

World of Fiction
SYLLABUS FALL 2009

Instructor: Dr. Chielozona Eze
Engl. 203 – L18
Room: El Centro 123
Time: W 6:10 pm - 8:50 pm

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NOTE: This syllabus is subject to corrections in the course of the semester.

Required Texts and Materials: Ann Charters, *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction* (7th Edition). New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.

This is an intensive course in fiction as a serious social and cultural discourse. In this course students will learn to see works of fiction in some or all of the following ways: 1) Works of art to enjoy. 2) Means of argument. 3) Political, social or cultural discourse. To achieve this goal we will learn the conventions of fiction, what makes a story a literary work of fiction. Secondly, we will develop critical competence that is necessary for the appreciation of fiction. Doing close reading, we will analyze how fiction writers made use of various techniques to achieve a lot of things.

Prerequisite: ENGL-101 with a grade of "C" or better.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:

You'll be required to write two (2) exercises of varying page numbers and two (2) exams. Your grades will be based on the: 1) 2 exams = 60 %. 2) 2 exercises = 30%. 3). Attendance and class participation = 10%

Grading Grid:

Grading will be based on the following percentages and point system.

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60- 69 = D

Anything lower than 60 = F

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Since this class is learn-intensive, absence and silence are hardly excused. You are expected to have read the chosen texts and participate actively in class. You must respond to the story of the day. You are allowed **two** (2) excused absences. Any other absence will affect your grade negatively. **Four** (4) absences mean automatic Failure.

Academic Integrity

The University Student Conduct Code, available in the Dean's Office, defines plagiarism as "appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and[/or] thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work. This includes (1) paraphrasing another's ideas or conclusions without acknowledgment; (2) lifting of

entire [sentences,] paragraphs, chapters, etc. from another's work; and (3) submission as one's own work, any work prepared by another person or agency."

Students found guilty of plagiarism--in even a single instance--may fail the assignment AND the course, and may be subject to disciplinary action after a Judicial Hearing at the University, including suspension or expulsion, depending on the student's current status.

September

Wed, 2

Lecture: What is fiction?

- Why do we tell stories?
- Characteristics of short story

Narrator: Is the narrator synonymous with the author?

Wed. 9

Plot.

Story # 1. Anton Chekhov, "Darling."

2. Alexie, "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven," p.15

Characterization.

Lecture

Story # 1. Allende, "An Act of vengeance,"

2. Ambrose Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

Wed. 16

EXERCISE 1 – Write a one-page story in which you show characters that have some or all of the following traits: beauty, humility, patience, happiness, sadness. You can fictionalize an interesting aspect of your life

Story # 1 Carver, "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love"

2. Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants."

Wed., 23

Point of View:

Story # 1. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, "Mrs. Dutta Writes a Letter."

2. Faulkner, "The Evening Sun."

Wed. 30

EXERCISE 2 – Write a short story adopting any point of view of your choice.

Story # 1. Nadine Gordimer, "Some Are Born to Sweet Delight."

2. Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown."

October

Wed. 7: ***Theme***

Exam # 1 About theme.

LECTURE: How to respond to literary texts, using the techniques learned so far.

- Story, # 1_ Carver, "Cathedral," p.88
 # 2. Grace Paley, "A Conversation with My Father," p. 694
 # 3. "The House on Mango Street,"

Setting

Wed. 14

Novella: Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Wed. 21: **Style**

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* contd.

Wed. 28

Exam # 2 About Theme

Story # 1. Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," p. 313

2. "Yellow Woman," p.722

3. Diaz, "How to Date a Brown girl, Blackgirl, Whitegirl, or Halfie," p.247

November

Wed. 4

Story # 1. Ellison, "Battle Royal," p.266

2. Zora Neale Hurston, "Sweat."

Wed. 11

Story # 1. Marquez, "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings."

2. Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery."

Wed. 18

Story # 1. Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing," p. 671

2. Gish, Jen, "Who's Irish?"

Wed. 25

Story # 1. Bharati Mukherjee, "The Management of Grief," p.564

2. Alice Munro, "Miles City, Montana," p.578

December

Wed. 2

Story # 1. John Updike, "A & P," p.783.

Revision?

Wed. 9 - REVISION

December 14

Last day of Class