Your ongoing enrollment in this course indicates you have read this syllabus and accept its requirements and expectations.

Course Description and Goals: This course will serve as an introduction to the study of prose fiction from a variety of cultural and historical contexts. We will focus primarily on short stories, though we will also read one novel. These texts represent authors of numerous nationalities and span several centuries. In addition to looking at themes, we will concentrate on identifying and analyzing the formal literary techniques used by these authors. We will also investigate how specific cultural and historical contexts affect the writing and reading of literature. Through the course we will concentrate on understanding terminology for literary analysis of fiction including skills for close reading, interpretation, and writing. 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.”

NOTE: This course satisfies credits toward the Arts and Letters category General Education requirements; however, these credits do not count toward the English Major.

Required Texts:
Yann Martel. Life of Pi
Regular Access to Blackboard (Required texts, study questions, assignment guidelines)

Course Requirements and Grading:

Participation & Quizzes (10%): You must complete the assigned reading by the beginning of class on the day it is listed. You are also expected to be an active member of the classroom. While there will be a lecture component to the class, most of class time will be spent on group discussion. You will be expected to share comments on a regular basis. You are expected to arrive to class on time and stay the entire 50 minutes. You are required to bring the assigned texts to class. Any material provided on Blackboard should be printed out and brought to class on the assigned day. Frequent tardiness or inattentiveness will seriously impact your participation grade. Additionally, I reserve the right to count you as absent in light of tardiness, early departures or clear lack of preparation for class. Quizzes will be frequent and may or may not be announced. They will be administered during the first ten minutes of class. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. We may also work in small groups during class for which you will earn participation credit.

Midterm (20%) and Final (25%) Exams: The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, passage identification, and essay questions. The questions will come from our reading assignments, class discussions,
quizzes, lectures, and study questions. The second exam will be given during finals week.

Close Reading Assignment (5%), Paper 1 (15%) & Paper 2 (25%): No outside research is permitted without my approval. You will write two formal papers: a short 3-4 page paper during the first half of the term and a longer paper of 5-6 pages during the second half. These will be based on close reading of texts assigned in class. To develop your close reading skills, you will also complete a brief 1½ to 2 page close reading assignment due in Week 3. I will provide detailed descriptions for these assignments as due dates approach. All written work must be submitted in two forms: a printed hardcopy is due in class and an electronic version must be submitted via Blackboard to SafeAssign – a plagiarism-checking program – by the time class begins on the day the assignment is due. If you fail to submit your paper to SafeAssign, your final grade for that paper will be penalized by one third of a grade for each day it is not uploaded (i.e. from B- to C+).

Format: All work must be typed. All assignments in excess of one page must be stapled or paperclipped. Folding, tearing, or other elaborate corner origami will not be accepted in lieu of legitimate fastening devices. Your documents should have one-inch margins on all sides, be double-spaced, and be written in an acceptable academic font (Times New Roman, Courier, Arial). You must use exclusively 12 point font, including your title. Center your title but do not use bold face, italics, or put quotation marks around it. Cover pages are unnecessary. Double-sided printing is encouraged. If you foresee that you will have difficulties meeting these requirements, for any reason, please see me before the assignment is due. I reserve the right to refuse work that is improperly formatted. If your work is refused for formatting reasons, you must turn in a corrected version by noon the next day to receive credit for the assignment.

Attendance: You are allowed 3 unexcused absences per term. If you exceed this amount, your final grade will be lowered by one third of a grade for each absence exceeding this allotment (i.e. from B- to C+). For an absence to be excused you must have extenuating circumstances and contact me at least one hour before class (exceptions for this deadline will be granted at my discretion). If you will miss class due to a university-sanctioned activity, you must provide me with written notice signed by your coach or faculty sponsor before the absence. If you are absent more than 6 times, whether excused or unexcused, you will automatically receive a grade of F for the course. Please be prepared to contact a fellow student for lecture notes in the event of an absence. I will not respond to emails requesting information about lectures missed due to unexcused absences. You are welcome to visit me in office hours to discuss information you missed during class. I will not post or otherwise distribute lecture slides.

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices: If you carry a cell phone, ipod or other personal electronic device with you, make sure that it is turned off or silenced in class. It is disrespectful to me and to your peers to utilize these devices in class. Since your participation grade depends on your treating the rest of the class with respect, allowing your phone to ring or otherwise using it in class will hurt your grade. Laptops may not be used during class unless you have received my permission. If you receive my permission to use your laptop for notes, be prepared to email me a copy of your notes immediately after every class.

E-mail & Blackboard: The best way to contact me is via e-mail. You will receive a response much faster this way than by calling me. Additionally, I make extensive use of the class’s Blackboard website and your UO e-mail account to provide information regarding the course. I expect you to have regular access to your UO e-mail account and to Blackboard throughout the quarter. If you email me a question that is easily answered by perusing the syllabus or assignment guidelines, you may not receive a response. Please review the syllabus and assignment guidelines before emailing with questions.
Accommodations: If you have a disability (physical, learning, psychological, or otherwise) that you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make arrangements, if necessary, for your full access to all classroom activities.

Late Work: No late work will be accepted. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you are expected to contact me before class regarding your absence to make arrangements or to slip the work under my office door before class time. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances; see or contact me immediately if something happens which prevents you from completing an assignment on time.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult Rules for Writers for a definition of plagiarism and information on documentation, and refer to the Student Conduct Code on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website: http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx
In cases where academic dishonesty 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.

Incompletes: Incompletes will only be granted 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.

Schedule of Assignments
Note: all readings are to be completed by the day they are listed. Unless otherwise noted, all readings are from the 7th edition Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, are listed by the author’s last name, and begin on the page provided. Readings listed as “on BB” can be found on Blackboard in the Course Documents folder under the author’s name. This schedule is subject to change.

M 3/28: Introductions
W 3/30: Hemingway “Hills Like White Elephants”
F 4/1: Jackson “The Lottery” Close Reading Assignment distributed

M 4/4: Kafka “Metamorphosis” parts I-II
W 4/6: Kafka “Metamorphosis” parts III-IV
F 4/8: Class canceled, work on Close Reading Assignment

M 4/11: Faulkner “A Rose for Emily” Close Reading Assignment due
W 4/13: Chopin “Story of an Hour,” Kincaid “Girl”
F 4/15: Poe “Fall of the House of Usher” (1264) Paper 1 Assignment distributed

M 4/18: Chaucer “Wife of Bath’s Prologue” (on BB)
W 4/20: Chaucer “Wife of Bath’s Prologue” (on BB)
F 4/22: Chaucer “Wife of Bath’s Tale” (on BB)

M 4/25: Connell “The Most Dangerous Game” (on BB) Paper 1 due
W 4/27: Review for Midterm
F 4/29: Midterm Exam

M 5/2: Hawthorne “The Birthmark”
W 5/4: Gilman “The Yellow Wallpaper” (597)
F 5/6: Bierce “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” (140)

M 5/9: Martel Life of Pi chapters 1-16
W 5/11: Pi chapters 17-36
F 5/13: Pi chapters 37-51

M 5/16: Pi chapters 52-70
W 5/18: Pi chapters 71-90
F 5/20: Pi chapters 91-94

M 5/23: Pi chapters 95-end
W 5/25: Busch “Bread” (166)
F 5/27: Busch “Bread” (166)

M 5/30: Memorial Day – No class
W 6/1: Le Guin “The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas” (862)
F 6/3: Review for Final

M 6/6: Final Exam 10:15am-12:15pm in HED 146.