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English 132 Section 006/ Fall 2011  
TR 8:30-9:45 AM Oglebay-D 102  
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### English 132-006: Short Story and Novel

**Course Description:** This course serves as an introduction to reading, understanding, and analyzing fiction. We will explore such elements of fiction as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, style, and symbols. We will consider the relationship between form and content, structure and meaning. In the course of reading short stories and novels dating from the early 19th century to the current moment and originating from different countries, we will pay some attention to the historical development of literary styles from romanticism to postmodernism. The goal of the course is to learn to read closely, interpret, and write about literary texts.

**Accommodation:** If you have a documented learning disability, hearing or vision problems, or any other special need that might affect your performance or participation in class, please be sure to talk to me. Support services are also available through West Virginia University Office of Disability Services: G-30 Mountainlair Phone: (304) 293-6700 Voice/TDD: (304) 293-7740, e-mail: [access2@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:access2@mail.wvu.edu)

**Social Justice:** English 132 supports WVU's commitment to social justice. The classroom community will work to create a positive learning environment based on open communication and mutual respect. I welcome your suggestions to help meet this commitment.

**Communication:** Occasionally, I will need to contact the class or individual students via e-mail, so keep your MIX account active.

#### Required Texts:

Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*. Ed. Claire Grogan. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Toronto, Ontario: Broadview, 2002. ISBN: 978-1-55111-479-8.

Chekhov, Anton. "The Lady with a Little Dog." Available on WVU eCampus.

Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying*. New York: Vintage International/Random, 1985. ISBN: 978-0-679-73225-9.

Gogol, Nikolai. "The Nose." Available on WVU eCampus.

Gwynn, R.S. *Fiction: A Pocket Anthology*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston: Longman, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-205-03215-0.

Nabokov, Vladimir. "The Circle." Available on WVU eCampus.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five*. New York: Dial Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-385-33384-9.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. Orlando, FL: Harvest/Harcourt, Inc., 2003. ISBN: 978-0-15-602835-6.

**You are responsible for printing out texts from WVU eCampus and for having the discussed story/novel with you in class!**

To access WVU eCampus, go to <https://ecampus.wvu.edu> and log on with your MIX user name and password. If you have problems with logging on, contact the Office of Information Technology (293-4444 x 3 or [oithelp@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:oithelp@mail.wvu.edu)).

**Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 AM Tuesday and Thursday.** Office hours provide us with an opportunity to talk one on one. You may drop in during these times or make an appointment with me to ask any questions about your progress in the course or to share your comments about the class. I'd be happy to communicate with you via e-mail as well, and you can expect my response (by e-mail or in class) within 24 hours Monday through Friday.

**Tardiness and Classroom Etiquette:** Occasional lateness may happen. However, if you are regularly late (more than five minutes late more than three times during this semester), I will count that habitual lateness as a full absence. **If you are late, you need to check in with me after class to be sure I mark you as present.**

Please turn off your cell phones and iPods before class begins. **If I see somebody text, check messages, listen to iPods, or engage in any other unauthorized activity, I will mark this student as absent.**

**Online Discussions:** In case of severe weather and hazardous driving conditions, I might choose to cancel the class and give alternative assignment (usually online group discussion, details TBA at the time of cancellation). I will notify you by e-mail no later than 6:00 AM on the day of the class, so please check your MIX account before leaving home. PLEASE NOTE THAT PARTICIPATION IN ONLINE DISCUSSIONS IS REQUIRED AND THAT FAILURE TO POST WILL BE MARKED AS AN ABSENCE.

**Incomplete Grades:** The grade of "Incomplete" is warranted only in extreme circumstances, and then only if a substantial portion of the semester's work has already been completed. If an emergency comes up, contact the Office of Student Life immediately (E. Moore Hall 293-5611). The office specializes in troubleshooting and problem solving and can assist students who encounter difficulties during the semester.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated; cases of cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade and appropriate academic discipline. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, visit the WVU Library tutorial <http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/instruction/plagiarism> that provides detailed explanations and quizzes.

