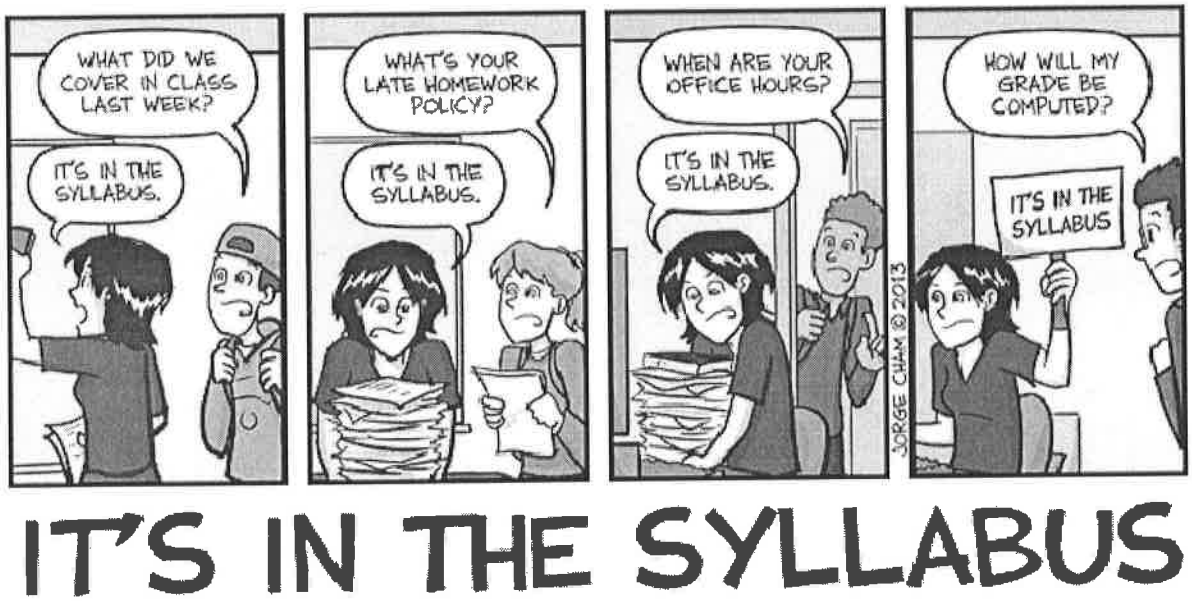
Syllabus for ENGL 2370
Introduction to Fiction
Fall 2014



IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

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11130 meets MWF 8-8:50 am in Irby 303
19259 meets MWF 1-1:50 pm in Irby 303

Instructor:
Deb Moore
Irby 428
email: dmoore@uca.edu (best way to contact)
Phone 501-450-3499
Text: 501-291-0433 (After 7 am but before 9 pm; please ID yourself).
Hours: 9-12 MWF
Other hours by arrangement: in person and virtually

About the syllabus:
The first and most important thing you should do as a student in this class is to make yourself familiar with this document. The course syllabus (for this course and for all the other courses you take) contains everything you need to know to be successful in the class:

- It details what you will be learning and when it will be covered.
- It makes clear what is expected of you as a student.
- It allows you to know what to expect of your instructor.
- It outlines the organization of the course and when assignments are due.
- It explains how grading will be accomplished.
- It states the attendance requirements.

Course Description and Goals:
From the undergraduate catalog:

> *ENGL 2370 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.*

In this class, we will read, discuss, and write about fiction in a way that considers its formal elements (character, plot, setting, themes, narrative style) as well as its contexts and value (social, historical, aesthetic). Students will learn to read stories carefully and analytically and will be encouraged to see the way stories both reflect and enhance understanding.

Class meetings will consist of brief lecture, full-class and small-group discussion, and various other activities (student presentations, in-class writings, slide shows, video and audio recordings).

Required Text and Resources (by the beginning of week two, please):
Fiction: A Pocket Anthology, 7th ed., by R.S. Gwynn (2012). ISBN 978-0205032136

Access to a computer and printer.

An Engrade Account: http://engrade.com (you will be given access credentials during the first week of class).

General Requirements:
You are responsible for the material covered in the assigned readings on the day the reading is due. Expect quizzes on this material. Quizzes are administered at the beginning of class and cannot be made up if you are tardy or absent. If you expect to miss class for university-sponsored events (choir, band, orchestra, debate, sports), please speak with me about it at the beginning of the semester.

You will receive one hard copy of the syllabus and the course outline, but all other handouts will be posted on Engrade. It is your responsibility to be sure that you can access your account. The version of the syllabus and course outline that appears there is the most recent and supersedes all other versions.

