

English 132

Gwen Bergner, ENGL 132, Fall 2002, Introduction to Short Story and Novel

English 132 - Short Story and Novel

Dr. Gwen Bergner * Fall 2002 * TR 1:00-2:15 * 302 HOD

Contact info.

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Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to reading, understanding, and analyzing fiction. It explores the elements of fiction such as plot, character, narrative voice, figurative language, 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. In the course of reading short stories and novels dating from the late 19th century to the current moment, and originating from the U.S., Canada, South Africa, and England (primarily), we will pay some attention to the historical development of literary styles from romanticism to postmodernism. We will also use class, race, gender, nationality, sexuality, and identity as categories of analysis.

Required Text:

The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, Shorter Sixth Edition, eds. R.V.

Cassill and Richard Bausch

Course Requirements:

- 3 Exams (20% each) 60%
- 1 ClassPresentation 20%
- 9 Discussion Questions/Paragraphs 10%
- Participation 10%

Exams:

There will be two in-class exams during the semester and a final exam as scheduled by the University. Primarily, the exams will ask you to analyze passages from the texts we have read. There might also be some short-answer questions. I will tell you more about the exam format in the weeks before each exam.

Presentation:

You will sign up in pairs to do one class presentation. The presentation will consist of leading class discussion of one of the stories on the syllabus. The presentation will take place in the second half of the semester so that you have a chance to practice analyzing and discussing fiction before you're expected to lead discussion.

Discussion Questions/Paragraphs:

On nine class days, you will bring to class either two questions to prompt discussion of the reading or one full paragraph that analyzes the reading. Questions and paragraphs must be on that day's reading. On some days, you will read your paragraphs to the class or lead discussion of your questions. These assignments must be word processed. Questions must be worded in complete sentences. A full paragraph is defined as approximately one, double-spaced page. Paragraphs should follow proper structure (thesis, development, example/quotation, interpretation of example/quotation, conclusion). You will complete nine such assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment is worth one point of your final grade. You get one free point. You will get credit for these assignments as long as you complete them in good faith and according to the specified requirements. They will not be graded.

The class will be divided into two groups. One group will do DQ/Ps for Tuesday classes; the other group will do them for Thursday classes. Due dates for the Tuesday group are marked with this symbol: ; due dates for the Thursday group are marked with this symbol: ¢.

Participation:

In order to foster community and to maximize learning, it is crucial that you participate in class discussion. Therefore, you will need to have completed all assigned reading for each class and to bring the text under discussion to class with you. You must also bring to class any written assignment necessary for that day's program.

NB: Keep a folder of all your graded course work. Keep a computer disk copy of all typed assignments you hand in.

Attendance and Late Policy:

Attendance is required. You are granted four "free" absences. For each additional absence, you will lose a percentage point from your participation grade. If you miss any class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate in order to find out what happened in class, if there is an assignment for the next class, and whether changes were made to the syllabus or assignment schedule. You are responsible for all assignments, graded and ungraded, due in the next class. If you are not in class by the time class begins, you may be marked absent unless you let me know after class that you came late. Two late arrivals counts as an absence.

E-Mail:

I will use WVU's MIX e-mail system to communicate with the class between class meetings. Please check your MIX e-mail account regularly, at least once between class meetings. You can access MIX from the WVU homepage or at www.mix.wvu.edu.

To e-mail me privately, please use my gbergner@wvu.edu address. Please do the following two things to help me sort through junk mail and avoid viruses (I will also appreciate the courtesy):

1. Put your name and the course number or title in the subject heading.
2. In the body of the e-mail, address your audience (me) at the beginning and sign your name at the end.

Honor Code:

Any work that you submit must be your own. In addition, any words, ideas, or data that you borrow from another source (individual, website, 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, see me in office hours or ask in class. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. Clear cases will result in an unforgivable 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. If you are a person 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 (293-6700).

Syllabus (subject to change, as necessary)

Week 1

T 8/20 Introduction

Th 8/22 Nathaniel Hawthorne, "The Birthmark" (handout)

Week 2

T 8/27 Edgar Allan Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (741)

Th 8/29 Herman Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener" (614)

Week 3

T 9/3 Ambrose Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" (48)

Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" (106)

DQ/P

Th 9/5 Stephen Crane, "The Open Boat" (176)

DQ/P

Week 4

T 9/10 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (359)

DQ/P

Th 9/12 "The Yellow Wallpaper" (cont.)

DQ/P

Week 5

T 9/17 James Joyce, "The Dead" (441)

Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens" (917)

DQ/P

Th 9/19 Franz Kafka "The Metamorphosis" (471)

DQ/P

Prep for Exam

Week 6

T 9/24 Exam #1

Th 9/26 F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited" (322)

Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"

Week 7

T 10/1 William Faulkner, "Barn Burning" (230) and "The Bear" (243)

DQ/P

Th 10/3 Eudora Welty, "Why I Live at the P.O." (822)

Tillie Olsen, "Tell Me a Riddle" (713)

DQ/P

Week 8

T 10/8 Julio Cortazar, "A Continuity of Parks" (174)

Ralph Ellison, "King of the Bingo Game" (208)

DQ/P

Th 10/10 Nadine Gordimer, "A Soldier's Embrace" (372)

DQ/P

Week 9

T 10/15 James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (22)

DQ/P

Th 10/17 Richard Wright, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man" (923)

Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (689)

DQ/P

Week 10

T 10/22 Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery" (406)

Ursula K. Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (520)

DQ/P

Th 10/24 John Updike, "A&P" (864)

Alice Munro, "Royal Beatings" (642)

DQ/P

Week 11

T 10/29 Joyce Carol Oates, "How I Contemplated the World . . ." (664)

Margaret Atwood, "Death By Landscape" (9)

Th 10/31 Exam #2

Week 12

T 11/5 Election Day - No Class - Go Vote!

Th 11/7 Richard Ford, "Great Falls" (338)

Alice Walker, "Everyday Use" (875)

DQ/P

Week 13

T 11/12 John Cheever, "The Enormous Radio" (84)

Raymond Carver, "Cathedral" (56)

DQ/P

Th 11/14 Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried" (505)

Week 14

T 11/19 Allan Gurganus, "Nativity, Caucasian" (383)

W.D. Wetherell, "The Man Who Loved Levittown" (892)

DQ/P

Th 11/21 Amy Tan, "Rules of the Game" (809)

Jamaica Kincaid, "Girl" (505)

DQ/P

Thanksgiving Break!

Week 15

T 12/3 Louise Erdrich, "Machimanito" (216)

Th 12/5 Helena Maria Viramontes, "The Moths" (870)

Final Exam: Friday, December 13, 3:00-5:00

(Note: The final exam date and time is set by the University and I can neither change it nor make exceptions.)