

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
Language Studies Department

FX101 - ENGLISH FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS

FALL 2005 (AY 2006)

INSTRUCTOR: Robert S. Stone, PhD./ Office: Nimitz 61/ Phone: X3-6357/ e-mail: rstone@usna.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Gwynn, R.S., ed. *Drama: A Pocket Anthology*. New York: Penguin, 2002.

Lane, Janet and Ellen Lange. *Writing Clearly: An Editing Guide*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle, 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS:

Excerpts from *Vice and Virtue in Everyday Life* (essays) and *Lend Me Your Ears* (speeches).

Photocopies and websites of articles, stories, biographies, poems, etc.

Film versions of literary works, where appropriate.

Other resources as indicated by Academic Center.

1. M 22 AUG INTRODUCTION TO FX101-FX102: American Culture and Literature and its Traditions

Course objective: fluency of expression

Overview: rhetoric as the “art of persuasion”

Literary genres: short story, essay, speech, drama, novel, poem

In-class reading of “Sure Thing” by David Ives

Homework: Read pp. 3-20 in *Drama*. Write three paragraphs on Plebe Summer (due Friday).

2. W 24 AUG

The Ancient Greeks

Comedy/Tragedy

The Aristotelian unities

Elements of plot: exposition, conflict, rising action, climax, denouement

Homework: Read the first half of *Oedipus the King* pp. 39-66.

3. F 26 AUG

Writing Clearly 1: verb tenses (vt)

Writing techniques: brainstorming, clustering, pre-writing

Discussion: What factors influence myth and identity in a given society? Where do traditions come from? What determines them? Write a paragraph or two on the traditional basis of your culture. What knowledge is considered essential in order for one to be culturally literate in your society?

Homework: Finish reading *Oedipus*.

4. M 29 AUG

Discussion of *Oedipus*. View documentary on Ancient Greek tragedy.

The expository essay. Paragraph building: Topic sentences.

Homework: Write an introductory paragraph for an essay on Greek tragedy. Outline the body and conclusion. (Due Friday)

5. W 31 AUG Discuss reading and documentary.

Homework: Investigate the history of Labor Day in the USA and elsewhere.

6. F 2 SEP Discussion of Labor Day(s), multi-culturalism and relativism.

Homework: *Writing Clearly 2*: verb forms (vf)
Read Adm. Stockdale's essay, "The World of Epictectus."

[Labor Day HOLIDAY: Monday, September 5]

7. T 6 SEP Discussion of essay.
Introduction: *Othello*, by William Shakespeare
Review question: What is tragedy?
Terms: act, scene, protagonist, antagonist, tragic flaw.

Homework: Read *Drama* pp.20-22, then *Othello*, Act I

8. W 7 SEP *Othello*, Act I. Venice.
Questions: Who's who? Iago, Othello, Desdemona, etc. What sets the drama in motion?
Composition: Select one of the characters from the play and describe his or her function in it (due Friday, Sept. 23).

Homework: Read *Othello*, Act II.
Writing Clearly 3: Modals (mod)

9. F 9 SEP *Othello*, Act II. Cyprus

Homework: *Othello*, Act III

10. M 12 SEP *Othello*, Act III. Cassio and the kerchief. "Give me ocular proof."

Iago: "O, beware my lord, of jealousy!
It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock
The meat it feeds on."

Homework: *Othello*, Act IV.

11. W 14 SEP *Othello*, Act IV. "How shall I murder him, Iago?"

Homework: *Othello*, Act V

12. F 16 SEP

Othello, Act V “Thy bed, lust-stained, shall with lust’s blood be spotted.”

Homework: *Writing Clearly* 4: Conditional sentences (cond)

13. M 19 SEP Conclusion of reading, discussion. Begin viewing of film version.

Introduction to Ibsen and modern drama: the problem play.

Homework: Read *Drama* pp. 24-25, then Ibsen’s *A Doll House* Act I

14. W 21 SEP Continue film version of *Othello*..

Ibsen and modern drama.

Homework: Read Ibsen’s *A Doll House* Act II.

