2014

124-13 Studies in Fiction

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Welcome to ENGLISH 124 Studies in Fiction. In this class we will read novels and short stories, and you will build a vocabulary of terms used in discussing and understanding literary works. For some of the works we read, we will watch a video pertaining to the story. We will discuss all works in class, and you will be encouraged to share your questions, observations, and insights with your classmates and instructor.

Course description from the Xavier University catalog

“Introduction to the genre of prose narrative, including both the short story and the novel. Study of various styles and formal elements of fiction in texts from a wide variety of cultures, periods and authors.”

Attendance policy

Attending class regularly and promptly is an important factor contributing to your success in this course. Since the class meets a total of just eight times, missing even a single class can detract from your ability to do your best. It will be the policy of this class to allow one absence without a deduction from your class participation grade. Any absence in excess of that number will result in a deduction of 50 points per absence.

Required texts

An Introduction to Fiction, edited by X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia, eleventh edition

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Class participation

You are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions by asking and answering questions and sharing your insights and thoughts about the literary works we read. You will get much more out of this class if you are an active participant. This includes participating in whole-class as well as small-group discussions. Your participation grade will constitute 200 points toward your grade for the semester.
**Midterm exam**

You will take a mid-term exam over material covered in the first half of the semester. This exam will consist of a few fill-in-the-blank questions and some essay questions. The midterm will count 300 points toward your overall semester grade for the course.

**Final exam**

The final exam will require you to respond to questions about the literary works we read during the semester. This exam, like the mid-term, will consist of fill-in-the-blank questions and essay questions. Your grade on the exam will constitute 300 points toward your overall semester grade.

**Response paper**

You will write a four-to-five page essay reflecting on one of the works we read in the class. This essay will offer a summary of what you have learned about this particular work and why it is one you especially enjoyed or found meaningful. The response paper grade will count 200 points toward your overall semester grade for the course.

**Grading**

Midterm exam = 300 points possible
Final exam = 300 points possible
Response paper = 200 points possible
Participation = 200 points possible

1000-900 = A to A-
899-800 = B to B-
799-700 = C to C-
699-600 = D to D-
599 to 0 = F

**Class schedule**

_The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the following schedule when necessary to fit the needs of the class. All changes will be announced in class._

8/25/14 **Introduction to class**

Syllabus, textbook, literary terms
Small group assignments/activities/ _Girl_ by Jamaica Kinkaid
Background information for _The Kite Runner_

**Reading assignment:** _The Kite Runner_ by Khaled Hosseini
9/8/14  Small-group discussion/activities
Discussion of the novel
Video of The Kite Runner

Reading assignment: the first 5 chapters of The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

9/15/14  Small-group discussion/activities
Background information
Whole-class discussion of the novel

Reading assignment: Remaining chapters of The Great Gatsby

9/22/14  Small-group discussion/activities
Discussion of the novel
Video of The Great Gatsby

Reading assignment: “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson

9/29/14  Midterm Exam
Small-group discussion/activities
Discussion of the story
Video of “The Lottery”

Reading assignment: “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin

10/6/14  Small-group discussion/activities
Discussion of the stories
Video of “Harrison Bergeron”

Reading assignment: “The Metamorphosis” by Franz Kafka and “Transformations in ‘The Metamorphosis’” by Nina Pelikan Straus
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/13/14</td>
<td>Small-group discussion/activities</td>
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<td>Discussion of the story/criticism</td>
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<td>Video of “The Metamorphosis”</td>
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<td><strong>Rough draft of response paper due in class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reading assignment:</strong> “A Haunted House” by Virginia Woolf</td>
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<td>10/20/14</td>
<td>Response paper due</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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<td>Discussion of story</td>
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