

ENGLISH 192: Introduction to Fiction
Spring 2018
Tuesday/Thursday 1-2:20
Humanities 2030

Professor: Celia Marshik
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12-1, Thursdays 2:30-5, and by appointment
Office: Humanities 2020 (enter through 2019, the English Department suite)
Telephone: 631-632-7415
E-Mail: celia.marshik@stonybrook.edu

(This is the best way to reach me. I regularly respond to e-mail from 9-5 on weekdays; if you contact me at night or on the weekends, you are likely to wait longer for a response. Please plan ahead.)

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to fiction. We'll think about how short stories and novels are put together, how they comment on historical and cultural issues, and how fiction changes over the course of the twentieth century. The pieces we will read all address a theme that has entranced writers in the United Kingdom and the United States: coming of age. This fiction usually follows a young character as he or she matures and achieves self-awareness; at the same time, coming of age novels often assess the state of the protagonist's culture and country and draw attention to changing social and economic conditions. The course will cover modern and postmodern fiction by men and women, bringing students from 1918 to 1985.

By the end of the course, students will have: increased their close-reading skills, increased their familiarity with some of the characteristics and developments of twentieth-century fiction, and developed an appreciation of the effects that nationality, gender, race and class have upon coming of age fiction.

Learning outcomes

EGL 192 satisfies the HUM requirement. In this class, students will learn to:

1. Understand the major principles and concepts that form the basis of knowledge in the humanities.
2. Develop an awareness of some of the key historical themes of one or more of the humanities.
3. Develop an awareness of the contexts (historical, social, geographical, moral) in which these issues emerged.
4. Develop the verbal and written skills to articulate valid arguments on these issues.

In addition this course satisfies the following English learning outcomes:

1. Read texts closely with attention to nuances of language, content and form.
2. Write focused, organized and convincing analytical essays in clear, standardized English prose, making use of feedback from teachers and peers.
3. Locate, evaluate, synthesize and incorporate relevant primary source materials into thesis-driven, interpretive essays of increasing length and complexity.

4. Understand conventions of literary study, including: familiarity with literary terms, genres, devices; knowledge of narrative forms.
5. Participate in discussions by listening to others' perspectives, asking productive questions, and articulating ideas with nuance and clarity.

Required Texts (you can find ISBN numbers on SOLAR):

Willa Cather, *My Antonia*

Virginia Woolf, *To The Lighthouse*

James Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*

Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*

I strongly prefer that you purchase and use the editions of these books I have ordered. You *must* bring your book with you to **every** class meeting. An additional reading is available on Blackboard.

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND REQUIREMENTS:
--

Attendance & Participation: Most people learn best by engaging in discussion rather than listening to a lecture. Although I will provide occasional lectures to supplement your reading, most of our time will be spent in discussion. This means that you need to be committed to regular attendance and engaged participation in class activities and conversations. In addition to participating in class discussions, some of your assignments will require you to post discussion questions on Blackboard, which will count toward your participation grade.

I will occasionally give you “heads-up” questions at the end of class or over e-mail and Blackboard. Although I do not usually call on students who do not raise their hands in class, if I give out heads-up questions, I plan to call on some or all of you. Therefore, you should always think about your answers to heads-up questions before you come to class.

More than four absences will lower your participation grade; more than six will result in an F for participation. It's simple: you can't participate if you aren't in class. Repeated occasions of excessive tardiness or leaving during class or early will count toward absences.

Classroom Etiquette: As a courtesy to your instructor and fellow students, please make every effort to arrive on time and to refrain from leaving during class. To minimize distractions, cell phones must be turned off and put away during class. Unless you have informed me that you have a family emergency or other specific event that requires you remain reachable, your phone will never be visible. For the same reason, I prefer that students not use laptops in class. If you are accustomed to taking notes on a laptop, please see me during the first week of class.

Blackboard (<http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>): The Blackboard site for this class contains required readings and a discussion board, a place to post questions and comments. The class syllabus and all assignments will also be posted on Blackboard. There are links to helpful sites on studying literature in the “Documents” folder. I welcome suggestions for additional links.

