19 May 2015

Dear Creative Life Category Literature Instructors:

Welcome to “ENG 220CL On the Proverbial Road: Journeys of Transformation in Narrative,” one of several course options for the new University Explorations general education program at SLU.

ENG 220CL is focused on narrative, or story-telling, in its many formats, including literary and cinematic texts. You will have several themes and texts to choose from to organize their presentations of the course in unique ways.

I think it’s important for students to experience this course because, quite possibly, it may be their one and only exposure to literature in college. The University Explorations general education program offers students a lot of interesting choices. However, it is still hypothetically plausible that students may fulfill their general education requirements without ever taking a literature course. So, it’s my hope that this course will be a “hello to literature” course and not a “goodbye to literature” course, as it might understood by students at other institutions.

One exciting thing about this course is that it might be the first one where students are both asked and shown how to make very real connections between several different types of narrative. My passion has always been to try and “connect the dots” so that my “big picture” or worldview is just a little more complete a little more relevant to my life. This is what has always attracted me to academia and I want to show students how to do this with texts.

I hope that students who take this course will come away with a better appreciation for the skill and artistry that goes into good storytelling. And I hope that by developing a better appreciation for literature, they just might become lifelong readers. One can only hope!

I’ve been using this theme in my literature courses for years, so I am happy to entertain any concerns you may have about this new general education course at burglbee.hobbs@saintleo.edu

I hope you enjoy teaching the course as much as I enjoyed designing it.

Travel well!

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