

Intro To Fiction

ENG 104

ALL 101
CRN: 22040
M/W/F 3:00-3:50

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M/W 1:00-2:30
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“Animal Studies in Fiction”

Course Description

Most studies of literature are concerned with questions about human characters and how plots, symbols, and settings define them. However, many characters and figures in fiction are not human: companion animals, monsters, predators, half-humans, and magical talking animals permeate the world of fiction. The question of what is an animal offers us a new way to approach questions of character, setting, and narrative in fiction.

Learning Outcomes

Write a focused, analytical essay in clear prose
Assert a specific thesis about a story's form and theme
Support interpretations of fiction with proof from the text
Articulate insightful questions and responses to short passages and whole texts

Required Texts and Materials

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel
The Complete Maus by Art Spiegelman
Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Philip K Dick
The Bloody Chamber and other stories by Angela Carter
Access to Blackboard: other readings available in Course Documents folder

Assignments and Grading

10% Quizzes (one quiz a week)
15% Discussion presentation
15% Short analysis
15% Midterm exam
25% Final exam
20% Literary analysis essay

Assignments

All assignments (except exams) will be due electronically on blackboard either typed directly in response to shorter assignments or submitted as .doc or .docx attachments.

Quizzes

On blackboard, due online the day before class. The purpose of this assignment is to test reading and prepare you for class. Open book, but timed.

Discussion presentation

You and a group of your fellow students will lead our weekly discussion of a text. As a group, you are responsible for a brief presentation of context and definition of key vocabulary, one discussion question each that you will all facilitate discussion for. The purpose of this assignment is to support your analytical and discussion skills.

Short analysis

In 2-3 pages, you will annotate a short story, define key vocabulary, introduce the characters, and summarize the plot in one paragraph. In the second paragraph, you'll choose a passage and close read it in another paragraph. Include the quote in your paragraph, using MLA citation style.

Midterm Exam

The midterm is a mix of multiple choice, write-in, and short answer questions to review important vocabulary and details from discussion and the readings.

Final Exam

The final is a mix of multiple choice, write-in, and short answer questions to review vocabulary, details from discussion, and readings from the entire class

Literary analysis essay

In this 5-page essay, you will introduce an argument in response to a prompt about one of the longer fiction works in the second half of the class. Your essay should be well-revised and proofread, formatted according to MLA guidelines.

Policies

Attendance

Your presence in class is crucial to our learning community. In this class, you get 3 free absences for any reason with no need for communication. After that, each absence subtracts 5 points from your final grade. If you anticipate missing more than 3 classes and require special accommodations, please contact me in advance for approval.

Readings

Always complete the readings before class and bring the texts or your computer/tablet to class along with your notes and any questions. Some texts require more substantial reading than others, so during slower weeks, get started early!

Electronics

Distracting use of electronics in class disrupts the focus and quality of our educational experience. If your devices cause a disruption, you may be marked absent without comment.

Late Work

In the interest of fairness, you must submit all work on time. Assignments are due on blackboard before class begins. Starting right after class, for every day your work is late your grade goes down a step (from A to A-, B to B-, etc)

Blackboard and email

Please check the blackboard schedule often and make sure you read official class emails.

Assignment formatting

All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, saved with your name in the file name, and in .doc or .docx form. Always cite quotes or paraphrases from our texts using MLA format, author last name and page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Make sure that you revise your thoughts and proofread each sentence for clarity.

Academic Honesty:

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course, which means you may not submit papers or portions of papers you have written for any other 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 academic misconduct has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course grade is the standard practice. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

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 the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

Schedule

	Date	Activity	Reading due	Assignments due
1	1-5	Animal stories intro		
	1-7	Syllabus + groups	"The Black Cat"	
	1-9	Reading and annotating	"The Company of Wolves"	Quiz 1
2	1-12		"The Slaughter of the Pidgeons"	
	1-14		"A White Heron"	
	1-16	Student-led discussion 1	"An Old Man with Enormous Wings"	Quiz 2
3	1-19	NO CLASS—MLK Day		
	1-21	Student-led discussion 2	"Metamorphosis" and "The Moth"	Quiz 3
	1-23	Writing workshop #1		*rough draft
4	1-26		Life of Pi chapters 1-18	Short Analysis
	1-28		Chapters 19-35	Quiz 4
	1-30	Student-led discussion 3	Chapters 35-51	
5	2-2		Chapters 52-67	
	2-4		Chapters 68-83	Quiz 5
	2-6	Student-led discussion 4	Chapters 84-end	
6	2-9	Midterm review		
	2-11	Midterm exam		
	2-13	Student-led discussion 5	Maus 1-75	Quiz 6
7	2-16		Maus 75-150	
	2-18	Student-led discussion 6	Maus 151-225	Quiz 7
	2-20		Maus 225-end	
8	2-23			
	2-25	Student-led discussion 7	Do Androids 1-40	Quiz 8
	2-27		Do Androids 41-80	
9	3-3	Student led discussion 8	Do Androids 81-120	Quiz 9
	3-5	Writing workshop #2		*rough draft
	3-7		Do Androids 121-170	Final Essay due
10	2-9		Do Androids 171-220	Quiz 10
	2-11		Do Androids 221-end	
	2-13	Final review		
finals	3-17	Final exam 2:45 pm Tuesday		

