

English 618

Mark Brazaitis, ENGL 618, Spring 2008

ENGLISH 618 A

Professor Mark Brazaitis

Office: 219 Colson Hall

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Office Hours: Tuesday (1-2:30), Thursday (1-2:30), and by appointment

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Class Hours: Thursday, 4-6:50

Class Location: G10 Colson Hall

Objective: In this class, you will learn to become a better fiction writer. To become a better fiction writer, you must dedicate yourself to both writing and reading fiction, and this class will allow you to do both.

Requirements: Over the course of the semester, you will read four novels/novellas (Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, Gabriel García Márquez's *Of Love and Other Demons*, Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, and Elizabeth Graver's *Awake*) and selections from two collections of short stories (Junot Díaz's *Drown* and Elizabeth Oness's *Articles of Faith*). You will also write at least two of your own short stories (or novel chapters).

Grades: Grades will be based on the effort you put into the class, both in terms of your own writing and your response to the work of other students and the assigned readings. I expect everyone to earn an 'A.' If you are doing less than 'A' work, I will let you know.

Submitting Work: Your stories (or novel chapters) are due a week before they are critiqued and will be handed out in class. You should make photocopies for everyone in the class and your instructor. If you fail to hand in your story on time, it's your responsibility to get your story to your instructor and your classmates well ahead of the next class. If you miss a class during which stories are handed out, they will be available outside my office.

Class Schedule and Day-to-Day Assignments

Thursday, January 17 Get acquainted.

Thursday, January 24 Workshop. Read: *The Metamorphosis*.

Special Event—January 24th: Poet Lynn Emanuel will read at 7:30 p.m. in the Robinson Reading Room of the Wise (downtown) Library.

Thursday, January 31 Workshop. Read: pages 1-88 of *Of Love and Other Demons*.

Thursday, February 7 Workshop. Read: pages 89 to the end of *Of Love and Other Demons*.

Special Event—February 11th: WVU writers Gail Galloway Adams, Ethel Morgan Smith, Ellesa High, Katy Ryan, and Mary Ann Samyn will read from their work at 7:30 p.m. at the Blue Moose Café in downtown Morgantown.

Thursday, February 14 Workshop Read: chapters 1-18 of *The Awakening*.

Thursday, February 21 Workshop. Read: chapter 19 to the end of *The Awakening*.

Thursday, February 28 Workshop. Read: chapters 1 to 5 in *Awake*.

Thursday, March 6 Workshop: Read: chapters 6 to 10 of *Awake*

Thursday, March 13 Workshop. Read: chapter 11 to the end of *Awake*.

Special Event—March 13th: WVU faculty member and short-story writer extraordinaire Gail Galloway Adams will read from her work at 7:30 p.m. in the Gold Ballroom of the Mountainlair.

Thursday, March 20 Workshop. Read: “The Oracle” in *Articles of Faith* and “Ysrael” in *Drown*.

Spring break: March 22 to March 30 — Enjoy!

Thursday, April 3 Workshop. Read: “Rufus” in *Articles of Faith*.

Thursday, April 10 Workshop. Read: “No Face” in *Drown*.

Thursday, April 17 Workshop. Read: “A Crescent in the Skin” in *Articles of Faith*.

Thursday, April 24 Workshop. Read: “Fiesta, 1980” and “Aurora” in *Drown*.

Special Event—April 24th: Students who have had their work published in *Calliope* will read at 7:30 p.m. in the Shenandoah Room of the Mountainlair.

Thursday, May 1 Discussion on publishing.

Special Event—May 1st: Graduate students in WVU’s MFA in Creative Writing program will read from their work at 7:30 p.m. in a place to be determined.

Core Values/Social Justice at West Virginia University

The following core values establish the foundation for Social Justice at West Virginia University.

Every person has intrinsic worth and dignity;

Respect for the law is fundamental;

Freedom from fear is universal;

A climate of opportunity, mutual respect, and understanding engenders a feeling that the future should be shared by all community members;

There is an absence of discrimination and harassment based on age, color, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, race, religious beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran status; and

The rich diversity of people, their cultures, and the bonds that tie people together are appreciated and celebrated.