

ENG 104: INTRO TO FICTION

Fall 2015—CRN 12068
Monday/Wednesday: 4-5:20 p.m.
Lillis 185

Instructor: Allison Bray
Email: abray@uoregon.edu
Office: PLC 241
Office Phone: 541-346-xxxx
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-4
(and by appointment)

Welcome to Introduction to Fiction. By working through a selection of short stories and novels, this course addresses basic questions about the nature of prose narrative and the interrelated activities of reading, writing, and interpretation. What are the criteria that people have used to define “good” fiction in the past? Do we, as modern readers in this classroom, have different standards for what makes a story worth telling *and* worth reading?

However you react to these stories—whether it is with pleasure, horror, or confusion—you’ll be expanding and practicing your skill-set for discussing fictional texts in class discussion and in the thoughtful, well-supported writing you’ll work on throughout the term. We will interrogate what exists within a piece of fiction, in terms of its form and content, and we will consider those pieces in light of what happens around the text, in its historical, critical, and popular contexts. Above all, this course is designed to help you react strongly and articulately to the fiction you encounter this term and elsewhere in the world.

Note: 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. These credits do not count toward an English Major.

Outcomes: By the end of this course, you will be able to

1. Identify and discuss the central qualities of short and long fiction (short stories vs. novels) using appropriate literary terminology.
2. Perform “close readings” of literary texts to discover their important features and potential significance related to larger themes and contexts of the work.
3. Generate a strong and intriguing thesis concerning 1-2 texts and defend that thesis with relevant evidence and reasoning to demonstrate *how* that text means what it means.
4. Write a focused, analytical essay in clear, grammatical prose and using appropriate source documentation.

Required Texts: (available at UO Duckstore)

Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, Oxford University Press
Octavia Butler, *Bloodchild and Other Stories*, Seven Stories Press
Pat Barker, *Regeneration*, Plume Press
Mary Wollstonecraft, *Maria*, W. W. Norton Press

These texts are available in other editions and sometimes even for free online in the case of the older novels. Be aware that your choice to use other editions will affect your ability to access page numbers and footnotes that help you keep up with the class discussion and writing.

Other required reading: your campus email, the course Canvas site, and other short readings to be announced and posted on the course site.

Assignments and Grading

4 quizzes, one on each major author covered: 10%

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Short Writing Assignments + Exercises: 30%

Mid-Term Paper: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Quizzes: There will be four brief short-answer and/or multiple choice quizzes occurring unannounced throughout the term. You cannot make up quizzes. However, each quiz will focus on one of our major authors and will occur on a day we are covering that author—good attendance and careful reading of the course schedule + assigned texts will help you succeed.

Attendance and Participation: Sign in on the attendance sheet at the beginning of class; late arrivals will have to check in with me after class. Come prepared to discuss the reading assigned for the day. **Discussion, in class and online, is your chance to shape this course into something dynamic and responsive to your interests.** I reward students who speak up, who support their opinions with textual evidence, and who foster a good classroom atmosphere. This means good listening, thoughtful responses, and encouraging a variety of voices to contribute (i.e. not dominating discussion).

Short Writing Assignments: These are short position papers (two established in the syllabus so far) that will have clear directions and reward strong opinions supported by evidence from the reading. Other small in-class or take-home exercises will get put into this category as the class requires and benefits from them.

Mid-Term Paper: The longer formal essay you'll complete for this class, this is a 3-5 page essay based on a prompt I'll give you well in advance of the due date. MLA citation required.

Final Exam: There will be an exam during Week 11 (finals). This exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and one short essay question that will test your reading comprehension, your knowledge of key literary terms and ideas discussed in class, and your application of close reading skills. Any material – from quizzes, readings, lectures, class discussions, etc. – is fair game for the exam. Except in the direst of situations, the exam cannot be rescheduled.

Course Policies

Late Work and Missed Classes:

Written assignments completed outside of class should be submitted online via the appropriate Canvas link before 4 p.m. on the day they are due. If you encounter a problem submitting the assignment, email me a digital copy before the deadline. Unless otherwise arranged with me prior to that class period, I only accept late work during a 24 HOUR PERIOD after the deadline and it will receive a 10% penalty.

Any missed classes beyond two sessions (one week) will put your final grade at risk. I reserve the right to penalize your final course grade by 5% for each additional absence after the first.

Emergencies happen, and I'll take them into account when considering late work and missed classes, but know that other courses and extracurricular activities do not constitute emergencies.

Communication:

Check your university email regularly and set Canvas notifications/announcements to ASAP so that you have timely access to information I may send outside of class.

