**Introduction to Fiction ENGL 2370 (CRN 20007)**

Instructor: Christopher Fettes W 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

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Office Hours: Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 PM and by appointment

**Course Focus**

We will discuss the reasons people tell stories and create fiction by asking questions of texts and writers. More broadly, we will question the world we live in and ourselves. While I hope this course will instill an ongoing love of literature in those who complete it, I likewise hope you will be challenged as a critical and analytical reader and thinker. Students who complete this class will leave with new perspectives, but also with a critical mindset, ready to critically assess any subject or task beyond the study of literature. Students should be prepared to question what they think and why they think those things.

The only agenda here is to inspire critical thought, not belief or disbelief in any particular subject. To this end, intolerance or harassment on the part of any student will not be permitted. This class will be a safe testing place for ideas and exploration.

**Catalog Entry**

Satisfies the humanities requirement in the general education program. Students will learn to read stories and short novels carefully and analytically and be encouraged to see the way stories both reflect and enhance our understanding of life. Lecture, discussion, writing. Prerequisite: None. Fall, spring.

**Required Texts**

*Fiction 100: An Anthology of Short Fiction*, Thirteenth Edition,ed. James Pickering

*The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway

**Course Format**

This course will include lectures, large and small group discussions, and writing exercises, among other instructional formats. English poet William Cowper famously wrote, “Variety's the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavor.” While this is true, and variety should help prevent monotony in the classroom, these different formats are also intended to allow students opportunities to engage in ways that are more conducive to their own learning styles.

**Grades**

Activities 10%

Journals and Discussion Responses 10%

Discussion Leader Presentation 10%

Midterm Exam 15%

Final Exam 20%

Essay 1 15%

Essay 2 20%

**Grade Calculation**

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| --- |
| 100-90 = A |
| 89-80 = B |
| 79-70 = C |
| 69-60 = D |
| Below 60 = F |

**Attendance and Participation**

Punctual attendance at all class meetings is required. Students must be present, engaged, and awake for the entire class. Given our weekly meeting schedule, students will fall behind quickly if class is missed. Two absences are allotted to each student. It is your responsibility to gather from a classmate what you have missed; you are responsible for all material that is covered, whether you are in attendance or not. If you miss more than two class meetings, you will be docked ten percentage points from your final grade for each additional class meeting missed. In-class activities cannot be made up.

**Group Presentations**

The class will be divided into two groups and each group will be responsible for short presentations on an assigned reading each week—the schedule can be found on the group presentation guidelines handout. One group will give a presentation of at least twenty minutes, during which students will give a basic overview of the assigned short story and lead a discussion on the material by posing questions to the rest of the class. The other non-presenting group will offer responses to the material and questions posed during the in-class discussion. The presenting group will be led by three to four discussion leaders

*Please note: Note: if the direst of emergencies prevents a student from attending class when he/she is scheduled to be a discussion leader, that student must contact the instructor no later than 6:00 pm on the date of the scheduled discussion leader presentation.*

**Journals and Short Writing Assignments**

The week a group presents, each group member will be responsible for submitting a journal that addresses the same content expected of a presentation. Members of the opposite group will respond in writing to the week's presentation, along with specific questions from the instructor. These assignments should be at least three paragraphs long. There are no journal assignments for weeks without group presentations.

**Essays**

Two short essays will be required during the semester. The first will be due October 22 and the second will be due December 3. Students will choose one to two stories from our course selections to explore in a three to four page essay. Some biographical information is permissible, but this should deal with the works directly and thoughtfully. *Please note: Your journals and short writing assignments can be excellent starting points when you begin to write this paper.*

**Exams**

Two exams will be given for this course, one shortly before Fall Break and the other at the end of the semester. A description of what to expect for each will be given prior to these respective exam sessions.

**Activities**

Several activities will be assigned during the semester, including spontaneous in-class activities and/or pop quizzes over reading and lecture material. These in-class activities cannot be made up if missed.

**Housekeeping**

**Food:** Since this is an evening class, I understand that snacks and beverages may be necessary to sustain you. I ask that you be conscientious about your choices. Loud or pungent snacks are strongly discouraged.

**Book:** You will need your book during class every week, so please be sure you have it with you.

**Children:** Please do not bring your children, or someone else’s children, to class with you.

**Gizmos:** Please keep your cell phones silent during class. For the sake of clarity, let me be clear that the Vibrate and Silent settings are distinctly different. Please keep this in mind. A vibrating phone can be just as disruptive, if not worse, than a ringing phone. Tablets and laptops are not permitted.

**Communication with the Instructor**

Be sure to check your campus email account regularly in order to stay abreast of any important changes or updates to the course schedule or assignments. Email is also the best way to contact me outside of class hours. Please be advised that emails sent late in the day will not likely be answered the same day, so if your computer crashes while you are working on your final paper and you want to ask if you can turn it in late, do not expect a response at 1:00 AM.