15. F 23 SEP Finish film version of *Othello*. Hand in compositions.

Homework: Read *A Doll House* Act III.

Writing Clearly 5, passive voice

16. M 26 SEP

Review for Six-Week Exam.

17. W 28 SEP **SIX-WEEK EXAMINATION**

18. F 30 SEP View film version of *A Doll’s House*. Discuss character development and transformation.

Homework: *Writing Clearly* 6: Clauses (cl)

Read online essay on the character of Nora in the play, then decide on your own essay topic: Prepare outline for Monday (essay due Oct. 17)

19. M 3 OCT Continue viewing video

Writing Clearly exercises

Homework: *Writing Clearly* 7 Sentence Structure (ss)

20. W 5 OCT View end of *A Doll’s House*. Discuss.

Homework: Read Williams’ *The Glass Menagerie*, pp. 293-324 in *Drama*

21. F 7 OCT Introduction to American playwright Tennessee Williams

Homework: Read *The Glass Menagerie*, pp. 324-355 in *Drama*

[Monday, October 10, Columbus Day HOLIDAY (historically October 12, 1492)]

22. W 12 OCT The Wingfields: an autobiographical family?

Homework: *Writing Clearly* 8: word order

23. F 14 OCT View film version of *The Glass Menagerie*.

24. M 17 OCT Turn in essays on Ibsen.

Continue to view film version of *The Glass Menagerie*.

25. W 19 OCT Finish viewing play.

Review of Ibsen essays for revision and editing (final draft).

26. F 21 OCT *Writing Clearly* 9: Connectors (conn)

27. M 24 OCT Prepare for Twelve-Week Exam.

28. W 26 OCT **TWELVE-WEEK EXAM**

29. F 28 OCT Introduction to Arthur Miller. An obituary.

Writing Clearly 10: Agreement (sv)

Homework: Read *Death of a Salesman*, pp. 357-387.

30. M 31 OCT **HALLOWEEN.**

31. W 2 NOV Who is Willy Loman? Compare portrayals by two different actors.

Homework: Read *Death of a Salesman*, 387-419

32. F 4 NOV View excerpts of film versions.

Writing Clearly 11: Articles (art)

Discuss main characters.

Homework: Read pp. 419 to end of *Death of a Salesman*.

33. M 7 NOV Excerpts from film versions of Miller's play.

34. W 9 NOV Acting of selected scenes in class.

Homework: Composition on *Death of a Salesman* (due November 23). Topics proposed by individuals in consultation with professor.

Veterans' Day HOLIDAY: Friday, November 11. No classes.

35. M 14 NOV Introduction to rhetoric as public speaking. Greek and Roman models. Marc Antony's eulogy in *Julius Caesar* (photocopies).

Writing Clearly 12: Singular and Plural (s/p)

36. W 16 NOV Great American Speeches: the Gettysburg Address
Rhetorical techniques: rhetorical question, repetition, allusion

Homework: Read speeches by Native Americans from *Lend Me Your Ears*.

37. F 18 NOV

Discussion of speeches on Indian claims. Ethical **dilemmas** posed.
Film clips from *Dances With Wolves*.

Homework: *Writing Clearly* 13: word choice (wc)

38. M 21 NOV Reading of Sojourner Truth speech in class.

Homework: Read John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, 20 January, 1961 (handout)

39. W 23 NOV Film clips of FDR, JFK. Hand in compositions on *Death of a Salesman*.

Discuss the place of JFK in history and myth.

Final project: Compose and memorize a one to two-page speech on the rights of a minority or, alternatively, on an important event in your nation's history (delivered Dec. 5).

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, Thursday, November 24. No classes on Friday.

40. M 28 NOV *Writing Clearly* 14: word forms (wf)

Homework: Read speeches by Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

41. W 30 NOV "I Have a Dream" vs. "The Ballot or the Bullet"
Discussion of activism as opposed to non-violence.

Homework: Read excerpt from *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

42. F 2 DEC Film clips of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

Homework: *Writing Clearly* 15: Prepositions (prep)

43. M 5 DEC

Delivery of final speeches.

44. W 7 DEC

Evaluations. Final paper assignment (due on date of final exam).