

ENG 104: Introduction to Fiction (CRN# 22039)
Cinderella: Not Your Disney Princess

Instructor: Alexis Kielb

MWF 1:00-1:50, 307 Volcanology

Office: 228C PLC, 346-8750

Office Hours: M 12:15-12:45 & 2:00-2:30, W 2:00-2:30, R 1:00-2:30, and by appointment

Course Description: This course offers students a broad introduction to the study of literary fiction by addressing basic questions about the nature of narrative and the interrelated activities of reading, writing, and interpreting. This particular course is centered on one story: Cinderella. Through various interpretations of the story we will interrogate how changing basic elements of fiction can radically alter a narrative. For example, how does the story change when the protagonist, Cinderella, is a cyborg mechanic instead of a genteel servant? What happens when the point of view is from one of Cinderella's stepsisters instead of from Cinderella? Because this class discusses the basic academic discourse surrounding fiction, it satisfies the university's Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category. It does not count for credit towards the English Major.

Learning Outcomes:

- * Read literary texts from a variety of historical time periods and ethnic perspectives to gain an understanding of their unique cultural contexts
- * Develop a critical vocabulary to discuss literary texts cogently and with discernment
- * Apply key terms to explain fiction's generic conventions
- * Write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose
- * Identify and analyze ("close read") salient textual evidence to defend an essay's thesis

Required Texts:

Cinder: Book One in the Lunar Chronicles by Marissa Meyer

Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister: A Novel by Gregory Maguire

All additional readings posted on Blackboard (BB)

Recommended Texts:

The Little Duck Handbook, Rules for Writers, or another college-level writing handbook

Coursework and Grading:

Micro-fiction Assignment (5%): See final page of syllabus for description and instructions.

Journal (25%): The journal assignment provides an opportunity for you to practice the skill sets you will need to succeed on the larger assignments for this class. Over the course of the term (beginning in Week 2) you must complete six journal entries (one for each prompt). You may complete the prompts in any order you choose, but each journal entry is due the day we are discussing the text you are analyzing. For instance, if you want to complete an entry for "Glass," you would need to complete it before class begins on 1/14. You may not finish more than one prompt for each day's assigned reading, so plan ahead. I have included three check-in dates on the schedule of assignments; you must finish two entries by each check-in date. At the end of the term I will drop your lowest-scoring journal entry. Prompt directions and sample schedules available on Blackboard.

Short Analytical Paper (15%): This 3-4 page paper must be argumentative (based on a thesis) and must close read one of the assigned texts. You must cite from the narrative using MLA in-text citations. You may not use any outside sources. This paper does not need to include a Works Cited page. Specific guidelines to follow.

Final Paper (30%): This 5-6 page paper must be argumentative (based on a thesis) and must close read one of the assigned texts. You must cite from the narrative using MLA in-text citations. You may not use any outside sources. This paper does not need to include a Works Cited page. Specific guidelines to follow.

Final Exam (20-25%*): This exam will focus on the key terms we will have covered over the course of the term. You should be able to define and apply all of the assigned terms, even if we do not discuss some of them in class. See the schedule of assignments for required terms.

*Quizzes (5%): As long as everyone is doing the reading, there will be no quizzes. If classroom discussion suggests that many people are not reading, I will start giving unannounced quizzes. If I start giving quizzes, they will be 5% of your total grade.

Formatting Requirements: All assignments other than the journal should use the following formatting requirements. All assignments should be **printed on one side**. The margins should be 1” on all sides (note: this is not the default setting in MSWord). You should use 12 pt Times New Roman. In the top right corner of the header include your last name and the page number. In the top left corner of the paper (not the header) include your name, my name, the class, and the date, all single-spaced. Include a title (this should be centered). Double-space the remainder of the assignment.

Course Policies:

Preparedness: This class is discussion-based. In order for you to get the most out of classroom discussions, I expect you to come to class **on time** with a physical copy of the assigned reading, having already carefully read the material outside of class. While I will not be taking attendance, coming prepared to every class will help you do better on assignments and the final exam.

Homework: All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments will be docked one full letter grade every calendar day they are late. If you must submit a late assignment to me over the weekend, I expect you to e-mail it to me as an attachment (.doc or .docx) **and** bring me a hard copy the next time class meets. I will not grade any assignment that is more than 4 days late.

Classroom Etiquette: I expect you to be respectful toward me and your classmates, which means listening to our views, even if they are different than your own. You cannot listen respectfully if you are on the internet or texting, therefore I ask that you turn off and put away your cellphones before class begins. If I suspect that people’s laptops are becoming a distraction, I may institute a policy where you must e-mail me your notes after each class session in order to demonstrate you were paying attention.

E-mail Etiquette: I encourage you to contact me (alexisk@uoregon.edu) if you have questions or concerns about the class. If you need to contact me via e-mail make sure you include the following information: a subject in the subject line, a greeting, a closing, your name, and the class you’re

enrolled in. **I will not respond to e-mails that are missing any of these items.** I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours during the weekend.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is dishonest and disrespects the work done by other students, the effort of the instructor, and the quality of the degree you are seeking to earn. Therefore, all work submitted for this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this class. All ideas, quotations, and paraphrases that are not your own must be properly cited. See me if you have any questions about how to properly cite sources. As is standard in these types of classes, you will fail the course if you are proved guilty of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty. I reserve the right to have all assignments submitted electronically through SafeAssign.

