

Syllabus Spring 2008

Eng 265W.06 - Readings in Literature of the Classic Western World EV 251 - MWF 11 a.m.

David T. Gaines

Smith-Kirkley 233

(936) 294-4097

eng_dtg@shsu.edu

(936) 825-4626

dt.gaines@hotmail.com

Class Schedule

Eng 165W.35 3573 MWF 10:00 EV 260

Eng 265W.06 1601 MWF 11:00 EV 251

Eng 165W.07 1532 MWF 01:00 EV 262

Eng 165W.14 1561 MWF 02:00 EV 358

Course Outline

Exam Othello 1 Feb 100 pts A 900-1000

Exam The Iliad 29 Feb 100 pts B 800-899

Exam The Odyssey 28 Mar 100 pts C 700-799

Paper Marisol 11 Apr 100 pts D 600-699

Exam Antigone 25 Apr 100 pts F 599 or below

Research paper 2 May 200 pts

Daily grades 100 pts

Final 200 pts

Course Objective

In Eng 265W, we have the opportunity to examine a broad range of Classic Western Literature, as illustrated by the course outline, plus the fact that we'll attend the play, Marisol, presented by the SHSU Department of Theatre and Dance in the Showcase Theatre. Marisol is modern, one man's irreverent prophecy for our world. Jose Rivera's play is placed after works by Shakespeare and Homer and before Sophocles' tragedy. The works will not be studied in chronological order. Othello, which will be studied first, was originally performed in 1604; the Iliad and the Odyssey were written in the Eighth Century BC; Antigone, which will be studied last, appeared some years before 400 B.C. The four classical works are tied together by powerful men and powerful action, although often these powerful men's powerful actions are dangerously misguided. For example, Othello murders his wife for cheating on him, though he has no evidence to support his jealousy; Achilles pouts in his tent because he feels insulted, though he has no justification for his sulking; Odysseus views himself as a self sufficient hero because he has overcome every obstacle, though he ignores generous help from men and gods; Creon condemns an innocent girl because he must establish discipline, though he fails to recognize that with authority must come judgement. These works are classic, they have withstood the test of time. The messages within these classic lines are as timely now as when initially published. Your objective in studying these disparate works should be to possess each within your mental library. My objective is to help you understand each work so well that it becomes permanent in your mental library.

Required Texts

The Iliad

The Odyssey

The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles

Othello

Marisol script is optional

Final Exam: If you are passing all class work, you will qualify for the final exam. The final is required. You will not be exempt. Ninety percent of retained learning is acquired studying for the final.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism results in an automatic F for the course.

Plagiarism is a form of theft defined as the use of someone else's information without proper credit. Don't plagiarize!

Class Participation: The biggest ten percent in grading. Class participation can boost your grade or strangle it. Failure to participate in class, failure to attend class, failure to participate actively in class projects will result in an F. University policy gives you three cuts for classes that meet thrice weekly, two cuts for class that meet twice weekly, no questions asked. Use your cuts wisely. Expect to lose five points off your final grade for each unexcused absence after five

Students with Disabilities that may affect academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the Counseling Center then make arrangements with me to accommodate any special needs.

Religious Holy Days: Students needing time off for a religious holy day should see me. A religious holy day can be observed by any religion whose place of worship is tax exempt.

Class Attire: Proper semi-formal attire is required for attendance of the required play and any required class presentations.

Gentlemen - do not wear caps or hats in class. Use discretion. Flip flops, torn clothing (stylish or not) is discouraged. You are preparing for a career. Look like it.

Ladies - use discretion in choosing clothing. Flip flops, torn clothing (stylish or not) is discouraged. You are supposed to be preparing for a career. Look like it.

Class Decorum - You are expected to conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen in keeping with the highest standards of behavior and the finest classroom tradition. To this end, Eng 265W will be the only subject studied during time allotted for Eng 265W.

Portable telephones must neither be heard nor answered during class. Use of a telephone will result in an absence.

Visitors should not be brought to class without prior approval. Visitors under age 17 are prohibited.

Use of tobacco and intoxicants is prohibited.

These rules apply to every class whether class time is spent in the classroom or at some other location.

Instructor Evaluation - SHSU administrators claim you will have an opportunity to evaluate me.

Office Hours - MWF 9 - 10 a.m., 12 - 1 p.m., 4:15 - 5 p.m.

(It's a good idea to let me know you're coming).

Call me any time day or night. I won't mind talking to you. If you call during late hours, give me a moment to wake up. Don't be bashful. If you need to call, do!