

**PROFESSOR JENNIFER BURNS BRIGHT**  
**ENG104: Introduction to Literature, Topic: Food and the City**  
**CRN 26385, Winter 2015, TTh 4:00-5:20, 112 LIL**

**CONTACTING ME:**

Email: [jlevin@uoregon.edu](mailto:jlevin@uoregon.edu)

Office hours: TuTh 2:30-3:50, or by appt., in VIL 313C, inside the COLT Dept. main office.

**REQUIRED TEXTS/EDITIONS:**

Books

Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Joyce, *The Dead*

Lewycka, *Strawberry Fields*

Sinclair, *The Jungle* (Norton Critical Edition)

Zola, *The Belly of Paris*

Plus additional readings on Blackboard

Also required: Hacker, *Manual for Writers of Research Papers* (or another style guide)

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

Paper 1: 20%

Paper 2: 30%

Midterm: 20%

Class Community/Discussions: 10%

Reading Journal (10 entries, DL q's and NT notes): 20%

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

*"I give you Chicago. It is not London and Harvard. It is not Paris and buttermilk. It is American in every chitling and sparerib. It is alive from snout to tail."*

--H. L. Mencken

This course offers a broad introduction to the study of literary fiction. The course addresses basic questions about the nature of prose narrative and the interrelated activities of reading, writing, and interpretation. We will explore the definition and characteristics of the term "story," analyze the role stories play in our cultural and political lives, and explore how the interpretation of a literary text goes beyond a merely subjective opinion by more deeply understanding narrative technique, point of view, and character development. We will seek to do all of these things helped by this section's theme, Food in the City. As a basic introduction to a major genre in the field of literary studies, this course satisfies the university's Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category.

English Department Courses Learning Outcomes:

1. Read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
2. Draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
3. Perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;
4. Write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
5. Employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
6. Employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

**Office Hours:** I am available for several hours a week for drop-in office hours and welcome your visits. You do not need an appointment, unless you are unable to make those times (or I have scheduled special hours for student meetings). I am always on campus on TuTh this term – try first to make appointments, if necessary, on those days. I am also happy to answer questions via email –

please allow several hours turnaround time, though. I can answer very limited and specific writing questions over email, but I can't review full drafts over email. If you'd like to discuss your draft, please do come see me in person.

**Assignments:** Your assignments will exhibit your understanding of the issues presented in one or more texts we've read this term, using careful and thorough research, good analytical skills, and knowledge of proper citation and other stylistics. You will write two papers and keep a reading journal each week that will be submitted and graded holistically at the end of the term. If you complete 10 entries that show considerable thought about a specific quote plus your discussion questions and notes for the days you're assigned Discussion Leader/Notetaker, you will receive full credit for this assignment.

Completing assignments on time is crucial for this class, as they are linked with class activities. Late assignments will be dropped one letter grade per class day late, unless we make arrangements ahead of time, and a late final paper automatically receives one letter grade reduction per day late. If you suspect you might have a problem meeting the deadline, please email me. Emergencies, of course, are an exception.

**Class Community/Discussion Leaders/Notetakers:** The class community is a crucial part of the experience. It is expected that you will come to class having read all assigned materials. To stimulate interest and build reading comprehension and summarizing skills, I will schedule each of you to be the discussion leader for works we are reading this term. Your mission as DL:

- come up with 2-3 discussion questions;
- be prepared with a summary of the main ideas of the text you're discussing;
- know a bit about the author and context of your text by doing a bit of research online;
- encourage your peers to participate equally, efficiently, and respectfully.

To create a good community, I'll also assign Notetakers for each class who can trade notes with others with incomplete notes and help in group studying for the midterm. You will also present a short synopsis of your paper during Week 10 to stimulate ideas and give each other support.

**Attendance/Accommodations:** Because discussion is so important, any class you miss will be a loss to you. If you miss more than three classes or don't complete the discussion leader or paper presentation satisfactorily, you will receive a 0 for your class community grade.

If you are sick or need to miss one class for university sanctioned team events or another reason, be proactive: email me to let me know and email another student to take notes for you. It is your responsibility to (1) turn in all missed work on the day you return; and (2) arrange to get notes/assignments from another student ahead of time, (3) contact me with questions AFTER you review the notes. We can discuss extensions for missed work as necessary. If you have other extenuating circumstances (family emergency, serious illness), you must communicate that to me in a timely manner so we can discuss how to handle it.

I'd also like to hear from you during the first week of class if you need any alternative accommodations for physical or learning disabilities, so we can make sure your needs are met.

**Final Exam:** No final exam. Your paper is due at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday of Week 10.

**Academic Misconduct:** Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct (details available at [conduct.uoregon.edu](http://conduct.uoregon.edu)). For our class, the most important aspect of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources (e.g., quotations, paraphrases, ideas taken from another source). Plagiarism is a serious offense, punishable by failure in this course.

**SCHEDULE:**

*Syllabus subject to revision throughout the term. Required reading due each class is indicated as follows: books are listed by author; online reading may be added, and will be in the Course Documents section of our Blackboard site.*

**Week 1: The Dinner Party**

1/6 Introduction to Class

1/8 Introduction to Fiction  
Joyce (entire book)

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

**Week 2: The Market**

1/13 Joyce

1/15 Zola 1-89

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

**Week 3: The Market**

1/20 Zola 90-192

1/22 Zola 193-275

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

**Week 4: The Factory**

1/27 Sinclair, Introduction and Crunden on "Muckraking, Progressivism, and The Pure Food and Drug Act" in Sinclair

**Paper 1 Due**

1/29 Sinclair, pp. 1-63;

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

**Week 5: The Factory**

2/3 Group Work

2/5 Sinclair, pp. 64-148, 149-232

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

**Week 6: The Factory**

2/10 Sinclair; pp. 233 to end and Schlosser on "Back to 'The Jungle'" (pp. 475-80 in Sinclair)

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

2/12 Lewycka 1-88

### **Week 7: The Farm**

2/17 **Midterm**

2/19 Lewycka 89-150

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

### **Week 8: The Farm**

2/24 Group work

2/26 Lewycka 151-222, 223-91

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

### **Week 9: Distribution Networks**

3/3 Dahl 1-68

3/5 Peer Review

### **Week 10: The Restaurant**

3/10 Dahl 68-155

Discussion Leaders:

Notetakers:

3/12 Wrap-up and discussion of paper topics

**Paper 2 Due at 5:00 p.m., my office**