, purpose, genre, and audience.
2. Compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience.
3. Critique their own and others’ writing to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

*Our class will accomplish these goals by engaging in the following:*

1. **Critical Reading / Logical Thinking**: We will read a variety of pieces and texts throughout the semester, ranging from argumentative essay and textual analysis, to short story and memoir. These readings serve as gateways to critical and analytical skills, skills that are crucial to effective writing. We will connect, refute, discuss, and critique these readings together.
2. **Effective Researching**: Though this class is not research heavy, we will still learn how to engage in academic research, determine the veracity of a given source, integrate sources into your writing, and properly document sources.
3. **Coherent Writing (Rhetorical Awareness)**: Your writing will focus mainly on textual analysis and argumentation, since these two genres span the majority of college writing. We will analyze writing situations based on audience, purpose, and context, while writing in a variety of genres.
4. **Coherent Writing (Writing Processes)**: Our class will engage in frequent writing assignments, including peer reviews, revision workshops, in-class reflections, and drafting. We will learn the value of pre-writing and drafting strategies, revising at all times, and reviewing the work of others.

**Grading Scale:**

**A** 100-93% **B+** 89-87% **C+** 79-77% **D+** 69-67%

**A-** 92-90% **B** 86-83% **C** 76-73% **D** 66-65%

**B-** 82-80% **C-** 72-70% **F** 64-0%

**Assignments:**

1. **2 Short Essays, 3-4 pp (20% each; 40% total)**: Short Paper #1 (Story), will be a close analysis of one of the short stories covered in the first part of class. Short Paper #2 (Theme), will be a thematic analysis where you connect two Yates story from part two. More details will follow as the due dates approach.
2. **Research Essay, 6pp (25**%)**:** The Final Essay will be a research paper on the course theme requiring both primary analysis and secondary support. More details will follow.
3. **Short Presentation (10%):** At the end of the term each of you will give a five-minute retrospective presentation on your writing journey during the course. More details will follow.
4. **Participation (25%)**: You will be graded daily on your level of participation during class discussion and other class activities. I base your daily participation grade on a number of criteria: 1) speaking up in class; 2) actively participating in group work; 3) being on time to class and missing as few as possible; 4) turning in homework and assignments on time; 5) Seeing me during office hours; 6) being respectful and professional during class. Participation is vital to your final grade. Not only do I want you to attend my class, but I want you to have something of value to say and do when you arrive. However, if you have a hard time speaking up in class, please talk to me and we will arrange an alternative method for you to share your thoughts.

**Class Policies:**

1. **Discussion Etiquette**: On day one we will establish our discussion ground rules as a class. Some things to consider:
   1. Our readings will bring up controversial subject matter. As college students and newly minted members of the academy, I expect you to hold yourself with professionalism, good humor, and respect. Degrading others’ opinions, stances, or remarks for any reason at any time will not be tolerated.
   2. I want you to disagree with each other. I want you to disagree with me. But disagreement does not mean denigrating, teasing, or hurting one another. Let’s be adults.
   3. I want your voice to be heard, and to some that means speaking with me outside of class rather than in class discussions. I am always available for a good chat. Communicate!
2. **Attendance:** ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. It is extremely difficult for me to do my job if you are not here. Not only will I be unable to give insight and experience to the class, but your classmates will not be able to help you develop ideas and techniques. **I allow one unexcused absences throughout the semester**. This is NOT negotiable. If you do not attend my course you will not pass. Period. If you are on an athletic team, you are required to show me documentation from your coach of the days you will be absent. Athletes who miss class because of away games are required to turn their work in prior to leaving for their event.
3. **Preparing for Class:** At the end of each class period I will assign either a reading from the text or a short writing assignment (or both). You are expected to read the assigned texts carefully and thoroughly. DO NOT come to class if you haven’t read the text. You will only hinder the discussion.
4. **Late Work:** All homework is to be turned in ON TIME. Late work will result in grade deduction (partial letter grade per day late, i.e. – A becomes an A-, C+ becomes a C) **NOTE:** You must turn in all assignments to pass the class. Failure to turn in any assignment as scheduled will result in an ‘F’ for the class.
5. **Tardiness:** I expect you to be on time to class. I begin and end class promptly. I will NEVER keep you over class time. Excessive tardiness will result in absences, and since we only have one day a week together, we need to stay on course. Be on time.
6. **Plagiarism:** Use of the intellectual property of others without attributing it to them is considered a serious academic offense. **Cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the work or for the entire course.** If you think you might be plagiarizing, you probably are.Don’t be the person who cheats. If you are having problems come talk to me about what we can do to help you avoid the cardinal sin of writing. For more detailed information regarding Academic Misconduct please consult: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>.
7. **Electronic Devices/Video**: Electronic devices are distracting and their use while others are speaking is impolite; unless you are asked to use them for a class activity, turn off your cell phones, laptops, Ipads, etc., and put them away. Laptops are not allowed unless we are workshopping, and you must have an Accommodations Request requiring use for a disability. Take notes with pencil and paper. I like pencils, and I like paper. To respect the privacy of those in the class, students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to turn off the device being used. Refusal to comply with the policywill result in the student being asked to leave the classroom, and possibly being reported to the Dean of Students.
8. **Accommodations:** If you require special accommodations for any reason please let me know. I will do my best to facilitate and arrange the proper accommodation.
9. **Emails**: Email is both a blessing and a curse. Please respect the fact that I am teaching several classes per semester, which means that I will do my very best to respond to your emails within 24 hours during the week (48 hours over the weekend). However, I will not recap entire class periods for you via email (stop by my office instead for some coffee and a chat), nor will I repeat information available on this syllabus or in a class handout (consult course materials before shooting off that email about essay page count). Also, I firmly believe in correspondence etiquette. Email may be informal, but I expect your messages to be polite and respectful. Include a salutation (Dear Dr. Tangedal, Hello Professor Tangedal) and conclusion (sincerely, best, thanks,). Be a pro. If your tone becomes an issue, we will have a talk.
10. **Office Hours**: I hold office hours for your benefit**. Come see me any time.**