Writing Assignments: You will have short writing assignments as well as formal papers during the semester. You'll prepare for the formal papers by completing a 321 response. You can then use some of the material from the 321 response in your formal essays. In the two short essays, you will make an argument based on one novel. In your final paper, you will revise and expand one of your first two essays and may bring in additional novels. You will receive detailed instructions for these assignments in advance of the due dates. On the day they are due, all papers must be submitted in hard copy (use a standard 12 point font and double space). You will also upload papers to Blackboard through SafeAssign on the due date.

Late Papers: You may take one extension (of a few days) for a paper, but this extension must be arranged in advance of the due date. Please plan ahead.

Pop Quizzes: To make sure that everyone is keeping up with the scheduled readings, I will occasionally give quizzes at the beginning of class. I will drop your lowest quiz grade when I calculate your average. Please note that I do not give make-ups for quizzes; you need to be in class to take them.

Final Grade Calculation:

- 10% Class Participation
- 10% Pop Quizzes
- 20% 321 responses (averaged)
- 15% Paper 1
- 15% Paper 2
- 30% Paper 3

Academic Integrity: Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty members are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

DSS Assistance: If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/>. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services.

Critical Incident Management: SBU expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.

Course Calendar

Readings are listed on the date they are due—read them *before* class. You are always welcome to read ahead.

Items followed by an asterisk (*) are available on Blackboard (“Documents”).

Please note: If the University cancels classes for any reason, you should continue to keep up with this schedule and check Blackboard for updates.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| T 1/23 | Introduction to the course and to each other
The opening of “Araby” |
| Th 1/25 | James Joyce, “Araby”*
Also briefly explore the other items in that same folder* |
| T 1/30 | <i>My Antonia</i> (Introduction and The Shimerdas through end of XI) |
| Th 2/1 | <i>My Antonia</i> (The Shimerdas, XII-end) |
| T 2/6 | <i>My Antonia</i> (The Hired Girls) |
| Th 2/8 | <i>My Antonia</i> (Lena Lingard) |
| T 2/13 | <i>My Antonia</i> (The Pioneer Woman’s Story & Cuzak’s Boys)
<i>First 321 assignment due on or before this date</i> |
| Th 2/15 | <i>To The Lighthouse</i> (Part I: The Window) |
| T 2/20 | Paper #1 Due
Continued discussion of <i>My Antonia</i> |
| Th 2/22 | <i>To The Lighthouse</i> (Part I: The Window) |
| T 2/27 | <i>To The Lighthouse</i> (Part II: Time Passes) |
| Th 3/1 | <i>To The Lighthouse</i> (Part II: Time Passes) |
| T 3/6 | <i>To The Lighthouse</i> (Part III: The Lighthouse) |
| Th 3/8 | <i>Go Tell It</i> (Part I: The Seventh Day) |

Week of 3/12—NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK) [READ AHEAD]

- | | |
|---------|--|
| T 3/20 | <i>Go Tell It</i> (Part II: The Prayers of the Saints & Florence’s Prayer) |
| Th 3/22 | <i>Go Tell It</i> (Part II: Gabriel’s Prayer) |

- T 3/27 *Go Tell It* (Part II: Elizabeth's Prayer)
- Th 3/29 *Go Tell It* (Part III: The Threshing Floor)
Second 321 assignment due on or before this date
- T 4/3 *Woman Warrior* (No Name Woman)
- Th 4/5 *Woman Warrior* (White Tigers)
- T 4/10 **Paper #2 Due**
Continued discussion of *Woman Warrior*
- Th 4/12 *Woman Warrior* (Shaman)
- T 4/17 *Woman Warrior* (At the Western Palace)
- Th 4/19 *Woman Warrior* (A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe)
- T 4/24 *Oranges* (Genesis & Exodus)
- Th 4/26 *Oranges* (Leviticus & Numbers)
- T 5/1 *Oranges* (Deuteronomy & Joshua)
Third 321 assignment due on or before this date
- Th 5/3 *Oranges* (Judges & Ruth)

**Final Assignment due in my mailbox
Thursday, May 10 by 1pm**