

## **Dept of English**

### **ENL240: Introduction to Literary Study**

**Summer Session 11: July 7-August 7, 2009**

**T/TR 6:00-9:30 PM. Music 23**

**Mzenga Wanyama, Memorial 214**

**612-330-1005, wanyamam@Augsburg.edu**

**Enl 240** is a course that is designed to introduce you to basic concepts of literature and its study. The course will give you an opportunity to see literary concepts in practical application and to demonstrate your own ability to apply such concepts in your analysis of various literary texts. You will read texts of poetry, fiction, and drama as manifestations of distinct literary genres with a view, ultimately, to isolating and articulating the very important social, political, and psychological concerns that are variously addressed by these texts. In other words, the course will give you tools for the interpretation of literary texts.

#### **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Define literature: its characteristics, tenets, and its genres
- Describe the special nature of literary language and its purposes
- Read works of literature with comprehension, clarity, and discrimination
- Construct “original” interpretations of literary texts that reflect an understanding of both the nature literary communication and the broad social-world referents of such texts

#### **Required Texts**

Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* (Copies in Augsburg bookstore)

Barnet, Burto, and, Cain. *An Introduction to Literature* 15th Edition (Copies in Augsburg Bookstore)

Hurston, Zora. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* ( in Augsburg Bookstore)

#### **Course Requirements.**

In order to successfully complete the course, you will:

- Complete all assigned reading on the due dates
- Write three short interpretations of selected or assigned literary texts
- Present your interpretive pieces to the class for discussion

- Write a researched and documented essay on a specified literary topic and share the results with the class for discussion
- Participate in class discussions of the course materials and other presentations
- Write a final exam

### **Attendance Policy**

A summer class like ours has only ten meetings and to miss even one of those will put you at a great disadvantage. Missing class deprives you of the opportunity to learn from others and negatively impacts your participation grade. If you are not there at the material time, the rest of the class loses the opportunity to pick your brain, as it were. If you miss two meetings, your entire grade will be subject to reduction, and if you miss three meetings, you will not receive credit for the course.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Thus your grade will turn on your ensuring that you:

- Attend class regularly
- Complete all reading and writing assignments on the due dates
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the concepts of the course
- Participate actively in all discussions of course materials
- Write clearly and articulately about the texts studied in the course
- Work well with other peers in collaborative situations

### **Plagiarism and Intellectual Dishonesty**

Augsburg College has an Academic Honesty Policy that you all must acquaint yourself with. It is found in the Student Handbook, the online version of which can be found at [www.augsburg.edu/studentguide/](http://www.augsburg.edu/studentguide/). The policy stipulates, among other things, that all work you produce in this class as in all your other classes must be your own work. If you borrow from other sources words or ideas, you must incorporate these in your writing and cite the sources thus used according to relevant academic formalities. We shall discuss in class the slippery ground that is plagiarism so as to give you all the tools available for avoiding it. But the responsibility for ensuring that you engage in honest scholarship is ultimately yours. The penalty for violation of the principle is failure of the course.

### **Course Schedule**

July 7 and 14 (week 1 of classes):

Reading and Interpreting Literature

Read chapters 1 through 6 of *Introduction to Literature*  
 “Thinking, and Writing Critically about Literature”

Read chapter of *Literary Theory: a Very Short Introduction*

The rest of the schedule will be shared in class