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ENG 104: Intro to Fiction
Term: Fall 2013; CRN: 12988
Class Location: Condon 260
Class Time: M/W 4:00-5:20

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will serve as an introduction to the study of prose fiction and will focus specifically on the genre of speculative fiction. While many mistakenly believe that this genre is limited to space battles and alien invasions, we will read works that engage the breadth of human experience from writers across decades and sub-genres, exploring questions of science and technology, post-apocalyptic dread, and the meaning of sentient life. We will read short stories and one novel, as well as Janelle Monae's sci-fi droid Wonderground pop trilogy. These texts are from North American, South American, and British authors. We will concentrate on identifying and analyzing the formal literary techniques used by these authors. We will also investigate how specific cultural and historical contexts affect the writing and reading of literature. Through the course we will concentrate on understanding terminology for literary analysis of fiction, including skills for close reading, interpretation, and writing. You will improve your ability to think, read, and write critically about fictional texts, as well as to situate them within a broader historical, social and cultural context.

NOTE: This course satisfies credits toward the Arts and Letters category General Education requirements; however, these credits do not count toward the English Major.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins
- Pearson Custom Library Introduction to Literature
- An e-mail account, access to Blackboard, and access to Grooveshark.com

COURSE WORK AND GRADING

Written Work: You will complete several formal writing assignments in this course; these include two short "story kit" assignments and two thesis-driven analytical essays that respond to prompts about our course texts. The essay assignments will require you to make independent arguments about the reading: you must go beyond summary or observation. I expect that your essays will be formal, polished work that reflects careful revision. I am always happy to talk with you in person about your ideas and to look at your writing during office hours. I will provide the Midterm and Final essay prompts at least two weeks before the essays are due. It will be to your benefit to plan ahead and begin working on these assignments early.

Formatting Guidelines for Written Work: You may not use outside research (scholarly sources) during the process of writing these essays. You must properly document your primary source(s) according to MLA citation guidelines (12 point font, Times New Roman or Courier, 1 inch margins). You must date and provide page numbers for all written work. Print your work double-sided in order to conserve paper. All writing is due at the beginning of class in hard-copy form. See the course schedule for due dates.

Class Participation: This class is predicated upon the strong communication of ideas both in writing and in discussion, so your active participation in discussions is essential. While I understand and sympathize with students who do not like speaking in front of groups, one of the goals of the class is to develop argumentative skills, which requires engaging with your peers in various ways. If this is a major phobia, come talk to me, and we will troubleshoot.

Quizzes: You will have five pop quizzes over the course of the quarter. Quizzes will always be on Wednesday. They will test your knowledge of Monday's lecture, as well as the week's reading. You cannot make up a quiz for any reason.

Graded Weight of Assignments:

Story Kit 1: 10%
Story Kit 2: 10%
Midterm Essay: 25%
Final Essay: 35%
Class Participation: 10%
Quizzes: 10%

Some Notes on Grading: When grading your work, it is my responsibility to judge that work as fairly and objectively as possible. I am responsible to your peers, your other teachers, your future graduate school administrators, and even your future employers, to accurately record the grades that you earn. Thus, I do not "give" grades. You *earn* your grades through hard work, and you should be proud of every success and improvement you accomplish in my classroom. I will not inflate grades for ANY reason. If you are ever unclear about your grades, please come talk to me. If I find that I have recorded a grade in error, I will happily correct it. Final grades will be calculated by the following percentages:

97-100=A+; 94-96=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 84-86=B; 80-83=B-; 77-79=C+; 74-76=C; 70-73=C-; 67-69=D+; 64-66=D; 60-63=D-; 59 & below=F

COURSE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Academic Integrity: 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 to the Student Conduct Code on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. In cases where plagiarism has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course grade is the standard practice of the English Department.

If you have any doubt about your citation practices, make sure to see me *before* you turn in an assignment. I am happy to help you better understand MLA formatting rules. Please be aware: I take issues of plagiarism and academic integrity very seriously. Plagiarism is cheating, and I will treat it as such. More importantly, plagiarism denies both you and me the opportunity to discover what you believe and have learned about the texts we study in class. This does a great disservice to you as an independent thinker, for your needs are far better served by wrestling with independent thoughts than by pilfering them from an online essay generator.

Access: If you have a disability (physical, psychological, or learning) that you think may affect your ability to participate in this class, please see me as soon as possible so we can make arrangements for your full access to all classroom activities. If you require additional help for this course in any way, speak to me at any time during the term and we will work together to get you the help you need. Also be aware that the Teaching and Learning Center is a great resource for brushing up on grammar and other writing needs outside the scope of this class. Located in PLC 72, their hours are 9-5 Monday through Friday and their phone number is (541) 346-3226.

Attendance: You may miss two class meetings for any reason, whether illness or personal need. I do not discriminate between the two. Additional absences will each lower your course grade by 1/3. For example, three absences will reduce a B- to a C+, four absences will reduce a B- to a C. If you are absent more than four times, you will automatically fail the class.

Students may “make up” ONE missed class by turning in a 4-page paper that describes, in detail, the class period that the student missed. This requires obtaining the notes of at least two classmates and piecing together the missed lecture/class discussion from these notes and from discussions with classmates (i.e., NOT me). The paper should discuss the missed reading *and* all class material. This paper is due within two weeks of the missed class, no later. This is the ONLY way to “make up” a missed class. You must take care of obtaining notes from classmates on your own.

