English 108 F: The Rebel – Course Syllabus
1059 – Fall 2005
Tues. & Thurs. 8:30-10:00, HH 150
Instructor: J. Andrew Deman
PAS 2218 – email: jademan@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-11:00am (or by appointment)

Course Description:

A study of various works of literature in which the protagonist is a rebel against existing norms. The course will examine rebel types, moral implications, and final outcomes either in successful realization or in tragic defeat. We will explore works from authors of British, American, and Canadian descent. The main teaching approach will be lecture and in-class discussion on major topics as they arise from each individual work.

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to foster some understanding of how literature constructs, reflects, and challenges a wide variety of power structures as centred upon the figure of the rebel. Secondary objectives include the development of literary analytical skills, essay-writing ability, and, in general, an ability to participate in current critical discourses on culture and power.

Required Texts:

Course Package 108 F – Available in Bookstore
Chester Brown – *Louis Riel*
Nathaniel Hawthorne – *The Scarlet Letter*
George Orwell – *Animal Farm*
Chuck Palahniuk – *Fight Club*
Beatrix Potter – *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*
Susan Swan – *The Wives of Bath*

Assignments and Grading:

Final Exam – 30%

The final exam will test the student’s comprehension of material covered in the readings and in-class discussions, and also require an essay section in which the student will demonstrate their ability to apply classroom concepts to the texts covered.

Final Essay – 40%
This paper will be the culmination of the student’s work in the course. Due one week after the final day of class, this paper will be a comparison of two or more classroom texts with regard to an issue of relevance to in-class discussions. All topics must be approved by me prior to writing. Students will receive a detailed description of this assignment along with possible essay topics well in advance of the due date. Minimum length of this essay is 6 pages.

Online Reading Reports – 15%

See attached page. The idea of these five assignments is to give you the opportunity to respond to the texts and discussions in an informal environment. Feel free to ramble. You will be marked not on grammar and spelling, but on your demonstrated level of engagement with and understanding of the text. Details of each individual assignment will appear on the website in advance of the due dates listed below.

Midterm Essay – 15%

Students will receive a detailed description of this assignment in advance of the due date. This will be due on the Tuesday of the fifth week of class. Minimum length of this essay is 3 pages.

Course Policies:

Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the 2001-2002 Undergraduate Calendar (page 1:10). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

All assignments handed in late will receive a penalty of 10% per day. Anything turned in late must be date-stamped before I will accept it. All papers must be handed in one-sided, double-spaced, in a 12 point Times New Roman or equivalent font with 1” margins, and should include a title page, and a list of references. All material must be in keeping with MLA format in every possible way. Handbooks on MLA format are available in the library or bookstore.
Weekly Schedule (Subject to Alteration):

Sept. 13 – Introduction: Syllabus Overview, etc.
Sept. 15 – Introduction: Structures of Power and the Role of Literature.
Sept. 20 – Orwell – The Rebel Paradigm: Are You a Pig or a Horse?
Sept. 22 – Orwell/Marx – Labour and Power, on the Farm and Off. (O.R.R. #1 DUE)
Sept. 27 – Orwell – Symbolism as Subversion/Open Topic
Sept. 29 – Hawthorne – The Inadequacy of Rule
Oct. 4 – Hawthorne – Public vs. Private in the Role of the Rebel.
Oct. 6 – Hawthorne – Hawthorne’s Moral: Where Does the Author Stand?
Oct. 11 – Hawthorne – Metatext/Open Topic. (MIDTERM ESSAY DUE)
Oct. 18 – Swan – Gender Rules, Gender Barriers. (O.R.R. #2 Due)
Oct. 25 – Swan – Rebel in the Name of Love: The Ultimate Literary Hero?
Nov. 1 – Brown – The Rebel vs. the Burden of History. (O.R.R. #3 DUE)
Nov. 3 – Brown – The Rebel Collective: Should a True Rebel Stand Alone?
Nov. 8 – Brown – The Graphic Medium/Open Topic.
Nov. 10 – Malcolm X/King – Racism and the Use of Violence. (O.R.R. #4 DUE)
Nov. 15 – Potter – What are We Teaching Our Children?
Nov. 17 – Palahniuk – Violence for Violence’s Sake.
Nov. 22 – Palahniuk – Commerce and You. (O.R.R. #5 DUE)
Nov. 24 – Palahniuk – Insanity: Disease or Dissent?
Nov. 29 – Palahniuk – Contemporary Fiction/Open Topic
Dec. 1 – Conclusions and review.
Dec. 8 – FINAL ESSAY DUE
ONLINE FORUM INSTRUCTIONS

The Goal

Submissions of your reading responses are not the only point of this website. This class puts you in a little room with 35 other students, most of whom are complete strangers, and gives you three hours a week to grapple with the complexities of a fair number of literary texts, any of which could have an entire course devoted to the one work alone. It is hoped that the web-page will provide you with greater access to each other’s perspectives and unique viewpoints. What is it that you want to talk about in response to issues or works brought up in class? Feel free to add to topics in the conferencing section, or to create new ones. If you find a useful link, post it. Of course, this is all for your own benefit, and the only thing required (the only thing that will be marked), is the official online reading reports. Otherwise, how much or how little you utilize the website is entirely up to you.

Getting Started

- From your web-browser, visit the following url: www.nicenet.org
- In the right-hand menu bar click on “join a class”
- In the space provided, enter the class key: FZ3Z222E32
- Enter the information the webpage requests.
- Click the ‘Finish Registration’ button, and login with your new username and password.

How to Use Nicenet

From the homepage, you will be given options for messaging, conferencing, link sharing, documents, and schedule. The messaging will allow you to communicate with myself and with other members of the class personally, while conferencing will provide the opportunity to extend classroom discussions into an ongoing public forum. The links page will simply connect you to websites that I think might be useful to our work, while the documents site will give you online access to important class documents, ie the syllabus, assignments, etc. Perhaps most importantly, the schedule will show you what online assignments are due, give you descriptions of the task, and the option to turn-in online. These assignments will all be kept private, and will be read by me alone. Please note that once you have submitted an online assignment, you may not make any changes to it. Thus, if a mistake is made, you’ll want to resubmit (unless of course the deadline has passed). You can always contact me if you are having any trouble using the website.

Online Conduct

Though I encourage the use of the web-page as an informal discussion, anyone who I feel is abusing this forum for purposes outside the interests of our class or who is acting in a non-professional or disrespectful manner will be removed from the website and forfeit their marks for the online reading reports.