### **Course Components and Grading:**

Class participation and attendance—10%	Midterm exam—20%
Daily quizzes —10%	Final exam—30%
Two short critical responses—30% (15% each)	

1) **Class participation and attendance (10% of the final grade):** I believe that in order to fully engage with the texts and to learn how to think about literature critically, students should share their thoughts and ideas. This is why I expect everyone to participate in class discussions. Before each class, I will post on WVU eCampus 3-4 questions that should start you thinking about the assigned text. You should make it a habit to check my posts when reading for class. There are other ways of contributing to class discussions: ask questions about the text or quote details; argue with the text's portrayal of event, characters, relationships, etc.; observe how this work challenges common beliefs or patterns of behavior; respond to what other students are saying. All literary texts are open to different interpretations, so DON'T BE AFRAID TO GIVE THE "WRONG" ANSWER!

Your grade for this section of the course will depend on both class participation and attendance:

Participation Grade	Class participation	Attendance
A	14 or more times during the semester	No more than 2 classes missed
B	13-10 times during the semester	No more than 3 classes missed
C	9-7 times during the semester	No more than 4 classes missed
D	6-4 times during the semester	No more than 5 classes missed
F	Fewer than 4 times during the semester	Students who miss 6 or more classes will automatically fail the course

As you see, you can only miss two classes with no penalty. PLEASE SAVE THESE ABSENCES FOR EMERGENCIES AND PLANNED EVENTS (such as athletic and other extracurricular activities). If you do miss a class, you are responsible for finding out about handouts or assignments. At any point during the semester, you can ask me what your attendance record is. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP WORK FOR MISSED CLASSES. DON'T EVEN ASK!

**2) Daily Reading Quizzes (10 % of the final grade; up to 5 points each; I will drop two lowest scores).** It is crucial that before coming to class you read all texts assigned for the day. Moreover, you should learn to read each text closely, paying attention to details. Each quiz will ask one question about the assigned reading and will require a brief (a couple of sentences, a short paragraph) answer that demonstrates your knowledge of the text. Quizzed will occur in the beginning of class periods (there will be no quizzes on October 4, October 6, or December 8). YOU MAY NOT MAKE UP QUIZZES IF YOU ARE ABSENT OR LATE.

**3) Two Short Critical Responses (30% of the final grade)** should be submitted on or before **September 22** and **December 1**. For the first response, you can choose any story that we have read and discussed, and for the second response—any novel from our list.

**Content requirements:** Your response should NOT be a summary of the text. Instead, it should be one of the following: **explication or close reading, analysis, or comparison-contrast**. For detailed explanation of these three kinds of responses, see “Writing About Short Fiction” section of the anthology (pages 21-28). Each response should have a clear thesis in the first paragraph (i.e. what are you arguing in this paper?) There is no need to use outside critical sources, but you must include direct quotations from the text with proper page citation. The responses should express your own opinion about and interpretation of the text, so DON'T BE AFRAID TO GIVE THE “WRONG” ANSWER!

**Length and formatting requirements:** 2-page long, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, page numbers, and a title.

#### **4) Midterm Exams (20% of the final grade)**

In-class mid-term exam is scheduled for **Thursday, October 6** (regular class time, regular classroom). If you must miss class on the day of an exam, please notify me in advance so that we can arrange an alternative test date. If you do not provide me with advance notice, I will only allow you to make up a missed exam with a signed medical excuse.

The exam will include multiple-choice, identification, interpretation, and essay questions. You will need to supply your own Blue Books. You may bring one standard (8½ x 11) sheet of paper, on both sides of which you have copied key quotations from the assigned primary readings. You should include titles, names of authors, and page numbers BUT NO critical material about the texts or authors. You must turn in this sheet along with your exam. During the exams, you may not refer to your textbook or to any other books or materials.