Broken Printers & Computer Crashes: These things happen. However, you should always back up your files. I highly recommend DropBox or Google Cloud. If you do not produce a properly formatted copy of your assignment because of computer problems, it will affect your grade. Therefore, you should complete and print your work in enough time to allow for computer adjustments and printing issues. If your printer breaks and you are unable to produce a copy of your work before the beginning of class, e-mail it to me. This will not take the place of a hard copy, but it will “buy you time” until you can make a hard copy and deliver it to my office. Remember, your e-mailed paper must arrive before the beginning of class or I will mark it late.

Email Policy: I will respond to your email within 48 hours during the week. If you email me and two days (weekends *do not count*) pass with no reply, please email me again with a friendly reminder that you have yet to receive a reply to your message.

If your emails do not contain a salutation, clear message, and closing (with your full name), **I will ignore them.** On blackboard you will find a document with pro tips for emailing your professors.

Etiquette: Though this class will include lively discussion and even disagreement, it is important to be respectful of one another. Rudeness in class will not be tolerated, and that includes rudeness toward the work we explore. It is important to remember that in this class, whether or not you “like” a particular text is far less important than whether or not you can explain, using the language of literary interpretation, *why* you “like” that text.

TURN OFF all cell phones before class and refrain from distracting behaviors. Texting during class is not allowed. If I see you using your phone during class, I will mark you absent.

Late Work: All assigned work is due at the beginning of class. Unexcused late work will drop 1/2 of a letter grade for each DAY it is late. After one week, you cannot receive credit for a late assignment. If you must miss class, please turn in your work before our class meeting, or arrange to have a classmate bring it. Bear in mind that if you do not turn in your Midterm or Final Exam essays, you cannot pass the course.

Incompletes: Incompletes will only be granted in cases of documented emergencies that interfere with the completion of one major portion of coursework. If you are forced to take an incomplete you have one calendar year to make up the incomplete before it automatically changes to a grade of F.

Registration: The only way to add this class is through DuckWeb. I have no authority to admit students who are not registered. The last day to add this or any course is Friday of Week One. If you are not registered, you will not be allowed to attend class meetings or turn in work.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Reading Fiction

Monday 9-30

Introduction and Welcome

Wednesday 10-2

Reading Due: Pearson (1-26)

Week 2: Plot

Monday 10-7

Reading Due: Pearson (Dick 105-139)

Literary Terms: Anticlimax, Catharsis, Chronology, Climax, Conflict, Crisis, Denouement, Deus Ex Machine

Wednesday 10-9

Reading Due: Blackboard (Shockley)

Literary Terms: Double plot, Flashback, Foreshadowing, Frame narrative, In medias res, Resolution, Rising Action, Subplot
Quiz 1

Week 3: Character

Monday 10-14

Reading Due: Pearson (Bradbury 77-83)

Literary Terms: Antagonist, Antihero, Archetype, Character/Characterization, Dynamic Character, Flat Character, Foil

Week 3: Character

Wednesday 10-16

Reading Due: Pearson (Vonnegut 166-173)
Literary Terms: Antagonist, Hero/heroine, Protagonist, Round Characters, Static Character, Stock Character
Quiz 2
Assignment Due: Story Kit 1

Week 4: Theme

Monday 10-21

Reading Due: Pearson (Butler 85-103)
Literary Terms: Connotation, Hamartia, Hubris/Tragic Flaw, Intertextuality, Motif, Signifyin'

Wednesday 10-23

Reading Due: Blackboard (Due)
Quiz 3

Week 5: Midterm

Monday 10-28

Bring Paper Draft to Class for Peer Review

Wednesday 10-30

Midterm Paper Due

Week 6: Genre

Monday 11-4

Reading Due: Blackboard (Monae: Liner Notes) & Groovesark (Monae: *Metropolis*, *The ArchAndroid*, and *The Electric Lady*)
Literary Terms: Afro-Futurism, Bildungsroman & Coming-of-age, Canon, Dystopia, Utopia, Epic, Fantasy

Wednesday 11-6

Reading Due: Blackboard (Otaño)
Literary Terms: Magical Realism, Metafiction, Pulp Fiction, Romance, Tragedy, Satire
Quiz 4

Week 7: Style & Tone

Monday 11-11

Reading Due: Blackboard (Unamuno & Arreola)
Literary Terms: Avant Garde, Colloquial diction, Dialect, Figures of Speech, Irony, Mood, Regionalism, Sentimentality

Week 7: Style & Tone

Wednesday 11-13

Reading Due: Blackboard (Delaney)

Literary Terms: None

Quiz 5

Week 8: Point of View

Monday 11-18

Reading Due: Blackboard (Correa)

Literary Terms: Authorial Voice, First person narrative, Free Indirect Discourse, Interior Monologue, Narrator

Assignment Due: Story Kit 2

Wednesday 11-20

Reading Due: Pearson (LeGuin 141-147)

Literary Terms: Stream of consciousness, Unreliable narrator, Voice, Fly-on-the-wall, Narrator, Objective Point of View, Selective Omniscience

Quiz 6

Week 9: Setting

Monday 11-25

Reading Due: *The Hunger Games* Part I

Wednesday 11-27

No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10: Review

Monday 12-2

Reading Due: *The Hunger Games* Part II

Wednesday 12-4

Reading Due: *The Hunger Games* Part III

Quiz 7

Finals

Monday 12-9

Final Paper Due by 4 pm.

Note on Schedule

I may change, add, or substitute assignments or topics as appropriate to our work as a class. It's important that you not only come to class every session but also stay aware when and what assignments are due. If you are absent I will not email you notes or announcements about what you have missed. Furthermore, the question "Did I miss anything important?" or "Are we doing anything important today" will not fail to make me foam at the mouth.