**Remind**

I will be using a service called Remind that allows me to send a group text message to students who have subscribed to the service. In addition to emailing the class, if a last minute situation arises and I need to contact you, I will also send a text message. This is a strictly voluntary service. To subscribe, follow these steps:

Send a text message to: (260) 624-0421

With the message: @introtofic

**Academic Integrity Statement**

The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the *Student Handbook*. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of this university policy.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement**

The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Support Services, 450-3613.

**Title IX Disclosure**

If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to “student-on-student” or “employee-on-student”), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: https://uca.edu/titleix. *Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.*

**Building Emergency Plan**

An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes

**Evaluations**

Student evaluations of a course and its professor are a crucial element in helping faculty achieve excellence in the classroom and the institution in demonstrating that students are gaining knowledge. Students may evaluate courses they are taking starting on the Monday of the thirteenth week of instruction through the end of finals week by logging in to myUCA and clicking on the Evals button on the top right.

**Other Policies**

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with all policies included in the Student Handbook, particularly University academic policies and policies pertaining to sexual harassment.

**Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting** | **Group Info** | **Text** |
| Meeting 1, August 27 |  | Introductions |
|  |  |  |
| Meeting 2, September 3 | B Presents | **Jhumpa Lahiri "Interpreter of Maladies"** |
|  | A Responds | Jamaica Kincaid "Girl" |
|  |  | John Updike “A&P” |
|  |  |  |
| Meeting 3, September 10 | A Presents | **Raymond Carver "Cathedral"** |
|  | B Responds | John Cheever "The Swimmer" |
|  |  | Ernest Hemingway "Hills Like White Elephants" |
|  |  |  |
| Meeting 4, September 17 | B Presents | **Stephen Crane "The Blue Hotel"** |
|  | A Responds | Washington Irving "Rip Van Winkle" |
|  |  | Nathaniel Hawthorne "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" |
| Meeting 5, September 24 | No Presentations | Ernest Hemingway *The Sun Also Rises* |
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| Meeting 6, October 1 | No Presentations | Ernest Hemingway *The Sun Also Rises* (Continued) |
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| Meeting 7, October 8 | No Presentations | **Midterm Exam** |
|  |  | Samuel Clemens "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" |
|  |  | WW Jacobs "The Monkey's Paw" |
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| Meeting 8, October 15 | A Presents | **Charlotte Gillman Perkins "The Yellow Wallpaper"** |
|  | B Responds | Sarah Orne Jewett "A White Heron" |
|  |  | Kate Chopin "The Storm" |
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| Meeting 9, October 22 | B Presents | **Nathaniel Hawthorne "Young Goodman Brown"** |
|  | A Responds | Edgar Allen Poe " The Fall of the House of Usher" |
|  |  | James Joyce "The Dead" |
| Meeting 10, October 29 | A Presents | **Washington Irving "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"** |
|  | B Responds | Bram Stoker "Dracula's Guest" |
|  |  | Edgar Allan Poe "The Cask of Amontillado" |
|  |  |  |
| Meeting 11, November 5 | B Presents | **Sherman Alexie “This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona”** |
|  | A Responds | F. Scott Fitzgerald “Winter Dreams” |
|  |  | Alice Walker “Nineteen Fifty-Five” |
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| Meeting 12, November 12 | A Presents | **Annie Proulx “Them Old Cowboy Songs”** |
|  | B Responds | Gabriel García Márquez “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” |
|  |  | Alice Munro “Passion" |
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| Meeting 13, November 19 | B Presents | **Albert Camus, “The Guest”** |
|  | A Responds | Louise Erdrich “The Red Convertible” |
|  |  | Ralph Ellison “King of the Bingo Game” |
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| November 26 |  | **No Class - Happy Thanksgiving** |
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| Meeting 14, December 3 | A Presents | **John Barth “Lost in the Funhouse”** |
|  | B Responds | Mary Hunter Austin “The Basket Maker” |
|  |  | Willa Cather “Paul’s Case” |
|  |  |  |
| December 10 |  | **Final Exam** |

**Student Signature Page**

*Please return only this page.*

I have read the Course Syllabus for ENGL 2370 (CRN 20007) and understand my rights, responsibilities, and privileges as they pertain to this class. I am aware of course objectives, policies, and procedures as they relate to my grade and overall success, and I accept any consequences that result from the ignorance of these policies.

My signature below signifies that I am aware of the expectations and obligations for the course.

Student Name (printed)

Student Signature Date

*\*I, the course instructor, Christopher Fettes, retain the right to change this syllabus, including assignments, rules and expectations, or grading/extra credit policy at any time. If changes occur, a new syllabus and a new signature page will be given to each student.*