

## Syllabus

**Instructor:** Jonathan Morse, Kuykendall 518 TTh 9:30-10:20 and by appointment.  
Phone 956-8802, email [jmorse@hawaii.edu](mailto:jmorse@hawaii.edu)

**Class web page:** [jonathanmorse.net](http://jonathanmorse.net)

**Texts, at the university bookstore:**

*The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, shorter edition

Shakespeare, *Richard II*

Homer, *The Odyssey*, translated by Robert Fitzgerald

Anton Chekhov, *The Three Sisters*, adapted by David Mamet

Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**Grades:** based on four five-page papers, a midterm, and a final. The first two papers, the midterm, and the final will be worth 15% each; the third and fourth papers will be worth 20% each. I grade on the plus-minus system, with an A worth 4.0 points, an A- 3.7, a B+ 3.3, a B 3.0, and so on. Class participation will raise your grade in borderline cases, and upward-trending averages are better than lower-trending averages. If you miss one assignment, it will get an F; if you miss more than one, you'll get an F in the course.

This is a writing-focus course, and by way of practice with the fine-focus adjustment your first paper will be a draft graded pass-fail (pass if you write it, fail if you don't) which you will then rewrite for an A-F grade after going over it with me. About the philosophical idea of rewriting, consult the classroom policy document on the web page and then take to heart this poem by William Butler Yeats, who is generally considered the greatest English-language poet of the twentieth century. He rewrote some of his poems as many as fifty times. There's a lesson there, and the lesson plan is:

Those friends that have it I do wrong  
Whenever I remake a song  
Should know what issue is at stake:  
It is myself that I remake.

Grammar and spelling do count for the grade, and I want your papers printed, not emailed. If you need help, ask for it. I'm here for you for the English 271 part and the English 100 part, and other people are there for you for other parts. Their contact information is on the web page.

**Other administrative matters** are also covered on the web page. The link labeled "Classroom policies" is my personal addition to the university's rules, and the Twitter version is:

**Get the books, come to class, keep up with the reading, and don't cheat.**

## Calendar, subject to change

8/22 Introduction. What the word “ton” means when you say “The capacity of the Ford F-100 pickup truck is 1.0 ton” and, on the other hand, “My physics textbook weighs a ton!”

24, 29 More about tonnage: figurative language and the idea of metaphor

31 “The White House announced today”: the idea of metonymy

9/5 Sound effects and a mystery: Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess.” Paper 1 assigned.

7, 12 How to write the paper: English 100 review

14 Paper 1 due and discussed.

19, 21 No class. In my office, one on one, you and I will talk about revising your paper.

26, 28, 10/3 In the poetry book, we practice reading the 400-year-old English of Shakespeare’s time. Paper 2 due September 28.

10/5-17 (four periods) *Richard II*

19 Midterm, about *Richard II*

10/24 – 11/7 (five periods) Hero: *The Odyssey*. Paper 3 assigned October 31.

11/9 Paper 3 due.

14-28 (four periods; November 23 is a holiday) *The Three Sisters*. Paper 4 assigned November 21.

12/5-7 A language bulletin at the end of the course from the writer who said, “Life imitates Art far more than Art imitates Life”: *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Final: Tuesday, December 12, 12:00-2:00