Email is the best way to contact me and to create a written record of any conversations we have about your work in class. Please use professional conventions (relevant subject line, polite address, full sentences, and a signature) even if you are sending something from a phone.

Assignment Formatting:

- Submit assignments in .doc or .docx format (I won't be able to grade anything sent as a PDF or a format unreadable by PC and Canvas software).
- Name the file using your last name, ENG 104, and the assignment title from the syllabus.
- Each essay must be double-spaced in 12 pt Times New Roman font, one inch margins all around, and include your name, the class, and the date at the top of the document.
- MLA format, including Works Cited list, required whenever you quote texts.

Outside Research

None of your assignments require outside research. In fact, I strongly discourage you doing research for your paper because you will get bogged down by others' ideas and I am really most interested in hearing your thoughts about the text. Note: you should not Google your text or topic to see what people have said about it and then simply skip citing any of this information. Not only could this practice constitute plagiarism, but you will miss an opportunity to sharpen your critical thinking skills and you do yourself a disservice by not challenging yourself to formulate your own ideas. I will equip you with the tools you need to generate a thesis on your own, and you are welcome to come speak to me during office hours if you need further guidance or assistance.

If you feel you absolutely must incorporate outside research into your paper, *you must get approval from me in advance of the assignment deadline.* If I approve your request, you will be responsible for documenting that research appropriately using MLA guidelines. Assignments using unauthorized research will receive failing grades of no more than 60%. Papers plagiarized in whole or in part are subject to the Academic Honest policy (see below).

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. Unacknowledged borrowing of others' words or ideas constitutes plagiarism, a serious academic

crime that results in disciplinary action up to expulsion. If you use someone else's words or ideas, you must quote them and provide relevant citation information. If you have any questions about plagiarism or the University's policy on it, talk with me or 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, awarding an F for the final course grade is the standard practice of the English Department, so it is imperative that you speak with me about any questions regarding outside sources.

Technology in the Classroom

You MAY NOT use cell phones at any time during class, unless you must be reachable during class for an emergency situation and have spoken about the situation with me in advance. Any cell phone use will result in a deduction from the participation grade without notice from the instructor.

Computers and tablets are allowed for note-taking, but because they can be a distraction to other students, please sit on the sides of the room or toward the back of the room if you are using them. Please do not abuse this policy by being off-task on your computer or tablet during class.

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 uoac@uoregon.edu

Syllabus Comprehension Quiz (Bring to Class on 9/30)

Which one is not a required text?

- A. *Maria* B. *Regeneration* C. *Bloodchild* D. *Oliver Twist*

Which is not listed above as something that helps your participation credit?

- A. Correct Answers B. Good Listening C. Thoughtful Responses D. Coming prepared

Where should you sit if you're using a laptop or tablet?

- A. Back of Room B. Front of Room C. Side of Room D. Both A and C

What is the policy on outside research?

- A. Whenever B. With Approval C. Never D. Twice per term

Which setting should you choose for Canvas notifications and announcements?

- A. Leave at Default B. Weekly Digest C. ASAP D. Auto-Delete

Print Name :

Signature :

Course Schedule
(Subject to Minor Changes)

Wk	Day	Reading Due + Discussion/Activity	Work Due	Concepts
1	M 9/28	“Does it have to be good to be <i>good</i> ?”		
	W 9/30	Carroll, Ch. 1-4		
2	M 10/5	Carroll, Ch. 5-8		
	W 10/7	Carroll, Ch. 9-12		
3	M 10/12	Wrap-up on Carroll + Sharing Papers	Paper 1	
	W 10/14	Butler, “Amnesty”		
4	M 10/19	Butler, “The Evening...” + “Crossing Over”		
	W 10/21	Butler, “Speech Sounds” + “Near of Kin”		
5	M 10/26	Kafka, “Metamorphosis” (on Canvas)		
	W 10/28	Butler, “Bloodchild,” “Afterword,” + “Positive Obsession”		
6	M 11/2	Speculative Fiction vs. Historical Fiction	Midterm Paper	
	W 11/4	Barker, Ch. 1-4		
7	M 11/9	Barker, Ch. 5-13		
	W 11/11	Barker, Ch. 14-16		
8	M 11/16	Barker, Ch. 17-19		
	W 11/18	Barker, Ch. 20-End + First page of Wollstonecraft		
9	M 11/23	Wollstonecraft, 1-6	TBA	
	W 11/25	Wollstonecraft, 7-14		
10	M 11/30	Wollstonecraft, Appendix-End		
	W 12/2	Final Debate.	Paper 2	

The Final Exam will be held 2:45 p.m. on Monday, December 7th in our classroom.