

ENG 104: Intro to Literature: Fiction

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Office Hours: M 10–11:30 & W 11-12:30

CRN: 12983

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307 Volcanology

MWF 9-9:50 AM

Course Description and Objectives: This course is designed to serve as an introduction to fiction. Hence, this course will offer basic tools and materials to understand and interpret fiction. Throughout the term, you will read various short stories as well as two novels, written by writers from various cultural backgrounds. You will also learn how to utilize literary terms—such as point of view, narrator, character, plot, setting, theme, etc.—in analyzing literary texts. As we progress, this course will also address the relationships between the world and the activities of reading, writing, and interpretation. As you continue with the course, you are expected (and will be able) to thoughtfully explore the relationships not only by reading fiction written by others, but also by writing your own analyses of these texts.

Required Texts and Materials:

Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy* (Farrar Straus Giroux) ISBN 9780374527358

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Penguin Classics) ISBN 9780141441672

Other texts (short stories and literary terms) on Blackboard as pdf. files.

→ THESE TOO, AS HARD COPIES, SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO CLASS.

UO E-mail Account and Blackboard Access via Internet.

Recommended Texts:

Richard Bullock and Francine Weinberg, *The Little Seagull Handbook* (writing handbook)

College-level dictionary

Evaluation and Assignments

Grade Breakdown:

Close Reading Exercise 10% (due October 18)

Essay 1 15% (due November 5)

Essay 2 20% (due December 6)

Quizzes: 15%

Midterm Exam: 15% (In class, October 30)

Final Exam: 20% (December 11 at 10:15 AM)

Class Participation: 5%

****Note: You must complete all major assignments (papers and exams)
in order to pass the course. ****

Grading System:

>97	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	<60	F
93-97	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D		
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-		

A Note on Grading: According to the Undergraduate Grading Policies of the English Department, a grade of “C” is considered appropriate for satisfactory, average work that completes the basic requirements of the assignment. An “A” grade will reflect high levels of reasoning and analysis, excellent grasp of the fundamentals of written composition, and perfect mechanical execution at the sentence level. Please bear in mind that I, as an English instructor, use the department’s Grading Policies in order for objectivity, fairness, and consistency.

If you have any doubts or questions about your paper-writing habits or ideas for essays, please see me *before* you begin writing the first essay for the course. I am happy to help you prepare for the task of writing at the level required in ENG 104. See me at any point in the term if you have questions regarding grading criteria or decisions.

Essays and Close Reading Assignments: These are take-home assignments. Throughout the term, you will write two critical essays, each of which interprets a literary work, or works, with a particular argument (Essay 1 will be approximately 3 pages in length; Essay 2 will be about 4 ½ to 5 pages.) Prior to these assignments, you will first complete a 1 ½ page close reading that analyzes a passage in a text of your choice; this is due by Friday of Week 3. These writing assignments, including close reading, will be graded based on the quality of your argument, interpretation, organization, and prose style. Both essays should be complete, edited, and polished. Proofread everything you turn in for this class. In both cases, your work (as a hard copy) will be collected at the beginning of class. *Further information will be provided as the term progresses.*

Essay Format Guidelines: All essays and written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, in a readable font (preferably 12-point “Times New Roman” or “Aerial”). Type your name, date, course, and instructor’s name in the upper left-hand corner of the first page; you don’t need a separate title page. Place the paper’s title in the center below the heading. Be sure to staple all your pages. Titles of novels are *italicized* or underlined; titles of short stories and essays take quotation marks.

Late work: Work must be handed in to me as a hard copy on time as indicated on this syllabus or per my instructions. Please do not email your papers to me; electronic submission won’t be accepted. Failing to turn in an assignment by the deadline on the day it is due means the assignment is late. **Every day (of the week; not a class day) an assignment is late, it will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade (i.e. B to B- for one day late). After a week, late papers will revert to a grade of “F.” All papers must be turned in, however, to pass the course.** Should extraordinary circumstances arise, please consult with me on an individual basis *prior to the assigned deadline* to determine an appropriate course of action. Exceptions to standard rules will be made at my discretion only, and I cannot guarantee the opportunity to make up missing assignments.

Quizzes: There will be 6 unannounced quizzes throughout the term based on the readings. I will drop your lowest scores and count only 5. To get ready for the quizzes, you should read the assignments multiple times and understand them thoroughly, including definitions of key terms. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class; no make-ups. Some quizzes may be open book; so you need to bring your text(s) to class everyday.

Exams: No advanced or make-up exams would be allowed without documented medical emergency. If you cannot present at the final exam, please do not take the class. More detailed information will be provided as the term progresses.

Class Participation: Active and thoughtful, courteous discussion from everyone is a crucial element to the success of this course. Come to class prepared, with your reading assignments completed, and be willing to participate in a range of activities, including work in small groups and large class discussions. Disrespectful behavior and electronic interruptions such as cell phone calls, text messaging, and listening to portable mp3 players will not be tolerated, and will negatively impact your grade. **Please do not have your cell phone out in class. If I see yours out, I will mark you absent for the day, but I won’t necessarily interrupt class to tell you**

this. Since you're required to bring the readings of the day as hard copies to class, I don't think using a laptop during class would be necessary. If you must use your laptop during class, please come see me before class begins.

