Spring 2011      ENG 104 "Introduction to Literature: Fiction"

Professor David Li
plcll@uoregon.edu

PLC 275      Tel 6-3940
Chapmen 204: MWF 14:00-14:50pm

Office hrs: MWF 9:00-10:00 pm and by appointments

Description:

This is an introductory class to literature. As such, it emphasizes the double meanings inherent in literature’s etymological origin, “literacy.” We shall develop the competency to “read” and “write” about the kind of texts that are considered “literary,” and more specifically about a type of literature called, “fiction,” or rather fiction of a particular length under the designation of “short fiction.”

Instead of skimming for information, the primary objective of the class is to cultivate the ability to read slowly and write deliberately with the kind of concentration that is defiant of the culture of continuous partial attention or resistant to compulsory attention deficit disorder.

Required Texts:

Charter, The Short Story and its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction

Policy Statement:

Papers: Two 5pp critical essays, for which you are not required to consult outside scholarship (Any external sources used in your paper should be properly acknowledged). A critical essay is one that interprets a literary work with a particular argument. Your grade will depend upon the quality of your ideas, organization, and prose style. All papers must be typed and double-spaced with sufficient margins. You are responsible for retaining a photocopy of any paper you submit.

Assignments & Due Dates: In Essay 1, due 5-2, you should read the 3 authors assigned for that day and choose two stories as a base for your comparative textual analysis. For your 2nd essay, due 6-03, you should examine O’Conner’s “Good Country People” with Oates’s “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” to generate your interpretation. For specific pagination of these primary texts, refer to the reading assignments for the due dates in the syllabus. In both cases, you must turn in your essay by the beginning of the class hour. No electronic or late submission will be accepted. All late papers will receive an "F" except in cases of serious medical incapacity.

Semester Grades: The scaled numerical sum of all essays, exams and quizzes will determine your final grade. I reserve the right, though, to take into account absenteeism. 2 critical essays (1st, 10%; 2nd, 20%), a mid-term (20%) and a final (25%). Indefinite
number of in-class quizzes; No make-up quizzes for any absentees except for serious illness (25%).

95-100=A+; 85-95=A; 75-84=B; 68-74=C; 60-67=D; below 60=F

Plagiarism (i.e. the misrepresentation of another person's ideas or words as your own): automatic flunk.

Exams: A Mid-term (04-25) and a final examination (06-06). No advanced or make-up exams except for unexpected and serious medical incapacity.

Academic Courtesy: I have several requests pertaining to this category. Students who feel unable to honor these should enroll in some other courses.

I reserve the right to adjust the syllabus when necessary.

Syllabus

03-28 Introduction
03-30 Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart” (727); “The Importance . . .” (978)
04-01 Melville, “Bartleby” (561)
04-04 Maupassant “Necklace” (554); Chopin, “How I . . .” (921)
04-06 Chopin, “Désirée’s Baby” (199); “Story of an Hour” (203)
04-08 Faulkner, “That Evening ” (320); “A Rose for ” (314) “Meaning” (938)
04-13 Wright, “The Man Who” (878); “Reading Fiction” (1002)
Achebe, “Civil Peace” (10); “An Image of Africa” (893)
04-15 Banks, “Black Man” (67); Hemingway, “Hills” (368).
04-18 Wallace, “Good People” (859); “Some Remarks” (996)
04-20 No class. Reading on your own: “Elements of Fiction” (1082-97)
04-22 Kafka, “Metamorphosis” (471); “Translating Kafka” (913).

04-25 Mid-term Exam
04-27 O’Connor, “Good Country” (662); “Letters” (1039); “Writing” (1041); “Reasonable” (1046); “on ‘Good Country People’” (1052); “Everything” (651); Booth, “Rhetorical Reading” (1049).
04-29 Lahiri, “Interpreter” (510); “My Two Lives” (1031); Flynn (1032); Lewis (1034). “Appendix Four: Writing about Short Stories” (1108-1132).

05-02 Chang, “Water Names” (176); Jen, “Who’s” (394); Tan, “2 Kinds” (784); “In the Canon” (987). 1st Paper Due.

05-04 Erdrich, “Red” (305). Alexie, “The Lone” (14); “Superman” (898).
05-06  Joyce, “Araby” (430); Updike, “A & P” (835)
05-09  Chekov, “The Darling” (189); “Technique” (919); Tolstoy, “Intent” (991)
05-13  Mason, “Shiloh” (542)
05-16  Carver, “A Small, Good Thing” (133); “On Writing” (1010-1016).
05-18  Carver, “What We Talk” (150); “A Reading of ‘What’” (1023).
05-20  Carver, “Cathedral” (123); “Origin of” (1022); “Looking for” (1025)
05-23  Atwood, “Happy” (32); “Reading” (903). Munro, “Dance” (614); “How” (965).
05-25  Beattie, “Snow” (74); Cisneros, “Barbie-Q” (205); Kincaid, “Girl” (507; 953).
05-27  Olsen, “I Stand” (689); Silko, “Yellow Woman” (762); (982).
05-30  Memorial Day: No Class
06-01  Gilman, “The Yellow Wall Paper” (340); (940-45).
2nd paper due
06-06  Final Exam @ 15:15