

ENG 104-22037: Intro to Fiction
MW: 8:30-9:50
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Office Hours: M 10-12 W 10-11

What is fiction? What is a short story? What is a short story cycle or collection? What is a novel? While these questions may seem obvious, answers to them become somewhat arbitrary when phrased in relation to actual works of prose writing. In particular, this class will focus on short story collections to interrogate what exactly we mean when we talk about fiction and, further, what leads us to distinguish between short fiction and novels. All of the collections we will read aspire to construct a coherent narrative world through stories that are variously intertwined, whether in a realistic representation of small town America or in the highly fictional realm of science-fiction and fairy tales.

The English Department's assessment procedure is built around six desired 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.

Syllabus Statement: You are responsible for knowing the information listed on this syllabus. The syllabus is available on the course website on Blackboard. Consult the syllabus before contacting me about any course logistics; I will not respond to questions that it already answers.

Required Texts & ISBNs:

Sherman Alexie, <i>The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven</i> , 1993	9780802121998
Sherwood Anderson, <i>Winesburg, Ohio</i> , 1919	9780486282695
Ray Bradbury, <i>The Martian Chronicles</i> , 1950	9781451678192
Angela Carter, <i>The Bloody Chamber</i> , 1979	9780140178210
Robert W. Chambers, <i>The King in Yellow</i> , 1895. Free ebook available through Project Gutenberg: http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/8492 and on the course website (if possible, download the epub version which has page numbers)	
Ernest Hemingway, <i>In Our Time</i> , 1925	9780684822761

Ebooks are fine, but make sure that they are the correct edition and contain real page numbers.

Coursework and Grading

Attendance: I take attendance every class. You are allowed two absences without penalty. Each subsequent absence will result in a deduction of 1/3 of a letter grade from your final grade (i.e. A to an A-, A- to B+) except in the instance of a documented medical or family emergency. **On a fifth unexcused absence you will automatically fail the course.** If you miss a class, obtain notes from a classmate and review them in detail before contacting me with any specific questions about those notes or the text. You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance. Do not ask me how many absences you have.

Classmate 1

Name:

E-mail:

Classmate 2

Name:

E-mail:

Reading: Complete all reading assignments before class and bring your book with you. I strongly encourage you to mark important passages and take notes in your book to prepare for discussion and writing assignments. **Always bring the assigned reading to class.**

Participation, quizzes, and in class writing: 10% of overall grade. Participation is mandatory. Productive, regular participation in class discussion will benefit your overall grade for the course. You must show respect for the ideas and opinions of other students. Disrespectful or disruptive classroom conduct (side conversations, use of electronic devices for purposes unrelated to class) will result in a marked absence for that day's class.

Quizzes and in-class writing assignments are unannounced and will focus on the assigned reading.

Leading Class Discussion: 5% of overall grade. You are each required to bring in a series of 2-3 questions to lead discussion in class once during the quarter. Check with the other student leading discussion on the same day beforehand to ensure that your questions don't overlap. These questions must address the reading for that day's class and focus on the specifics of the text itself (no general questions). I will pass around a signup sheet on 1/7 and post it on Blackboard. You are responsible for remembering what day you will lead discussion. Submit your questions on Blackboard before class, or physically hand them in to me after. A large portion of your participation grade will reflect how well and how often you engage with the discussion questions of other students.

Midterm Exam: 25% of overall grade. The midterm may contain identification, multiple choice, true or false, matching, and short answer. You will be tested on readings, lectures, and key concepts discussed in class. We will discuss the midterm in class the preceding week. You must take the midterm in class during the time scheduled. Drop the class if you are not able to attend the midterm on 2/11.

Close Reading Essays: 25% of overall grade. Over the course of the quarter, you will write 3 close reading essays of 1 page each. You choose which weeks you prefer to write. Make sure to keep track of how many papers you have turned in. For close readings, choose one paragraph from the assigned reading that you think warrants further investigation and make an argument about it that you can substantiate with specific textual analysis. Close readings must have a thesis that makes a strong claim and structures the analysis that follows it. Avoid plot summary and unnecessary background information (you're writing for an informed audience, so you can jump straight into your analysis). Essays should not repeat material from class discussion, but expand upon or challenge it.

Final Essay: 35% of overall grade. Due 3/16 by 5 p.m. A final essay of 5 pages will focus on one or two texts. I will distribute essay prompts at least two weeks before the due date.

Writing Guidelines: Papers must be double spaced and in 12 point standard font with one inch margins and minimal, single spaced headers (i.e. name, date, course title or number). As the English department's learning objectives state, essays must be focused and in clear, grammatically correct prose. Proofread

your essays several times before submission. Citations should follow MLA format. Submit all writing assignments to Blackboard in either DOC or PDF formats. Blackboard does not process Pages or ODT files. It is your responsibility to ensure that your essay has been uploaded correctly before the deadline. If you submit an essay in an incorrect format, you will not receive comments on it. **I will not accept late final essays.**

Resources for Writing:

Victoria Writer's Guide for literary and rhetorical vocabulary:
<http://web.uvic.ca/wguide/Pages/LiteraryTermsTOC.html>
Purdue Online Writing Lab: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

Academic Integrity:

All work must adhere to standards of academic honesty outlined in the Student Handbook. Do not turn in work prepared for other classes. Document all sources consulted, including websites and other Internet content. Plagiarism will result in failure for the course and additional sanctions as determined by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards:
<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards.aspx>

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

In compliance with UO policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first two weeks of the quarter, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with the Accessible Education Center (<http://aec.uoregon.edu> to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Recommended Study Habits and University Resources:

University accreditation standards require at least 2 hours of work outside of class for each credit earned. This means that you are expected to dedicate ~8 hours/week of *outside of class* work. This will usually mean reading the assigned texts, but will also include time spent completing assignments, writing papers, and working on larger projects.

Numerous campus resources are available which you should avail yourself of if you desire assistance with academic or extra-academic issues. For a full list, please see the Blackboard document "University Resources"; I will also discuss relevant resources throughout the quarter.

WARNING: Readings may contain explicit depictions of sex, violence, adult themes, coarse language, and material that some might find offensive. If you think that this might be a problem for you, please come talk to me about whether we can find a solution, or if this is the best class for you.

Course Schedule: (Reading listed is due that day)

1/5: Introduction

1/7: Chambers, *The King In Yellow*, "The Repairer of Reputations"

1/12: *The King In Yellow*, "The Mask," "In the Court of the Dragon"

1/15: *The King In Yellow*, "The Yellow Sign," "The Demoisells d'Ys," "The Prophets' Paradise"

1/19: **No Class -- Martin Luther King Day**

1/21: Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*, through page 56 (through “Terror, part 4, concerning David Hardy”)

1/26: *Winesburg, Ohio*, through page 115 (through “An Awakening, concerning Belle Carpenter”)

1/28: *Winesburg, Ohio*, finish book.

2/2: Hemingway, *In Our Time*, through page 62.

2/4: *In Our Time*, through page 104.

2/9: *In Our Time*, finish book.

2/11: **Midterm**

2/16: Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles*, up to page 63

2/18: *The Martian Chronicles*, up to page 157.

2/23: *The Martian Chronicles*, finish book.

2/25: Alexie, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, up to page 93.

3/2: *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, up to page 149.

3/4: *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, finish book.

3/9: Carter, *The Bloody Chamber*

3/11: *The Bloody Chamber*

3/16: **Final Essay due on Blackboard by 5 p.m.**