124-18A Studies in Fiction

Marilyn Clark
clarkm@xavier.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/english_syllabi_spring_2014

Recommended Citation
http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/english_syllabi_spring_2014/4
Welcome to ENGLISH 124 Studies in Fiction. In this class we will read a novel, a novella and numerous short stories, and you will develop an understanding of literary explication; in order to do this, you will build a vocabulary of basic 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 nine 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.

**Winter weather policy**

Always check the Xavier web site, your Xavier email and local television and radio broadcasts before coming to class on any day in which bad weather has just occurred or is predicted for the greater Cincinnati area. In case class is cancelled, adjustments will be made to our class schedule and announced via email.

**Required texts**

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

*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut
Homework

For each literary work we read, you will be assigned questions to answer as homework for that week. Answers must provide evidence from the stories to support your views. All homework must be word processed (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font) and will be collected at the end of each class. Homework handed in late will be accepted one time during the semester. Homework is accepted via email if you miss class; however, do not make a habit of submitting homework via email. Your grade on homework comprises 200 points toward the overall semester grade.

Quizzes

Each class will begin with a quiz over the assigned reading for that week. Quizzes always consist of five questions that require short answers and no explication. Be aware that quizzes can only be made up if you do so before the class you miss, and you can only make up one quiz during the semester. If you come to class late, you will most likely miss the quiz for that day. Your grade on quizzes will constitute 400 points toward your semester grade.

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.

Final exam

The final exam will require you to respond to questions about the literary works we read during the semester. Your grade on the exam will constitute 100 points toward your overall semester grade. (A bluebook is required for the final exam; bluebooks can be purchased at the Xavier bookstore.)

Response paper

You will write a three to four page essay reflecting on one of the works we read in class. This essay will reveal how you made a personal connection to the work you chose, indicating why it is one you especially enjoyed or found meaningful. The response paper grade will count 100 points toward your overall semester grade for the course. (Note: There will be a 10 point deduction from your grade for failing to participate in the response paper workshop on Feb. 22.)

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class schedule

The following schedule is subject to change at any point during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Class #1—Sunday, January 12

Introduction to the class and textbook

Reading assignment: “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson and “To Build a Fire” by Jack London

Homework assignment: answer questions on pages 252 -253 and on page 124 in the text

Class #2—Saturday, January 18

Quiz over assigned reading

Discussion of stories

Videos of “The Lottery” and “To Build a Fire”

Reading assignment: first four chapters of Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Homework assignment: answer questions on handout

Class #3—Saturday, January 25

Quiz over assigned reading

Discussion of novel and story

Video of Slaughterhouse Five

Reading assignment: last five chapters of Slaughterhouse Five

and “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut

Homework assignment: answer questions on page 220 in the text

Class #4—Saturday, February 1

Quiz over assigned reading

Discussion of novel and story

Reading assignment: “Young Goodman Brown” by Nathaniel Hawthorne and “Miss Brill” by K

Katherine Mansfield

Homework assignment: answer questions on page 429 and page 89 in the text
Class #5—Saturday, February 8
Quiz over assigned reading
Discussion of stories
Reading assignment: “Sonny’s Blues” by James Baldwin and “Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry
Homework assignment: answer questions on page 73 and on page 172 in the text

Class #6—Saturday, February 15
Quiz over assigned reading
Discussion of stories
Reading assignment: *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka
Homework assignment: answer questions on page 331 and page 332 in the text

Class #7—Saturday, February 22
**Rough draft of Response Paper due in class today for editing!**
Quiz over assigned reading
Discussion of novella
*Video of The Metamorphosis*
Peer editing and instructor conference over rough draft of Response Paper
Reading assignment: “The Open Boat” by Stephen Crane and “A Rose for Emily by William Faulkner
Homework assignment: answer questions on pages 35-36 and on pages 201-202 in the text

Class #8—Saturday, March 1
Quiz over assigned reading
Discussion of stories
Workshop on Response Paper final draft
Reading assignment: “Happy Endings” by Margaret Atwood
Class # 9—Saturday, March 8

Response Paper due in class! Final Exam today (Bluebook required)
Quiz over assigned reading