

Course Expectations, Fall 2009
English: Literature and Composition
Instructor: Richard Grant

I. Overview

This course will have a dual focus: it will provide a solid grounding in the necessary skills of written English, including structure, grammar, and usage; it will also introduce students to the rich literary tradition of the British Isles.

For the writing segment of the class, we'll use *The New Oxford Guide to Writing* by Thomas S. Kane and *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White. Students will have both in-class and take-home writing assignments, often related to the assigned literary works.

For the reading segment of the class, we will read and analyze a range of important works in their historic and cultural context. Students are encouraged to respond honestly to the reading — positively or negatively — but also to explore deeply the sources of their response. We may have unscheduled quizzes or exercises to confirm that students are keeping up with the assigned reading. Individual students may also be given special personal assignments, including make-up work or quizzes, in order to earn credit for the course.

Works to be read may be chosen from the following (this list may be amended and may include alternate titles, depending on the progress of the class):

- *Decline and Fall*, Evelyn Waugh
- *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, George Orwell
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare
- *Silas Marner*, George Elliot (Mary Ann Evans)
- *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce
- *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens
- Poems by Kipling, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Eliot, and others
- Short fiction by Elizabeth Bowen and Virginia Woolf

Students are encouraged to recommend other works they would like to read.

2. Earning credit

Credit is awarded for completing all reading and writing assignments and for active participation in class discussion and other activities (including any extra or alternative assignments given individually). Students will be expected to make up missed assignments.

Credit with honors may be awarded in exceptional cases when a student has completed all regular class assignments and, in addition, has done independent work outside of class, which may include original creative writing, reading a challenging work and

presenting a paper or a talk, or some other ambitious and self-directed undertaking.