

LINFIELD COLLEGE
ENG 376 EXPLORING LANGUAGE
Spring, 2008

INSTRUCTOR Richard Lewis PHONE 503-282-6004
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REQUIRED TEXTS *The Norton Reader*, Eleventh Edition, by Peterson, Brereton. W.W. Norton, 2004
A Haunted House, Virginia Woolf. Harcourt, Inc. (Harvest Book)
Language Through the Looking Glass, Marina Yaguello. Oxford U Press
The Way to Rainy Mountain, N. Scott Momaday. U of New Mexico Press

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ENG 376, Exploring Language, examines English descriptively—i.e., as a written and spoken form of communication—and creatively—i.e., in fiction, poetry, and essays with an emphasis on the dramatic, lyrical, and philosophical power of language. Students will read a variety of texts, discuss aspects of language in these texts in small groups, write individual papers on topics provided by the instructor, participate in a chat room, and complete two exams.

PREREQUISITE None

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Identify aspects of language—structural features, cultural meaning, metaphor and associative meaning, sound, rhythm, etc.—especially as these aspects are exploited for literary and rhetorical purpose
- Enlarge the student's vocabulary for describing aspects of language
- Enrich the student's writing and verbal skills through discussion and writing
- Introduce students to exceptional examples of fiction, poetry, and prose.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Richard Lewis has his BA from Gonzaga University, his MA from Columbia University in modern literature; and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Old and Middle English Literature. He was a graduate fellow at Oxford University where he wrote his doctoral dissertation on Anglo-Saxon poetry. He has published scholarly articles in his primary field and taught at Carnegie-Mellon University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Willamette University, Washington State University-Vancouver, and, since 1998, Linfield College. His fields of instruction have been literature and writing, History of Western Thought, medieval history and culture, Renaissance art, and modern literature.

He was Executive Director of the Oregon Council for the Humanities from 1977 to 1997. He is a great fan of Anglo-American folksong, English Morris dancing and sword dancing, writing and hearing poetry, watching baseball, and sitting any or all of his four grandchildren.

Dr. Lewis is married and lives in Portland.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Course Grade

Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Course Papers	30%
Class Participation	25%

Mid-term Exam Monday-Wednesday, April 7-9. Two parts: a 20 question True/False/Multiple Choice Quiz, accessed through the Quiz/Exam link under Course Tools, and a Glossary/Essay Exam. Part One is taken within WebCT, with responses posted absolutely no later than noon on Tuesday, April 8; Part Two is posted under Announcements and must be submitted as a WebCT email no later than noon on Wednesday, April 9.

Final Exam Monday-Wednesday, May 25-27. Schedule is the same as at the Mid-term; two parts; the True/False/Multiple Choice part must be returned no later than Tuesday, May 26; the Glossary/Essay part must be back by WebCT email no later than noon on Wednesday, May 27.

Course Papers Students must submit four papers.

Discussion Groups Students must participate regularly in discussion groups. See Course Policies, "Class Participation."

Chat Room In the first week of the term, a Chat Room schedule will be established. Students are required to attend at least one chat room in the course of the semester.

Course Papers Students must submit four writing assignments.

First Writing Assignment; due: Midnight, Sunday, March 2nd. The first paper is a personal essay of 4 full pages, describing a situation in which the student uses language in a distinctive professional or cultural way; for example, in the work place, in talking with teens, in raising a child, or in the military.

Second Writing Assignment; due: Midnight, Sunday, 23rd. The second paper should be a 4-page about some ways, in the short stories by Virginia Woolf, the personal world of the self intersects with the larger social world and some of the ways that she, as a writer, tries to capture that intersection with particular images, language, and character. Think about such things as gender, class, urban setting, marriage, family, etc. The paper needn't be exhaustive.

Third and Fourth Writing Assignments The third and fourth assignments will be announced under Assignments on the Course Tools Menu. Check due dates on Class Participation Schedule.

COURSE POLICIES

Class Participation Students are required to participate regularly in a weekly discussion group, offering thoughts on that week's reading and responding to other students' comments, and to participate in at least one chat room in the course of the term. Participation in group discussion is

graded and the grade is based on both specific reference to the weekly reading and response to other students' comments. Participation includes timely submission of exams and assignments.

