

Fall 2012

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Department of English

Professor Ethel Morgan Smith
331 Colson Hall
304.293.9732
etsmith@wvu.edu
(I do not use MIX)

Office hours Tuesday
4-5:30 and by appointment

English 132- Short Story and Novel

This course is an introduction to reading, understanding, and analyzing long and short fiction. Students will acquire a broad understanding of the art of fiction by exploring the elements of fiction such as plot, character, narrative voice, structure, and pattern in order to understand how and what a text means. We will consider the relationship between form and content, structure and meaning by looking at class, race, gender, nationality, sexuality, and identity as categories of analysis.

Student participation is essential to the development of competency in analyzing these literacy works, thus students are expected to be prepared for class by completing the reading prior to class discussion, and further to participate in class orally. **This is a demanding course. Reading is a must!**

CLASS PROCEDURES

1. **Attendance** is very necessary! If you cannot attend class for some reason, you are responsible for finding out from a classmate what you have missed, and what the assignment is for the next class meeting. **Please do not call or email me for assignments you have missed.** You are expected to be prepared to participate fully in the class discussion on the day you return to class, and to hand in any assignment that is due. Quizzes cannot be made up. **After two unexcused absences you will lose a point time each time you are absent. There are no exceptions!**

2. **Class Participation** will be an important portion of your grade, not that it will be equivalent in value to all of the written work and discussion. I will assume that each of you would have read the assignment, and I will, therefore, feel free to call on you. You will bring to class in writing two questions to prompt discussion of the reading or one full paragraph must be on that day's reading. Questions must be worded in complete sentences. I will take up the questions from time to time.

3. To further prepare yourself for class discussion, **mark what you read by underlining passages, or by writing the page and paragraph number down** so that you can easily refer to materials. What I mean by that is material that strikes you as important or

interesting, or part of the text that you simply do not understand. This is the time to raise questions as well.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation	20%
Two Quizzes (Unannounced)	20%
Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	35%

Grading Criteria for Short and Long Essay Exam Questions

90%-100%-A Excellent Work

80%-89%-B Good Work

70%-79%-C Average Work

60%-69%-D Below Average Work

60%-F Failing Work

REQUIRED TEXTS

I Knew You'd Be Lovely by Althea Black

“Story of An Hour” by Kate Chopin

How to Stop Loving Someone by Joan Connor

Lost in the City by Edward P. Jones

The Emigrants by W. G. Sebald

Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward

Dinner With Friends (film)

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change as necessary)

Week of:

Aug 21st	Introduction-Review of Syllabus-Discussion of Expectations and Assignment-“The Story of an Hour” Film: <i>Dinner With Friends</i> (show in class)
Aug 28th	Complete Film
Sept 3rd	Labor Day Recess
Sept 4th	Discussion of Film and “The Story of an Hour: Assignment: selected stories from <i>I Knew You’d Be Lovely</i>
Sept 11th	Continue short stories; Assignment: <i>Salvage the Bones</i>
Sept 13th	Jonathan Coleman Reading-7:30-9-Gold Ballroom
Sept 17th	Student Submissions for Sturm Writer-in-Residence Deadline
Sept 17th	Rosh Hashanah (Day of Concern)
Sept 18th	Continue <i>Salvage the Bones</i>
Sept 25th	Complete discussion of <i>Salvage the Bones</i>
Sept 26th	Yom Kippur (begins at sundown)
Sept 27th	Professor Smith-ALHA Conference-Study Day
Oct 3rd	Semi-Annual Pizza Party-11:30-1:30 pm-130 Colson Hall
Oct 3rd	Katy Ryan’s Reading-130 Colson Hall 7:30-9:00 pm
Oct 4-11th	Mid-Term (Exact date TBA)
Oct 9th	<i>How to Stop Loving Someone</i>
Oct 16th	Professor Smith-Toni Morrison Celebration-Virginia Tech
Oct 17th	Michael Blumenthal & Bruce Bond Reading-Robinson Reading Room-7:30-9
Oct 18th	Continue with selected stories from HSLs

Oct 26th	Eid-al-Adha Day (Day of Special Concern)
Oct 29th	Jaimy Gordon Reading-Robinson Reading Room-7:30
Oct 30th	<i>The Emigrants</i>
Nov 6th	Election Day (no class)
Nov 7th	Ethel Morgan Smith Reading-Gold Ballroom
Nov 12th	Veteran's Day
Nov 12th	Birth of Baha 'u' llah (Day of Special Concern)
Nov 13th	<i>Lost in the City</i>
Nov 18-25	Thanksgiving Recess
Nov 27th	Continue with <i>Lost in the City</i>
Dec 7th	Last Day of Classes
Dec 10-15th	Final Exam (Date to be Announced)

HONOR CODE

Any work that you submit must be your own. In addition, any words, ideas or data that you use from another source (individual, website, and published text) must be properly documented. It is your responsibility to learn the rules and conventions of citing sources in your academic work. If you have questions about academic citation, consult with me during office hours or raise the issue in class. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. Clear cases will result in an **F** for the course and appropriate academic sanctions. Please see the WVU Undergraduate Catalog section on Academic Integrity/Dishonesty for a full explanation of expectations and procedures.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

WVU is committed to social justice. I support that commitment and will work to create a positive learning environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. I welcome suggestions for furthering such an environment. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veterans' status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. If you are an individual with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services at 304-293.6700.