Access: The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me in week one if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Schedule of Assignments:

Definitions for required terms are available via Wheeler's Literary Terms - http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms.html (link available on Blackboard). Terms within parentheses indicate that you should follow hyperlinks embedded within the definition on Wheeler's Literary Terms.

Week	Date	Due
1	M 1/5	
	W 1/7	"Cinderella, or The Glass Slipper" Perrault (France, 1697) Terms: plot, rising action, conflict, climax, falling action, resolution
	F 1/9	"Cinderella" Grimm (Germany, 1812) Terms: Close reading (follow 'click here'), figurative language (schemes, tropes)
2	M 1/12	"Cinderella" Ritchie (England, 1868) Terms: Character (flat, round, stock, protagonist, antagonist) Micro-fiction Assignment
	W 1/14	"Glass" Block (USA, 2000) Terms: style (follow 'click here')
	F 1/16	"Omutugwa" Fairman and Asare (Kenya, 1991) Terms: theme, motif
3	M 1/19	NO CLASS
	W 1/21	"Ashputtle or The Mother's Ghost" Carter (England, 1993) Terms: allusion
	F 1/23	"When the Clock Strikes" Lee (England, 1980) Terms: antihero First Journal Check-In
4	M 1/26	<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i> (USA, 1999), Prologue-Van den Meer's Household Terms: point of view
	W 1/28	<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i> , The Small Room of Outside - Reception

	F 1/30	<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i> , Virginal - The Nowhere Windmill
5	M 2/2	<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i> , Invitations - Collapses Short Analytical Paper
	W 2/4	<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i> , Campaigns - The Changeling
	F 2/6	<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i> , Small Magic - Midnight
6	M 2/9	<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i> , A Most Unholy Night - Epilogue Terms: authorial voice
	W 2/11	"Tebaldo" Straparola (Italy, 1550) Terms: analogue
	F 2/13	"The Tale of the Skin" Donoghue (Ireland, 1997)
7	M 2/16	"The Princess in the Suit of Leather" (Egypt, traditional folktale) Second Journal Check-In
	W 2/18	"Yeh-hsien" (China, c. 850) Terms: symbol (cultural, contextual, personal)
	F 2/20	"Cinderella" Lan (China, 1933) Terms: allegory
8	M 2/23	<i>Cinder</i> (USA, 2012), chapters 1-4
	W 2/25	<i>Cinder</i> , chapters 5-8
	F 2/27	<i>Cinder</i> , chapters 9-14
9	M 3/2	<i>Cinder</i> , chapters 15-20 Final Journal Check-In
	W 3/4	<i>Cinder</i> , chapters 21-24
	F 3/6	<i>Cinder</i> , chapters 25-29
10	M 3/9	<i>Cinder</i> , chapters 30-34
	W 3/11	<i>Cinder</i> , chapters 35-38
	F 3/13	Final Paper
Final	W 3/18 2:45 pm	

Micro-fiction Assignment

This is a 2-part assignment. The first part is to write a piece of Cinderella micro-fiction (140 characters, including spaces, or less). The only symbols you may use in it are & and #; otherwise all other words need to be spelled out. You can check how many characters you have used in MSWord by selecting Word Count from the Tools menu or, if you use Twitter, you can check by typing it as a tweet. Because you must reduce the story to 140 characters or less, you must decide what elements of the story are most important to you. You are free to play with narrative structure, such as changing the ending or presenting the story from a different person's point of view. Include the number of characters used in parentheses at the end of the micro-fiction. The title of the micro-fiction should be "Cinderella."

The second part of the assignment is to write a 1 page analysis that explains why you picked the details you did. Why did you focus on this point of the story? In other words, how does it represent the whole fairy tale? Given that you only had 140 characters available, each word is important. What is the significance of those words?

Here are two examples of Cinderella micro-fictions and lists of the types of questions I would expect your analysis to answer:

1.

Cinderella

Glass is just so breakable. She waited & waited & waited... (57)

For this piece of Cinderella micro-fiction, I would expect you to answer the following questions: Why is it important that glass is breakable? What effect does repeating "waited" three times have? Is it significant that we don't know whether or not the prince ever arrives? What is the relationship between the two sentences?

2.

Cinderella

With all the world watching, she couldn't say no. Just like a china doll, she let them dress her in silk & lace, beautiful & dead inside. (137)

For this piece of Cinderella micro-fiction, I would expect you to answer the following questions: What is the implication of the first sentence and how does it differ from more traditional endings? Why is Cinderella like a china doll (versus a Barbie or American Girl doll)? Why might a china doll be described as both beautiful and dead? Why might Cinderella feel like she is dead after marrying a prince? Why is Cinderella being dressed by others instead of dressing herself?