ENGLISH 272     INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: CULTURE AND LITERATURE
3 credits
TTH 8:00 – 9:15 in Pālanakila 104

INSTRUCTOR: Desi Poteet      E-MAIL: poteetd@hawaii.edu
OFFICE: Pālanakila 119       PHONE: 429-4020
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 11 – 12; TTH 9:30 – 10:30 and by appointment
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2011

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT
Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Introduction to Literature: Culture and Literature (3)
This course introduces students to the study of significant works of literature in selected cultures and cultural formations. Emphasis is on discussion of and writing about characteristics and themes of the works. A student may enroll in this course more than one time (for different cultures); however, only three credits will be applied toward degree. (3 hours lecture)
Prerequisite: A grade of “C” or better in ENG 100.

REQUIREMENTS THIS COURSE SATISFIES
This course satisfies one of the Arts and Humanities requirements (DL) and fulfills three of the six writing intensive credits needed for the Associate in Arts degree.

RECOMMENDED BASIC SKILL LEVEL AND TIME COMMITMENT
Ability to: carefully read texts and view films; write papers that contain and follow a clear thesis statement; and arrive in class on time and prepared for discussions.
Please dedicate two to three hours of study time per class to: read assigned texts, view assigned films, write assigned papers, and complete other class assignments.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO)
The student learning outcomes for English 272 are:
1. Use concepts and terminology particular to literary study to analyze and interpret imaginative literary works orally and in writing.
2. Respond to a work of literature as an expression of a culture’s values and compare those with the student’s own.
3. Enjoy a more creative, enlightened, and fulfilled life through an appreciation of literature’s social, cultural, political, and philosophical themes and techniques.
4. Exhibit knowledge about selected writers and their characteristic themes and techniques.
Welcome to English 272!

HALLMARKS OF WRITING INTENSIVE COURSES

1. **The course uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.** Instructors assign formal and informal writing, both in class and out, to increase students' understanding of course material as well as to improve writing skills.

2. **The course provides interaction between teacher and students while students do assigned writing.** Individual conferences are mandatory for WI courses at WCC.

3. **Writing contributes significantly to each student's course grade.** Writing assignments must make up at least 40% of each student's course grade. If not, the course syllabus must state that students must satisfactorily complete all writing assignments to pass the course with a "D" or better.

4. **The course requires students to do a substantial amount of writing--a minimum of 4000 words, or about 16 pages.** Depending on the course content, students may write analytic essays, critical reviews, journals, lab reports, research reports, or reaction papers, etc. In-class exams and drafts are not counted toward the 4000-word minimum.

5. To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student's writing, the class is restricted to 20 students. Professors who team-teach or who are assisted by a teaching assistant may request that the enrollment be higher as long as a 20-to-1 student to faculty ratio is maintained.

REQUIRED TEXTS


We will be discussing the following texts and their related films. (Please dig up your old copies of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* and *Twilight*, or borrow from a friend. I will provide Web links, pdf files, and handouts for the other texts, and I will screen the films on campus.)

*Where the Wild Things Are* (Sendak/Jonze); *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* (Rowling/Columbus); *Twilight* (Meyer/Hardwicke); “Killings” by Andre Dubus/*In the Bedroom* (Field); *Brokeback Mountain* (Proulx/Lee); “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”/*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (Fitzgerald/Fincher); *Persepolis* (Satrapi/Satrapi & Paraonnaud); *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (Bauby/Schnabel); *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare)/*Romeo and Juliet* (Luhrmann)/*Shakespeare in Love* (Madden).
COURSE DESCRIPTION

We live in a vast and complex world filled with fascinating people and amazing places. It is impossible to meet everyone and visit every place in one lifetime, let alone in just a few months, but we will begin our journey of discovery this semester by honoring the diversity within our own class. Since each of us brings to our classroom community the richness of our experiences, we will share and celebrate our unique backgrounds through storytelling.

In addition, our semester will be devoted to examining the meaning of culture by exploring a variety of worlds – both real and imagined – through texts and films. We will also expand our literary knowledge base by growing and mastering new vocabulary. And since this is a writing intensive class, the emphasis will be on deploying and improving our writing skills.

While it is impossible to include every text and film I want to for this semester’s class, I believe the selected texts and films will provoke lively discussions and expand our views of the world around us, deepening our appreciation of the rich tapestry of human existence.

“Why do writers write? Because it isn’t there.” Thomas Berger

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

You are responsible for your final grade. It will be based on: the quality and timely completion of assignments, insightful work, the quality of your final portfolio presentation, class attendance, and class participation.

Required: Attendance and Participation and All Assignments Completed. NO EXCEPTIONS. Assignments that do not meet minimal proficiency (receiving an F grade) must be redone to receive passing credit.

| Paper #1 – Fiction | (3-4 pages) | 5% |
| Paper #2 – September’s Films & Texts | (3+ pages) | 10% |
| Paper #3 – October’s Films & Texts | (3+ pages) | 10% |
| Paper #4 – November’s Films & Texts | (3+ pages) | 10% |
| Paper #5 – Reflection | (5 pages) | 10% |

Each completed paper must include a draft, a final, and a revised/polished final.

| 10 Reading/Viewing Logs | (1page each - typed) | 15% |
| Portfolio (including all drafts) | | 40% |

A – 90%+; B – 80%+; C – 70%+; D – 60%+; F – 59% and below

An “N” grade indicates that the student has worked conscientiously, attended regularly, finished all work, fulfilled course responsibilities, and has made measurable progress. However, either the student has not achieved the minimal student learning objectives and is not yet prepared to succeed at the next level, or the student has made consistent progress in the class but is unable to complete the class due to extenuating circumstances, such as major health, personal or family emergencies.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONFERENCES
You are required to meet with me three times throughout the semester to discuss a draft of one of your writing assignments. I will initial your draft in conference to verify you’ve met this requirement. You may make an appointment with me or stop by during my office hours.

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All sources used in your papers must be properly cited according to MLA format. If in doubt, see me prior to turning in your paper.

ATTENDANCE
Our classroom will be an exciting site of interesting activities. Attendance is MANDATORY. Late arrivals disrupt the class, so please be on time. If you do miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to contact your classmates to find out what you missed and what you need to do for the next class.

CONTENT WARNING
A college education provides you with a valuable opportunity to explore the world around you in new ways, broadening your life experiences. Literature, in particular, reflects the human condition in all its complexity, and sometimes literature contains content (profanity, violence, sexuality, etc.) that may offend you. If you would prefer not to expose yourself to these things through readings, audio books, films, class discussions, then this may not be the class for you.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT
If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Ākoakoa 213 for more information.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
Our classroom is a collaborative learning community. We each bring to this classroom a unique and valuable set of life experiences. We can learn from one another and in the process discover who we are… who we are still becoming. In order for us to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to discover, learn, and evolve, we must create an environment in which we respect, celebrate, and support our differences.

To minimize distractions, please turn off and put away your cell phones and other electronic devices. Also, please no eating or drinking in class.

Mutual respect – at all times. No exceptions.

“You can approach the act of writing with nervousness, excitement, hopefulness, or even despair – the sense that you can never completely put on the page whatever’s in your mind and heart. You can come to the act with your fists clenched and your eyes narrowed, ready to kick ass and take down names. You can come to it because you want a girl to marry you or because you want to change the world. Come to it any way but lightly. Let me say it again: you must not come lightly to the blank page.” Stephen King, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft.