**Introduction to Fiction ENGL 2370**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00-12:50

Irby 312

**Course Overview:**

This course satisfies the humanities requirement in the general education program and is described in the catalogue as a class where “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.” As this description implies, we will not simply be reading these works for the sake of reading them. We will also analyze and question them. Storytelling is an integral part of human nature, and we will see why as we probe each piece for its message or purpose. Much of the class will be devoted to discussing the stories, so it is imperative that you read and be prepared to take part in these discussions. Although I expect you to carefully read each story, please feel free to ask questions. Questions can be a great way to begin a discussion and work with particularly difficult topics or pieces.

**Texts:** The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, 7th edition, eds. Richard Bausch and R.V. Cassill

*Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley

**Schedule:**

“The Story of an Hour,” Kate Chopin, “The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” Samuel Clemens, “Young Goodman Brown,” Nathaniel Hawthorne, “The Fall of the House of Usher,” Edgar Allen Poe, “Xingu,” Edith Wharton, “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge,” Ambrose Bierce, “My Mysterious Mademoiselle,” Louisa May Alcott

**Exam**

“A New England Nun,” Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, “Greville Fane,” Henry James, “A&P,” John Updike, “Barn Burning,” William Faulkner, “A Good Man is Hard to Find,” Flannery O’Connor, “Guests of the Nation,” Frank O’Connor, “King of the Bingo Game,” Ralph Ellison, “The Use of Force,” William Carlos Williams

**Exam**

“Signs and Symbols,” Vladimir Nabokov, “The Chrysanthemums,” John Steinbeck, “A Worn Path,” Eudora Welty, “Sweat,” Zora Neale Hurston, “The Man Who Was Almost a Man,” Richard Wright, “The Rocking-Horse Winner,” D.H. Lawrence, “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “Kew Gardens,” Virginia Woolf

**Exam**

“Bartleby, the Scrivener,” Herman Melville, “The Open Boat,” Stephen Crane, “The Death of Ivan Ilych,” Leo Tolstoy, “The Dead,” James Joyce

*Frankenstein*

**Exam**

**Requirements and Grades:**

Attendance: I expect you to be in class and ready to engage in the material. If you are in this class, then I assume you to be interested and will expect you to behave accordingly, meaning you should have read the materials and be prepared to learn and discuss. You can miss up to three classes before your grade and position in the class will be in danger (this includes excused absences). Repeatedly missing after that could cause you to be dropped from the roll.

Assignments: You will need to bring in a reading response each day that will be based on the piece(s) that you will have read for that class. Do not summarize the stories. This reading response is not just about how the story made you feel, but a more in depth look at the work. You may very well have some emotional response to these stories, but you need to point out what the author is doing to cause these reactions rather than simply stating your feelings. Try to look for literary techniques that interest you.

Exams: There will be four exams throughout the semester (including the final exam). These exams will require you to identify passages from works we have read and then explain the significance of those passages. Do not summarize the stories. You should use these exams to analytically interpret and discuss the passages. Your grade for these exams will be based on how well you do this. There is no “correct” length for your responses. For some, you could adequately explain the passages with a single sentence and others may take a full paragraph.

**Rules:**

Do not cheat (this includes plagiarizing). If you cheat or plagiarize, I will fail you.

Keep your electronics out of the classroom environment: leave them at home or in your pockets.

Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. You should show respect to me and your fellow students. If you cause a disruption, I will ask you to stop. If you continue after the first warning, I will ask you to leave the classroom. If you continue to disrupt my class, I will drop you from it.

**Academic Integrity**

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.

**Emergency Procedures Summary**

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.

**TitleIX 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 me 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 obligations to conduct an investigations 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*.

**University Policies**

If you have questions about the university’s academic policies, please consult the relevant sections of the UCA Student Handbook. UCA adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3135.

Lucas Gass 414 Irby

Office Hours: 11-12 Monday-Friday, and by appointment

e-mail: lgass1@cub.uca.edu