

## **Week 1 Assignments**

### **Syllabus/Lecture**

Please take the time to read through the syllabus closely to ensure your clear understanding of the course and the course logistics. I want to make sure everything is clear. In conjunction with the syllabus, the first course lecture will talk you through both the syllabus and the logistics of the course in more detail, just to make sure we are ready to get into real work next week. If you still have questions after both, don't hesitate to ask (by email or in your first journal response).

### **Poetry Handout**

The poetry handout is just an introduction to reading poetry and includes our first two course readings. Please follow the directions on the handout itself and note that it connects to your first Journal assignment (explained on page two of this handout).

### **Journal 1**

Your first Journal assignment is detailed on the second page of this document. Your Journals will be posted in Blackboard under, unsurprisingly, Journals in the Tools section. You can type your Journal in BB or you can copy your text from a Word document (whichever you feel more comfortable with).

### **Get Materials**

Once you feel comfortable with your understanding of the course and committed, please don't wait to get your materials. While you won't need the novels for a few weeks, you will need the course Anthology soon and often. I highly recommend using the course textbook, if only to ensure you are reading the right readings for each week and have access to the same author information. Having the correct textbook can save you lots of grief.

### **Blackboard**

Take the time to get familiar with Blackboard (whether you are new to the program or not): several things have changed to streamline use this semester, so the more comfortable you feel navigating the website, the less time you have to spend being concerned about the "technological" aspect of our course.

## ENGL 2041 Journal Assignment #1

Your first journal assignment will come in two parts. First, I would like each of you to introduce yourself to me, so that I have a chance to get to know you. I have a series of questions I would like you to answer to the best of your ability. When answering them (in the journal section of Blackboard), please use complete sentences and add explanation where necessary. You do not need to be completely formal when using the journal, but please strive to make yourselves readable and clear.

- Name you like to be called (specifically through email)
- Gender – Silly as it may seem, names can be deceiving on a roster. Knowing your gender will keep me from accidentally assuming incorrectly.
- City/Country of Origin – Where are you from? If you are from New Orleans, where specifically?
- High School/Last College Attended – This very New Orleans question again just helps me to get a sense of where you are coming from.
- Other Pertinent Information – Anything else you think I should know or would like to share should be included with this journal entry. Your goal, again, is for us to get to know each other a bit better, so take this chance to do so.
- Finally, your thoughts as you enter this class – let know how you are feeling as you enter ENGL 2041: concerns, positive feelings, thoughts on reading, etc. I don't need a specific amount of information here, but would like to get a sense of how you are approaching the class.

Second, I have posted an assignment in the Course Documents section called Poetry Handout 2041. After having read over the first page and the directions, then completing the assignment, choose one of the poems to write about briefly. For this first informal exercise, I just want to know what you think the poet is getting at. What is the theme or message of the poem? Why do you think so? Use evidence from the poem to back up your answer.

NOTE: Please don't stress over this first assignment. I just want to get a sense of where we stand as we head into the course. If you have major concerns, please let me know. Otherwise, give it a try and see what you can come up with.

NOTE 2: If you are concerned with what a word means, look it up. Sometimes looking up one confusing word ("psalmist," for instance) can help bring out the meaning of the whole poem.

Since this is the first week of class, I will give you until **Sunday, January 23 at noon** to complete it. Since the whole experience shouldn't take you more than 15 or 20 minutes, however, please don't procrastinate.

Good luck!

