English 102A

Fall 1991
Instructor: Gavin Matthews
Office: HH 2S3A
Office phone: TR 885-1211 ext. 2S3A
or MWF 679-2111 ext. 5822
Office hours: One-half hour immediately before and after class, or by appointment

Required Text:


Course Requirements:

Essay One --1500 words; due October 8; 20%
Essay Two --1500 words; due November 28; 20%
Midterm Test --primarily on fiction; October 17; 20%
Final Exam --primarily on drama; 30%
Participation --10%

Late essays will be assigned a penalty of two percent per day. Extensions will be granted only if documentation is provided. Volume of work is not a sufficient reason for waiving of late penalties.

Because many of you will not have written university-level English essays before, and may be nervous about doing so, those of you who receive low grades on the first essay will be given the option of substituting another for it, due October 20.

The participation grade is seen by me as a means of rewarding those students who attend class regularly, participate in class discussion, and show evidence of keeping up with the readings. It will not be used to lower your grade except in cases where your attendance or participation is obviously sub-par (that is, you have missed more than one-third of the classes, I do not know the sound of your voice, or you disrupt class--perhaps by snoring), in which cases a grade of zero out of ten will be assigned.
Approximate Lecture Schedule

Week of

September 10   Introduction; Holst "The Zebra Storyteller"
September 17  Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"
September 24  Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

James, "The Real Thing"
Cheever, "The Country Husband"

October 1      Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"
October 8       Tolstoy, "How Much Land Does a Man Need?"
October 15     Conrad, "The Secret Sharer"

Faulkner, "Barn Burning"

Marquez, "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"
Munro, "Boys and Girls"

Test--October 17th

October 22     Introduction to Drama: Pinter, "The Black and White"

and Chekhov, "The Brute"

October 29     Ibsen, Hedda Gabler
November 5      Shakespeare, Hamlet
November 12     Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream
November 19     Beckett, Krapp's Last Tape
November 26     Pollock, Blood Relations
December 3      Review

Some modifications might be required by the inclusion of a lecture or two on essay writing. Also, this list of short fiction constitutes all that you will be examined on, but you would be well advised to read the introductions and other stories in each section of the Norton's collection of short stories.