

English 132

Robert Fanning, English 132, Spring 2005, Short Story and Novel

English 132

Short Story & Novel

Spring 2005

CRN: 12171 Section 01

MWF 9:30-1020

320 Clark Hall

Instructor Information

Robert Fanning

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Office Hour,: MWF 10:30 11:30 and by appointment

Required Texts:

9cJon5O:Ajjntrudiomtoth5tioftSto. Ed. James H. Pickering

Maus I: My Father Bleeds History. Art Spiegelman

Donald Duk. Frank Chin

Brave New World. Aldous Huxley

Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Robert Louis Stevenson

(texts available at WVU Bookstore and Book Exchange)

In addition, you will be required to view the movie *Apocalypse Now* (dir. F. Coppola, 1979, 153 minutes). A class viewing has been arranged and the movie is available on DYD & VHS from WVU Libraries.

Course Goals:

English 132 is offered by the English Department for non-majors as an introduction to the genres of the novel and short story. In this class we will focus on ways of reading that will provide insight into the craft of fiction writing as a way of enhancing the pleasures of reading prose fiction. Students should expect to become familiar with the basic toolkit of critical reading practices that they can use and develop in their reading for (and beyond this class. Because of this emphasis on learning and developing critical reading skills, the class will not seek to establish definitive readings of any of the texts used throughout the semester (in other words, we won't be involved in trying to decide what a story or novel 'really means,' but will work, instead, with what it might mean, and even more, on how meanings are created).

Course Requirements:

Exams: There are two (2) exams for this course, one at mid-term and a final, each worth 40 points (80 total). Both exams will be essay exams. For both exams, students will be given a list of questions one (1) week prior to the exam from which exam questions will be taken. (An example: I may give you five essay questions a week ahead of time. For the exam, then, I will select three of the five original questions from which students will choose two to answer.) More detailed information will be provided as the exam dates approach.

Reading Responses: Students will write nine (9) reading responses throughout the course of the semester. Each student may choose the stories and novels they wish to respond to. However, four (4) of the nine responses must be completed and turned in before the mid-semester exam. You may turn in more than four responses before mid-term and get full credit for all of them, but only five (5) of the nine responses

Once a student has completed all nine responses they will be awarded a bonus point so that this component of the course counts for ten (10) points.

READING RESPONSES MUST BE TYPED OR WORD PROCESSED.

Each reading response will be given either zero (0), or one (1) point credit. Zeros will be given only to those responses that do not meet the minimum requirements for these assignments. In addition, truly exceptional responses may receive a bonus point, which will be the only Extra Credit opportunity available.

Reading responses will be about one page (double spaced, 12 pt. font) and will focus on a single story or novel. Each response will be due on the first class meeting of the week in which the story or novel is discussed in class. Late responses will not be accepted. More detailed information will be made available.

Participation: There is no attendance requirement for this class, however, students are responsible for all in-class information and material (which may include such things as syllabus changes, handouts, lecture notes, class discussion). Because class discussion is a way of practicing the skills that are the primary goals of the course, and because in-class lecture and discussion material may appear on exams, it is in the best interests of every student to attend class. Students are expected to have read the assigned stories or novels before the first day of discussion and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion. It is important for individual students, and for the class as a whole, that as many people as possible participate in class discussions. Because questions are the best way to promote discussion (though propositions can also be very useful) it will be useful for students to come to class with at least one question (or proposal) addressing the reading for the week. Don't be shy. Students typically come to this course with a wide variety of experiences and backgrounds in critical reading and literature, but this course is for all its members and no question is too simple. Simple questions are often fundamental questions, and are too often overlooked (especially by teachers sometimes). Participation constitutes 10 points to your final grade.

Summary

Midterm Exam 40

Final Exam 40

Response Papers 10

Participation 10

Total 100

Social Justice:

This course observes and adheres to the social justice policies of West Virginia University and Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, the instructor is a participating member of the Safe Zone program.

Course Calendar

(subject to revision)

Week 1: Course Introduction. Read Reading Criticalls? (pp. 706-708) by Wednesday.

Week 2: Introduction to Critical Reading. Read "Reading and Studying the Short Story" (pp. 1-93 Fiction 50) by Wednesday. The stories included in this section are not required at this time. Monday, January 17, Martin Luther King Day, No Class.

Week 3: Read "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (370-90), "The Cask of Amontillado" (586-90), and "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (6-18).

Week 4: Read “Bartleby the Scrivener” (496-520), “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Colaveras County” (207-211), and “The Yellow Wall Paper” (314-25).

Week 5: Read ‘The Death of Ivan Ilych’ (617-54).

Week 6: “Witness for the Prosecution” (192-205) and ‘The Overcoat’ (341-60).

Week 7: Monday — Midterm Exam. No Class Wednesday or Friday.

Week 9: Read “The Man Who Was Almost a Man” (687-95). “Nineteen Fifty-Five” (655—65), “Spunk” (365-69), and “Yellow Woman” (610-16).

Week 9: Read “The Dead” (412-41), “Cortes and Montezuma” (127-32) and “The Garden of Forking Paths (137—44).

Week 10: Spring Break

Week 11: Movie-*Apocalypse Now*. Special viewing Monday at 4pm, in room 104 Downtown Library. No regular class meeting on Monday. All students are responsible for having seen the movie by class meeting Wednesday.

Week 12: Read ‘Heart of Darkness’ (212-267)

Week 13: Read *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Week 14: Read *Brave New World*

Week 15: Read *Maus I*

Week 16: Read *Donald Duk*

Week 17: Finals Week. Exam scheduled by WVU.