LITERATURE

Selected Literature of the World War II Era

I. CRITICAL READING 15%
   A. Purpose and Main Idea
   B. Structure
   C. Restatement of Information
   D. Genres and their Characteristics
   E. Language and Tone
   F. Grammar and Syntax
   G. Vocabulary in Context
   H. Diction

II. THEME—WORLD WAR II 5%
    A. Historical Context of World War II
    B. Theaters of War
    C. Women and War
    D. World War II and Literature

III. AUTHOR—ANNA SEGHERS 15%
     A. Early Years
     B. Influences
     C. Style
     D. Major Themes and Major Works
     E. Exile
     F. Return to East Germany
     G. Literature and Politics
     H. Reception of Seghers’s Late Work

IV. TRANSIT 45%
     A. Genesis of the Novel and Biographical Context
     B. Setting
     C. Narrative Perspective and Plot Structure
     D. Style and Tone
     E. Major Characters
        1. Unnamed Narrator (Alias Seidler, Alias Weidel)
        2. Marie
        3. Weidel
        4. The Doctor
        5. Heinz
6. The Binnet Boy
7. Paul
8. Achselroth
F. Themes
1. Vichy France in *Transit*
2. Exile, Refugees, and the Fate of Civilians in Times of War
3. Boredom, Ennui
4. Loyalty vs. Betrayal (Being “Left in the Lurch”)
5. Bureaucracy, Absurdity
6. Religion
7. Motifs from Myths and Fairy Tales
8. Storytelling
G. Reception

V. SHORTER PROSE WORKS 10%

A. Rebecca West, “A Day in Town”
   1. Introduction to Rebecca West
   2. SELECTED WORK: “A DAY IN TOWN” BY REBECCA WEST
      a. Interpretation

B. Virginia Woolf, “Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid”
   1. Introduction to Virginia Woolf
   2. SELECTED WORK: “THOUGHTS ON PEACE IN AN AIR RAID” BY VIRGINIA WOOLF
      a. Interpretation

VI. POETRY 10%

A. W. H. Auden, “September 1, 1939”
   1. Introduction to W. H. Auden
   2. SELECTED WORK: “SEPTEMBER 1, 1939” BY W. H. AUDEN
      a. Interpretation
      b. Form

B. Keith Douglas: “Desert Flowers,” “Vergissmeinnicht,” and “How to Kill”
   1. Introduction to Keith Douglas
   2. SELECTED WORK: “DESERT FLOWERS” BY KEITH DOUGLAS
      a. Interpretation
      b. Form
   3. SELECTED WORK: “VERGISSMEINNICT” BY KEITH DOUGLAS
      a. Interpretation
      b. Form
   4. SELECTED WORK: “HOW TO KILL” BY KEITH DOUGLAS
C. Donald Bain, “War Poet”
   1. Introduction to Donald Bain
   2. SELECTED WORK: “WAR POET” BY DONALD BAIN
      a. Interpretation
      b. Form