

ENG 104: Introduction to Fiction
CRN: 12985
Fall 2013 / MWF 12:00-1:00/ ANS 195

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Course Description

This class is about storytelling—what stories do we tell? And why are they important? Even if when we are not reading a novel or short story we are surrounded by fiction—advertisements, song lyrics, television shows, even new stories. How do these stories try to manipulate us? What do these stories tell us about ourselves? About the culture we live in? In this class, we will think of stories as the shaping, choosing and ways of conveying information. The theme for the class is mystery. As such, we will be studying how Edgar Allen Poe exploits the form of mystery in *Murders in the Rue Morgue*, how Arthur Conan Doyle's uses exoticism in *Sign of Four*; we will examine the way the narrative perspective in James' famous ghost story *The Turn of the Screw* and we will conclude with a study of noir fiction and *The Big Sleep*. While all our readings will be between 50-100 years old our class discussions we will look at how fiction is not just between the covers of books, but rather is the stuff that shapes our reception and engagement with the world.

Texts

Edgar Allen Poe. *The Murders in the Rue Morgue: The Dupin Stories*.
Arthur Conan Doyle. *The Complete Works of Sherlock Holmes Volume 1*
Henry James. *The Turn of the Screw*
Raymond Chandler. *The Big Sleep*.
Short Selections will be posted on Blackboard.

Note: While these texts are available at the Duckstore, it is possible that you already own one or more of these texts in some form or fashion. My concern about texts is not where/how you get each text, it is that you make adjustments for the specific page numbers assigned for each day.

Evaluation and Assignments

Writing Assignment #1: 5%
Writing Assignment #2: 10%
Writing Assignment #3: 15%
Essay: 30%
Midterm: 10%
Final: 20%
Homework: 5%
Participation and Reading Quizzes: 5%

Writing Assignments: These writing assignments will be one page analysis of a passage from the text we are reading in class. These assignments should have no introduction. They should show your ability to analyze the books we are reading. Each writing assignment will focus on a discreet skill. Specific instructions for each assignment will be provided in advance of their due dates. These writing assignments should not include any outside reading.

Essay: The final essay will be a three to four page paper that expands on one of your short writing assignments. Since you will have considerable time to develop your idea, I am looking for a polished work that is thoughtful, concise, and clear. Every word counts. Plan on writing several drafts of each paper. Your paper should not include any outside reading.

Note that all work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please refer any questions on this policy to your instructor, and read the Student Conduct Code on the Student Judicial Affairs website for more information: http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/index.htm. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically fail this course and be referred to Judicial Affairs.

Examinations: There will be two in-class exams, a midterm and a final. The midterm will be an objective test that focuses on reading comprehension, literary terms, and the information and ideas discussed in class. On the final you will demonstrate how you can apply the skills developed in the class on a passage that you have not read.

NO EARLY OR MAKE-UP EXAMS WITHOUT DOCUMENTED MEDICAL EMERGENCY: IF YOU CANNOT BE PRESENT AT THE FINAL EXAM, DO NOT TAKE THE CLASS!

Homework: Homework Assignments do not appear on the class schedule. Homework assignments will be given out the class before they are due. Since homework is collected electronically, absence is not an excuse. I would suggest getting the email of someone in the class who can give you the assignment in case of absence.

Participation, Quizzes & Attendance: Regular attendance is a requirement for this class. I will give frequent objective quizzes. Quizzes cannot be made up. You are allowed two absences; every subsequent absence will lower your final letter grade by 1/3 (ie, A- to B+, B to B-, etc). Be prepared to discuss the reading assignment on the day it is due, and to participate in a lively and respectful discussion.

University Policies

Access: If you have a physical or learning disability which you believe may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week so that we can make arrangements for full access to classroom materials and activities.

Student Athletes: Any student who needs to miss class for an away game or meet must talk with me in advance, showing a schedule signed by your coach. As always, assignments are still due on their scheduled dates.

Week #1	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 9/30	“The Crimson Candle” and introduction to class.	
W 10/2	“The Three Apples” (BlackBoard)	
F 10/4	Opening to Edgar Allen Poe - “Muders in the Rue Morgue” pp. 3-6.	

Week #2	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 10/7	Poe - “Murders in the Rue Morgue” pp. 7-22	
W 10/9	Poe - “Murders in the Rue Morgue” pp. 23-35	
F 10/11	Writing Assignment #1. We will begin this in class.	

Week #3	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 10/14		Writing Assignment #1
W 10/16	Arthur Conan Doyle - <i>Sign of Four</i> Ch. 1-5	
F 10/18	Doyle - <i>Sign of Four</i> Ch. 6-7	

Week #4	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 10/21	Doyle - <i>Sign of Four</i> Ch 8-11	
W 10/23	Doyle - <i>Sign of Four</i> Ch.12	
F 10/25	Writing Assignment #2: we will begin this in class.	

Week #5	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 10/28	Midterm	Midterm

W 10/30	Henry James – <i>Turn of the Screw</i> Preface – Chapter 2	Writing Assignment #2
F 11/1	James – <i>Turn of the Screw</i> Ch. 3-5	

Week #6	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 11/4	James – <i>Turn of the Screw</i> Ch. 6-9	
W 11/6	James – <i>Turn of the Screw</i> Ch. 10-12	
F 11/8	James – <i>Turn of the Screw</i> Ch. 13-17	

Week #7	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 11/11	Finish <i>Turn of the Screw</i> . Writing Assignment #3: we will begin this in class.	
W 11/13	Raymond Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 1-3	
F 11/15	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 4-8	

Week #8	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 11/18	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 9-13	Writing Assignment #3
W 11/20	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 14-16	
F 11/22	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 17-19	

Week #9	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 11/25	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 20-22	
W 11/27	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 23-24	
F 11/29	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 25-26	

Week #10	Readings	Major Assignments Due
M 12/2	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 27-30	
W 12/4	Chandler – <i>The Big Sleep</i> Chapters 31-32	
F 12/6	Workshop Final Essay.	

Important Assignment Due Dates for Finals Week

Final Exam: 10:15 Tuesday December 10
Final Essay Due: 8pm Thursday December 12.