> DAILY WORK:
> Informal tasks such as journaling, freewriting, pre-writing, quizzes, and response sheets may be hand-written and may or may not be turned in for grading.
>
> > Reader Responses: For each reading assignment, please write a brief response to the text to be used in class discussion. Focus on the thoughts and questions you had when reading and that you would like to touch on

in conversation with your peers. These may be hand-written, and won't be accepted for grading unless you are also present for that day's discussion. Late submissions won't be accepted.

Each student will build and keep a list of terms used in literary criticism and will understand and use these terms in writing papers and in class discussions.

FORMAL WRITING:
Position Papers, reviews, and other major assignments are considered formal writing tasks and are to be typed in MLA format. Submit these assignments on their due date via Engrade.

Position Papers: Over the course of the semester you will write four (4) 500-word position papers. These are short analyses/close readings/arguments about a text. Because you only have 500 words, you will need to be very careful about what you choose to write. Ideally, you should focus on a single line or a single image in the text.

Reviews: Write a 500-word review of a short story from class or one that you have read on your own. You may turn in your book review (via Engrade) at any time before November 26. No reviews will be accepted for grading after that date.

Presentations: Each student will conduct one brief presentation (10-15 minutes). Students sign up for presentations the first full week of class. The topic of the presentation needs to be related to the reading(s) of that day. It can be a discussion of an element of fiction (setting, character, plot, theme, style/symbol, point of view) evident in the work, explanation of a background topic that helps to better understand the work, a discussion of a film adaptation of the work, or a dramatic or oral interpretation of the work. Discuss your topic and approach with me (irl or virtually) no later than the week before your presentation is scheduled. Students who miss their own presentation may be given an alternate assignment, at my discretion.

Exams: there will be a Midterm and a Final Exam.

OTHER CONCERNS:
You will receive one hard copy of the syllabus and the course outline, but all other handouts and links will be posted on Engrade. It is your responsibility to be sure that you can access your account. The version of the syllabus and course outline that appears online is the most recent and supersedes all other versions.

Some supplemental readings will be posted to Dropbox; others are available online.

Class discussion is an important part of this course. Please read and be prepared to discuss the material on the day that it is due. Bring the text of that day's reading with you to each class. You may print hard copies of supplemental digital material or you may use your laptop ipad, or—if necessary—cellphone to access them. Students who come to class without the materials necessary to be a contributing member of the classroom community may be counted as absent.

Please take notes in longhand, not on your laptop or tablet.

It is generally accepted that students will need at least 2 hours of course preparation outside of class for every credit hour taken. So, for a three-hour course such as this one, you should plan to spend a minimum of six additional hours each week outside of class reading, thinking, and writing. (The Course Outline specifies the number of pages in each reading assignment to assist you in planning and managing your time.)

Coursework:
Coursework consists of daily work as assigned, four 500-word position papers, a short story review, one class presentation, and two tests.

Daily Work (combined) 25%
Position Papers (combined) 25%
Short Story Review 10%
Class Presentation 15%
Midterm 10%
Final Exam 15%

One Writing Center tutoring session is required for each of the position papers, review, and presentation assignments. You may use your tutoring session at any point during the drafting and revising process (brainstorming, revision, or editing) and as many times as you wish. There are a limited number of appointment slots, though, so make your appointments early. To make an appointment, submit a paper for online tutoring, or to find out about drop-in hours, visit http://uca.edu/writingcenter/home. The Academic Success Center is also available to help you with all aspects of college work: http://uca.edu/success.

Assessment Methods:
Grading:
90-100=A
80-89=B
70-79=C
60-69=D
59 and below=F

Papers that are plagiarized will earn a failing grade.

Grades are posted Engrade. You may check your grade at any time.

When assigned, essays will be graded using the following standards, bearing in mind that other factors—such as missing due dates or failure to follow instructions—may also affect your grade:

A/Excellent: Shows originality of thought in stating and developing a central controlling idea. Its ideas are clear, logical, and thought-provoking; it contains all the positive qualities of good writing listed below:

- Concentration on a main purpose, with thorough development and firm support of evidence using concrete detail and specific examples.
- Careful construction and organization.
- Careful choice of effective words and phrases.

B/Superior: Has a clearly stated central purpose, logically and adequately developed. Its ideas are clear because it contains some of the qualities of good writing described under A, above. It is relatively free of errors in the use of English. Although indicating technical competence, the B paper lacks the originality of thought and style which characterizes the A essay.