#### **5) Final Exam (30% of the final grade)**

In-class final exam is scheduled for **Thursday, December 15, 3-5 PM** (regular classroom). Remember that the final exam date and time is set by the University and I can neither change it nor make exceptions. Like the midterm, this exam will consist of multiple-choice, identification, interpretation, and essay questions. The final exam will have more questions and will be weighted slightly more heavily than the midterm since it will be given over a two-hour period and will cover material studied during the whole semester.

**Schedule of Work** (Subject to change according to progress)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER	
Tuesday	Thursday
23 Introduction to the Course <i>By next class, post a paragraph about yourself and your goals for this class on the WVU eCampus Discussion Board.</i>	25 <i>Anthology</i> : “Telling the Tale” and “The Short Story Genre” (1-6) Maupassant “Mother Savage” (75-83) Achebe “Dead Man’s Path” (248-252) <b>Last day to register is August 26</b>
30 <i>Anthology</i> : “Reading and Analyzing Short Fiction. Plot.” (6-11) Munro “The Bear Came Over the Mountain” (251-277)	1 <i>Anthology</i> : “Reading and Analyzing Short Fiction. Plot.” (6-11) Atwood “Happy Endings” (308-312) Nabokov “The Circle” (WVU eCampus)
6 <i>Anthology</i> : “Characterization” (11-13) Hurston “Sweat” (140-151) Cisneros “Woman Hollering Creek” (362-372)	8 <i>Anthology</i> : “Characterization” (11-13) Joyce “Araby” (134-140) Chekhov “The Lady with a Little Dog” (WVU eCampus) 16
13 <i>Anthology</i> : “Point of view” (13-15) Gilman “Yellow Wallpaper” (86-102) Moore “How to Become a Writer” (396-403)	15 <i>Anthology</i> : “Point of view” (13-15) Jackson “The Lottery” (194-202) Jen “In the American Society” (382-396)
20 <i>Anthology</i> : “Theme” (15-16) Erdrich “The Red Convertible” (373-382) Lahiri “A Temporary Matter” (422-436)	22 <i>Anthology</i> : “Setting” (16-18) O’Connor “Everything That Rises Must Converge” (205-219) Márquez “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” (234-241) <b>Last day to submit the first response</b>
27 <i>Anthology</i> : “Style and Symbols” (18-20) Jewett “A White Heron” (66-75) Hemingway “Up in Michigan” (161-165)	29 <i>Anthology</i> : “Style and Symbols” (18-20) Gogol “The Nose” (WVU eCampus)
OCTOBER	
4 Review for the exam	6 Mid-term Exam (in class) <b>Mid-semester is October 8</b>
11 <i>Northanger Abbey</i> “Biographical Notice of the Author,” “Postscript,” Chapters 1-8 (pages 29-80) Appendix C “Examples of Jane Austen’s Reading (244-250)	13 <i>Northanger Abbey</i> Chapters 9-15 (81-137) Appendix F-J (267-274)
18 <i>Northanger Abbey</i> Chapters 16-23 (138-188); Appendix D “Catherine Morland’s Reading Material” (251-252)	20 <i>Northanger Abbey</i> Chapters 24-31 (188-240)
25 <i>Color Purple</i> (1-73)	27 <i>Color Purple</i> (74-145) <b>Last Day to Drop is October 28</b>
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER	
1 <i>Color Purple</i> (146-216)	3 <i>Color Purple</i> (217-288)
8 <i>As I Lay Dying</i> (3-67)	10 <i>As I Lay Dying</i> (68-136)
15 <i>As I Lay Dying</i> (137-205)	17 <i>As I Lay Dying</i> (206-261)
19-26 <i>Thanksgiving Break—No Class</i>	
29 <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> (1-90)	1 <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> (91-195) <b>Last day to submit the second response</b>
6 <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> (196-275)	8 <b>Review for the final exam</b>
<b>Final Exam: Thursday, December 15, 3-5 PM</b>	