Late Work Assignments submitted late will be graded, but will lose half a grade level. Thus, a B grade would be reduced to B-. No incomplete grades will be given.

Incompletes An Incomplete grade of I will rarely be given and only where a documented emergency prevents the student from completing the Final Exam or the 4th Writing Assignment.

Academic Honesty Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found to be engaging in either of these activities at any point in the course will receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or entire course and may be subject to further college sanctions.

Students With Disabilities Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know if, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE
(This Schedule is as of Dec. 28, 2007, and is subject to change)

Feb 16 – 23	Read: Introductory Lecture Read: <i>Language Through the Looking Glass</i> , Chapter 1, pp. 6-21 Review Course Requirements Set up Discussion Groups Set up Chat Schedule
Feb 24 – Mar 1	Virginia Woolf, "An Unwritten Novel," p. 8 "Kew Gardens" p.28 Poetry: e.e. cummings, "Anyone Lived in a Pretty How Town" "Since Feeling is First" <u>First Writing Assignment is due by midnight, Sunday, March 2nd</u>
Mar 2 – Mar 8	Virginia. Woolf, "The Mark on the Wall," p. 37 "The New Dress," p.47 Poetry: Amy Lowell "The Garden by Moonlight" William Carlos Williams, "Waiting"
Mar.9 – Mar 15	<i>Language Through the Looking Glass</i> , Chapter 5, pp. 35-43 Poetry: Emily Dickinson, "Four Trees Upon a Solitary Acre" Robert Lowell, "Concord"
Mar 16 – Mar 22	Nort. Reader: Zora Neal Hurston, "How it Feels to be Colored Me" p. 41 Gloria Naylor, "Mommy, What Does 'Nigger' Mean?" 485 Poetry: Nikki Giovanni, "Poem for Flora" William Stafford, "Thinking for Berky"

- Mar 23 – Mar 29 Virginia Woolf, “The Shooting Party,” p. 58
 “A Summing Up,” p. 144
 Poetry: William Stafford, “Ask Me”
 “Allegiances”
Second Writing Assignment due by midnight, Sunday, March 23rd.
- Mar 30 – April 5 *Language Through the Looking Glass*, Chapters 7/8, pp 70-86
 Poetry: Wallace Stevens, “A Postcard From the Volcano.”
 Gerard Manly Hopkins, “Spring and Fall”
- April 6 – April 12 Midterm Exam, Monday-Wednesday, April 7-9
- April 13 – April 19 Norton Reader: Loren Eiseley, “The Brown Wasps,” p. 74
 Nancy Mairs, “On Being a Cripple,” p. 58
 Fatema Mernissi, “The Harem Within,” p. 162
 Poetry: Denise Levertov, “In Mind”
 e.e. cummings, “Pity This Busy Monster, Manunkind Not”
- April 20 – April 26 Norton Reader, Henry David Thoreau, “from Journal” p 102
 Carl Sagan, “The Abstractions of Beasts,” p. 604
 Plato, “Allegory of the Cave,”
 Poetry: e.e.cummings, “”
 Wallace Stevens, “Anecdote of the Jar”
 William Butler Yeats, “The Wild Swans at Coole”
- April 27 – May 3 *Language Through the Looking Glass*, Chapters 12/13, pp. 130-151
 Poetry: James Dickey, “For the Last Wolverine”
- May 4 – May 10 Read: N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*,
 “Introduction,” pp. 5-12; “The Setting Out,” pp. 15-39
 Poetry: Native American Culture, selection
Third Writing Assignment is due by midnight, Sunday, May 4
- May 11 – May 17 Read: N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*
 “The Going On,” pp. 43-61; “The Closing In,” pp. 65-83;
 “Epilogue,” pp. 85-89.
 Poetry: Native American Culture, selection
- May 18 – May 24 Read: Norton Reader: Frederick Douglas, “Learning to Read,” pp. 408
 Richard Rodriguez, “Aria,” pp. 492
 Poetry: Children’s Poems
Fourth Writing Assignment due by midnight, Sunday, May 18
- May 25-27 Final Exam