

ENGL 205

Introduction to Fiction

Mondays 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Fall 2011

Dr. Robert C. Hanna

HH 223

344-7363

Note: This syllabus may be modified by the professor, as circumstances warrant. Students will be advised should any such modifications be made.

Course Description

This course introduces literary terminology most commonly used in discussing and writing about short stories and novels. British and American literature is selected from the 19th-21st centuries. Emphasis is placed on relationships between authors' lives and their fiction, as well as individual works of fiction that have influenced other authors' fiction. Cultural literacy is also addressed, with a focus on the research of literary allusions.

This course fulfills Bethany Lutheran College's General Education Core Requirement of "Understanding Literature."

This course may be selected for partial fulfillment of both the English major and English minor.

Course Objectives

1. Students demonstrate basic cultural literacy . . . pertaining to course content, being able to identify correctly allusions of the times, excerpts from renowned works, and works written by key authors. [from English Department Objectives]
2. Students routinely ask good questions of the text, which come from their own interaction with the text, including how the text is significant in relation to their own lives and the lives of others, and in relation to other texts . . . [from English Department Objectives]
3. Students exhibit a minimum competency of a foundational knowledge of literary terminology and then use said terminology to analyze . . . and evaluate the works they read, both on paper and in discussions. [from English Department Objectives]
4. Students develop an appreciation for . . . literature so that as educated young people they will lead more full and satisfying lives. [from Objectives of the College]
5. Students increase their ability to use written . . . English effectively. [from Objectives of the College]

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify correctly allusions of the times taken directly from literature selected for this course. [from Course Objective #1]
2. Identify correctly excerpts from literature selected for this course. [from Course Objective #1]
3. Identify correctly excerpts from works written by authors read in this course. [from Course Objective #1]
4. Ask good questions of the various texts selected for this course. [from Course Objective #2]
5. Define literary terminology and then apply it to course texts for evaluating its usage by authors read in this course, both on paper and in discussions. [from Course Objective #3]
6. Respond personally to literature in at least one way not previously experienced. [from Course Objective #4]
7. Write persuasively using literary terminology correctly. [from Course Objective #5]
8. Write creatively in a manner used by one or more authors read in this course. [from Course Objective #5]

Required Literature (Titles *must* be edition and ISBN indicated.)

Alice in Wonderland
Lewis Carroll
Mineola, NY: Dover Publications
ISBN 0-486-41658-5

Frankenstein
Mary Shelley
Mineola, NY: Dover Publications
ISBN 0-486-28211-2

A Christmas Carol
Charles Dickens
Mineola, NY: Dover Publications
ISBN 978-0-486-26865-1

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
Mark Twain
Mineola, NY: Dover Publications
ISBN 0-486-41591-0

"The Fall of the House of Usher"
Edgar Allan Poe
<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/PoeFall.html>

Course Requirements and Evaluations

I. Reading Assignments

In addition to the required novels and short story specified above, each student will read a novel not assigned to anyone else in class. **Each reading assignment is to be completed *in advance of its scheduled quiz*.**

II. Writing Assignments

Writing assignments will consist of an analysis of a novel not assigned to anyone else in class, and original fiction based on models studied in class. Writing assignments are graded based on instructions given in class **and** meeting the due dates specified on the syllabus. [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 8]

III. Quizzes

Each reading assignment is accompanied by a quiz. Should a student miss a quiz, a makeup quiz will be provided during the student's final exam. [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 5]

IV. Research

Each reading assignment is accompanied by a literary allusion research assignment. Makeup assignments will be provided, if necessary. [a measurement of Student Learning Outcome 1]

V. Attendance and Participation [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 4, 5, and 6]

Attendance in this course is required, as is participation. Students should note that even excused absences prevent participation. Students who do not satisfactorily participate in class on a voluntary basis as a result of not being in class should expect to receive a lowered final course grade. **Students who cannot attend class as scheduled are advised to enroll in this course in a semester when full participation is achievable.**

Students who miss class **for any reason** are **required** to contact the professor by e-mail **on the same day as the missed class meeting**. The nature of the absence is to be provided. The professor will reply to all such messages, as proof of receipt.

VI. Evaluation of Students

10%	Quizzes
10%	Literary Allusion Research
10%	Original Fiction
20%	Midterm Exam [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4]
20%	Novel Analysis [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 5 and 7]
30%	Cumulative Final Exam [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7]

VII. Grading Scale

A=94 to 100; A minus=90 to 93; B plus=87 to 89; B=83 to 86; B minus=80 to 82; C plus=77 to 79; C=73 to 76; C minus=70 to 72; D plus=67 to 69; D=63 to 66; D minus=60 to 62; F=below 60.

Sequence of Class Meetings and Topics (graded assignments are in **bold** type)

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|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | Introduction to Course
Terms of Literary Analysis for Interpreting Fiction
P.G. Wodehouse |
| 02 | Quiz on “The Fall of the House of Usher”
Literary Allusion Research Due
Ray Bradbury |
| 03 | Original Fiction I Due
Science Fiction |
| 04 | Original Fiction II Due
Detective Fiction |
| 05 | Agatha Christie |
| 06 | Review for Midterm Exam |
| 07 | Midterm Exam |
| 08 | Mark Twain |
| 09 | Quiz on <i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court</i>
Literary Allusion Research Due
<i>The Innocents Abroad</i> and Mark Twain’s “Autobiography” |
| 10 | Original Fiction III Due
Continuation of <i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court</i> |
| 11 | Quiz on <i>Frankenstein</i>
Literary Allusion Research Due
Mary Shelley |
| 12 | Quiz on <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>
Literary Allusion Research Due
Lewis Carroll |
| 13 | Quiz on <i>A Christmas Carol</i>
Literary Allusion Research Due
Charles Dickens |
| 14 | Novel Analysis Due
Continuation of <i>A Christmas Carol</i> |
| 15 | Final Exam |