Policies and Procedures

Attendance: Your regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. Many of your essay topics and arguments will come directly from class discussion, and numerous assignments will be explained and executed during class. Participation during discussions will be a significant part of your grade, so please do not miss class for frivolous reasons. **You may miss THREE class meetings without penalty. These should be reserved for illnesses, travel out of town, and emergencies. After more than THREE absences, your final grade will drop one-third of a letter for each subsequent absence (for example, from a B to a B- for one missed day). If you are absent more than 7 times, you will automatically earn a grade of F in the class.** Extreme tardiness may also impact your grade.

Please, do not come to class if you are sick, particularly if you have a fever, sore throat, and cough. Be in contact (via email) with me (and all your instructors) regarding your health and any assignments that are due. Try not to miss class for any reason other than illness.

Contacting me: Email is by far the best way to contact me as I check it regularly and generally respond promptly. However, be sure to check the syllabus or assignment descriptions before emailing me questions that may be answered by these documents. On weekdays, I try to respond to all emails within 24 hours; on weekends, I try to check email at least once, but response is not guaranteed so don't wait until the last minute to ask important questions. I regularly post announcements, assignment updates, and other vital information by email, so check your e-mail daily. Office phone contact is not recommended; I don't answer voicemails. I also encourage you to come chat with me during office hours (or make an appointment) about ideas, drafts, questions, etc.

Academic Honesty: 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 consult *The Little Seagull Handbook* for a definition of plagiarism and information on documentation and refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. **In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course is the standard practice. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.**

Access: If you have a disability (physical or learning) that you think may affect your performance in this class, or if you have any concerns or needs about this course or your responsibilities, please see me during the first week so that we can make arrangements, if necessary, for full access to classroom materials and activities.

Class Schedule and Assignments

This schedule provides a tentative plan for the course. I may add, change, or substitute assignments or topics, with advance notice to you, as I deem necessary. Assigned readings are to be completed *before* class meets on the day they are listed. (Note: All the reading—except for *Lucy* and *Heart of Darkness*—are on Blackboard, under the “Course Documents” section.)

Date	Assigned Readings	Other Class Activities & Dues
Week 1 M 9/30	Literary Term: Fiction (In Class)	Introduction and Syllabus Diagnostic Essay <i>Recommended</i> Literary Terms: Short Story, Novel
W 10/2	Kate Chopin, “Regret” Literary Terms: Plot, Theme	
F 10/4	Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown” Literary Terms: Action, Setting	Sample Quiz Questions
Week 2 M 10/7	Raymond Carver, “Cathedral” Literary Terms: Character, Narrator, Close Reading	<i>How To Make a Literary Argument?</i> —Close-Reading Guidelines Explained
W 10/9	Ernest Hemingway, “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” Literary Term: Point of View	
F 10/11	James Joyce, “Araby” Literary Terms: Flat and Round Characters, Epiphany	
Week 3 M 10/14	Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” Literary Term: Unreliable Narrator	
W 10/16	Franz Kafka, “Metamorphosis” Literary Term: Conflict, Crisis	
F 10/18	Virginia Woolf: “Mark on the Wall” Literary Term: Stream of Consciousness	Close Reading Assignment Due

Week 4		
M 10/21	Jhumpa Lahiri, “Interpreter of Maladies”	
W 10/23	Scott F. Fitzgerald, “Babylon Revisited” Literary Term: Symbol	Essay 1 Guidelines Explained.
F 10/25	Herman Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener” Literary Term: Class	Sample Exam Questions
Week 5		
M 10/28		TBA
W 10/30		Mid-term Exam, In Class
F 11/1	Junot Diaz, “How to Date a Brown Girl, (Blackgirl, Whitegirl or Halfie)” Literary Term: Race	
Week 6		
M 11/3	Gish Jen, “Who’s Irish?”	
W 11/5	Maxine Hong Kingston, “White Tiger” Literary Term: Magic Realism	Essay 1 Due
F 11/7	Richard Wright, “The Man Who Was Almost a Man” Literary Terms: Diction, Style	
Week 7		
M 11/10	Zamora Linmark, “Mister Porma” Literary Term: Tone	
W 11/12	Jamaica Kincaid, <i>Lucy</i> (“Poor Visitor,” and “Mariah”)	
F 11/14	Jamaica Kincaid, <i>Lucy</i> (“The Tongue”)	Essay 2 Guidelines Explained.

Week 8		
M 11/17	Jamaica Kincaid, <i>Lucy</i> (“Cold Heart”)	
W 11/19	Jamaica Kincaid, <i>Lucy</i> (“Lucy”)	
F 11/21	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (pp.3-20) Literary Term: Frame Story	
Week 9		
M 11/24	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (pp. 21-40) Literary Term: Postcolonial Literature	
W 11/26	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (pp. 41-60)	
F 11/28		No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday
Week 10		
M 12/2	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (pp. 61-80)	
W 12/4	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (pp. 81-End)	
F 12/6		Course Conclusion Essay 2 Due
Finals Week		Final Exam Wednesday, December 11 10:15 AM