Eng 104: Introduction to Literature: Fiction, Winter 2011, CRN 22287, MW 4:00-5:20pm, 216 Allen Hall
Stephen Rust, 212 PLC Building, srust@uoregon.edu, 346-0052 / Office Hours MW 2:00-3:30pm

This course is designed as an introduction to the study of prose fiction. In order to focus our discussions we will read four novels, one graphic novel, and a collection of short stories all written by authors living in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to looking at themes in these works and the stories they tell, we will concentrate on identifying and analyzing the formal literary techniques used by the authors, as well as questions of history’s influence on these works (and these works’ influence on history and cultural trends). You will improve your ability to think, read, and write critically about fictional texts, as well as to situate them within a broader historical, social, and cultural context that gives them relevance beyond “just stories.”

Required Texts available at the bookstore:

- *The Word for the World is Forest* – Ursula K. Le Guin, 1972, Tor Books
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* – Ken Kesey, 1962, Penguin Classics

Access Blackboard to download additional course readings

**Requirements and Policies**

**Reading:** I expect you do have completed all the assigned reading by the beginning of class the day it is listed—*this includes material posted on blackboard and any handouts I assign*. Quizzes may draw on these other sources as well as the primary texts.

**Reading Quizzes (20% of grade):** Each week there will be a short quiz on the assigned readings. There will be a total of 8 throughout the term. Bring your own paper. Quizzes may or may not be open book.

**Class Participation (10% of grade):** You are expected to arrive on time, stay the full 80 minutes, and actively participate in discussions, group work, in-class writings, and all other aspects of the course. Frequent tardiness or inattentiveness will seriously impact this portion of your grade.

**Participation Related Notes:**
- There are some appropriate technologies for a college classroom—cell phones and messaging devices aren’t among them. Silence them and put them away; anyone using such a device during class will be given a zero for participation that day and may asked to leave.

- Likewise, laptops in an English class are more often a distraction than a tool. If you plan on taking notes on your laptop, please talk to or email me and be prepared to email me a copy of your notes immediately after every class.

**Paper One (15%) and Paper Two (30%):** You will compose two essays in response to our readings. These papers should represent sustained, thesis-based arguments about a text or texts, and clearly reflect your critical thinking about what a fictional work “does” in a manner supported by evidence from the text. **No outside research is permitted without my approval.**
Paper One is to be a 4-5 page close reading of a single formal aspect of one of the first two novels; Paper Two is to be a 7-8 page critical essay that takes close readings of three texts into account and develops an argument about a general theme that these texts engage with OR a 10-12 page work of original fiction written based on the style of one or more of the course texts. You will also turn in a 300-word proposal and 1 page outline with Paper Two. Further details and specific topics will be distributed in class. Papers should be composed in MLA style: double-spaced, with uniform 1 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font, class info (your name, instructor, class, date) in the upper left of the paper, and works cited briefly in text. If you have questions about MLA formatting please see me or look at the Purdue OWL website linked from blackboard.

Exam (25%) The week 7 exam will contain short answer, essay, identification, and multiple choice questions drawn from reading assignments, discussions, and quizzes. Make-up exams will not be given except in cases of documented emergencies.

Attendance: More than two absences will result in the lowering of your final course grade by one grade level (from an A- to a B+, for instance) per subsequent absence regardless of the cause; therefore, it is your responsibility to budget your absences to ensure you have adequate days available in case of illness or emergency. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to check with your classmates to find out what you have missed.

Late Work: All assignments must be brought to class meetings the day they are due. Assignments will drop one full letter grade each day they are late.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted for this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented—see me if you have any questions about using sources. Please refer to the Code of Student Conduct at the Judicial Affairs Website for more information. In cases where plagiarism has been clearly established, an F for the final course grade is the standard practice.

Incompletes: No incompletes will be granted except in cases of documented emergencies that interfere with the completion of one major portion of coursework. If you are forced to take an incomplete, you have one calendar year to make up the incomplete before it automatically changes to a grade of F.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) that you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so that we can discuss whatever accommodation(s) may be necessary.
Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Fiction
M  In-class reading, from … *The Way to Rainy Mountain* and *The Lone Ranger & Tonto Fistfight*  
W  *Word for the World is Forest*, Chapters 1-3 (p. 9-88) + Blackboard PDF_LeGuin, Quiz #1

Week 2: Narrative  
M  Reading and Research, no class meeting  
W  *Word for the World is Forest*, Chapters 5-8 (p. 89-189) + Blackboard PDF_Avatar Quiz #2

Week 3: Formal Analysis  
M  MLK Day, no class meeting  
W  *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, Introduction (p. vii-xiv) and Part I (p. 3-126), Quiz #3

Week 4: Cultural Analysis  
M  *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, Parts II & III (p. 127-221) + Introduction (xiv-xxii), Quiz #4  
W  *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, Part IV (p. 225-281), Essay #1 Due

Week 5: Ethnicity  
M  *The Lone Ranger & Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, Intro and p. 1-109, Quiz #5  
W  *The Lone Ranger & Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, p. 110-242

Week 6: Authorship  
M  Read: Blackboard PDF_Film vs. Fiction, Screen in class: *Smoke Signals* (Chris Eyre, 1998)  
W  *Half Asleep in Frog Pajamas*, p. 1-140, Quiz #6

Week 7: Style  
M  *Half Asleep in Frog Pajamas*, p. 140-280 + Blackboard_Robbins  
W  *Half Asleep in Frog Pajamas*, p. 280-386, Exam

Week 8: Genre  
M  *Sin City Vol. 1, The Hard Goodbye* (read entire comic),  
W  Read: Blackboard PDF_Genre, Quiz #7, Discuss Essay #2 Guidelines

Week 9: Literature, Media, and the Future of Reading  
M  *Fight Club* + Blackboard PDF_Palahniuk, Quiz #8  
W  *Fight Club*, Paper #2 Proposal Due (300 words + outline)

Week 10: Writing Conferences – No Class Meeting

Finals Week
Paper #2 due to my office (PLC 212) by Tuesday at 4:00 pm. There will not be an in-class final.