ISOLATION AND ALIENATION (Winter 2006)

Instructor: Jeff Stacey
Office: PAS 1066
Email: jestacey@artsmai3.uwaterloo.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm (or by appointment)

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
"The study of a variety of works centering on the theme of individuals in crisis, the stress being on people at variance with their inner selves, other persons, or their world. The course will discuss the process in which wisdom and maturity are gained as the ultimate products of suffering."

COURSE MATERIALS
1) Hemingway, Ernest. A Farewell to Arms
2) Morrison, Toni. The Bluest Eye
3) Thoreau, Henry David. Walden
4) Class Booklet (available in bookstore)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation and Attendance are Mandatory
Students are expected to attend class unless there is an unavoidable reason for their absence. I will take attendance, and reserve the right to refuse admission to the final exam (or submission of the final paper) to any student who has missed more than 5 classes.
In case of school closure and cancellation of class assignments (including reading assignments) are due the next scheduled class date.
Please check 100.3 FM, or uwaterloo.ca for reports of snow-days.

Housekeeping Notes:
[1] All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with numbered pages, and—if necessary—a correctly formatted works cited (MLA style).
[2] Assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on their due dates.
[3] Late assignments will be penalized 20% per day they are late.
[4] Assignments MAY NOT be submitted electronically unless PRIOR PERMISSION is given to do so. Emailed assignments under any other circumstance will not be considered.
N.B. You may only use a text ONCE in your assignments (Critical Reading, Creative Addition, and Final Essay). This includes all of the material from poetry to novels to film.

Participation Journal (20%)
Due: see dates on course schedule. 250+w per entry.

There will be 5 participation journal entry assignments throughout the term. Of these 5, you may choose 4 to hand in. Each of the 4 entries is worth 5% of your final mark.
These entries will vary in their requirements, but they will generally ask for your thoughts on the readings at the time of their assignment. Choose which 4 to complete and submit based on your workload and interest in the respective course sections.

Critical Reading of one text (15%)
Due: anytime up to and including February 16th. 550+ w

Take a particular scene or section of not more than 3-4 pages that you have enjoyed from a novel, short story, or film on the course list.
Discuss theme, style, and significance of that selection to the whole text.
Suggest any particular relevance to the course themes of Isolation and Alienation that you find in this selection.
[If you choose Blade Runner, be sure to reference Bullaro’s article in the Class Booklet].

Creative Addition to one text (15%)
Due: anytime up to and including March 2nd. 500+ w

Take any novel or short story that is on the course list (even if we haven’t studied it) and imitate the tone and style (diction, imagery, sentence-structure) of the author.
Your task is to produce another scene to include in the story of your choice.
Ideally, it should be indistinguishable from the original.

Choose a particular place in a particular story where you want to add your scene.
In an introductory sentence or two, explain why you chose the moment you did.
Can you justify why your scene is important?

Final Essay (optional) (30%)
Due: March 30th. 1,750+ w
This is an essay option for those students who would prefer to write a final essay than to sit a final exam.

Choose any two texts (poems, novels, short stories, etc.) and compare and contrast their depictions of Isolation and Alienation. The essay must have a clear thesis statement and should use at least one secondary source (that is, a source beyond the texts themselves—the critical essays in the Class Booklet on Morrison, Thoreau, or Blade Runner, for example).
You are strongly encouraged to discuss your essay topic with me.

There is a Final Exam option also worth 30%. Students that do not submit a final essay MUST write the final exam. The final exam will cover all course material, including in-class lectures.

Marks Breakdown
 Participation Journal: 5 entries, choice of 4 (250+ w. each) –20% [4x5%]
 In-Class Quizzes: multiple choice, based on current readings, marked in-class —20% [5x4%]
 Critical Reading of one text (550+ w) (interpretive) –15%
 Creative Addition to one text (500+ w) (expressive) –15%
 Final Essay: commentary on 2 texts (1,750+ w) –30%
 OR Final Exam: questions on contexts, texts, and in class discussions—30%

NOTE ON THE AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENSES
All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p.1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Consult also on the Arts Faculty Web page “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offenses: A Guide for Students and Instructors” (http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html). Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html.

This is a provisional syllabus and is subject to revision.