C/Average: Has a central idea stated and organized clearly enough to convey its purpose to the reader; it avoids serious errors in the use of English. It may, in fact, have few correction marks on it, but it lacks adequate and strong use of supporting details as well as the vigor of thought and expression which would entitle it to an above-average rating.

D/Unsatisfactory: Indicates below-average achievement in expressing ideas correctly and effectively. Most D papers fail to present a clear central idea and or to develop it adequately. Typically, they will contain numerous serious errors in the use of English. With a clearly stated central idea, fuller development, and more careful proofreading, many D papers might be worth at least a C grade.

F/Failing: Is the result of poor writing, which usually includes one or more of the following problems:

- Failure to state and develop a thesis or to use some equivalent organization appropriate to the topic;
- A lack of unity, coherence, and development within the individual paragraphs or the paper as a whole;
- A mass of vague generalizations that essentially restate the thesis without offering specific details as support;
- Little or no relation to the assignment;
- Inadequate length;
- Frequent misspelling of words;
- Sentence-structure errors (fragments/run-ons);

- Lack of agreement between subject and verb or pronoun and antecedent;
- Lack of clear pronoun-antecedent reference;
- Verb form errors (including tense, voice, and mood).

Attendance:
Punctual class attendance is mandatory. In-class discussion, quizzes, and other in-class activities constitute a portion of your grade and cannot be made up if missed. In the event of unavoidable absence, please check with another class member to find out what you missed before returning to class.

There is no distinction between "excused and "unexcused" absences. Students who miss more than two weeks' worth of classes—i.e., six class meetings in a MWF course—and/or miss a week's worth of classes consecutively without contacting the instructor may be dropped for non-attendance and assigned a WF, WP, or W grade as appropriate.

I don't ordinarily concern myself with such things, but if it becomes apparent that you have a punctuality problem, I will track late arrivals and early departures. If forced by circumstance to keep a tally, I may count any combination of three late arrivals or early departures as one absence.

I call roll every day. If you arrive to class late, I may have already counted you as absent. You should get with me after class is over to make sure that you get credit for having been in class. The roll book is the official record of attendance.

EASTER EGG: Write down a question about this syllabus and bring it with you to the second class meeting and you will earn 100 (daily work) points. Not valid after the second class meeting.

Late Work:
Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments receive a whole letter grade reduction per calendar day and are accepted only with my prior approval. Be aware that I sometimes also request that a late essay be accompanied by a 500-word explanation, which will be graded for grammar and punctuation.

Class Etiquette:
Please make an attempt to be completely present by setting your cell phone to silent or vibrate and putting it away. I respectfully ask that you not engage in text messaging during class time and that you keep private exchanges with your neighbors minimal.

Do not sleep in class.

Students who exhibit disruptive behavior—that is, any behavior that interferes with my ability to conduct the class and foster student learning, or who exhibit behavior so outrageous as to severely impede the conduct of the class—may be dropped. Students who are dropped for disruptive behavior will be assigned a WF grade.

UCA Policies:

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.

> In this class, any student who turns in an assignment that includes a passage that has been either written for him or her by someone else for pay or as a favor or passages copied from a print or electronic source written by another author (even if some of the words have been changed), will immediately be dropped from the course and will receive a WF grade.
>
> Any student who turns in a paper that has borrowed from other sources and fails to give complete and unambiguous credit to every source (e.g. quotation marks, in-text citations, or missing or incomplete bibliography), will receive a grade of 0 (zero) on that paper.
>
> We will be discussing plagiarism in class to be sure you understand what it is and how to avoid it.

DISABILITY POLICY: 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, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3613.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: 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 or 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 twelfth week of instruction through the end of finals week by logging in to *myUCA* and clicking on the *Evals* button on the top right.

HARASSMENT POLICY: Harassment by any faculty member, staff member, or student is a violation of both law and University policy and will not be tolerated. Please read the appropriate pages of your Student Handbook for the policies, definition, and procedures concerning harassment. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me or the

chair of the department. Individuals who believe they have been subjected to harassment should report the incident promptly to their academic dean or to a departmental chair or directly to the university's Affirmative Action officer, legal counsel or assistant vice president for human resources.

> 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.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS: If, during any point of the semester, you find that personal problems are keeping you from completing your course work, you may find it beneficial to visit the counseling center. All students are entitled to free, confidential, professional counseling. Please contact the University Counseling Center at 450-3138. They are located in the Student Health Center, suite 327.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with all the academic policies in your Student Handbook.

The Fine Print:
The syllabus and course outline are subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class and on Engrade. You are responsible for keeping abreast of such changes.

Course Outline:

Date	Discussion	What's Due (at the beginning of class)
Friday 22-Aug	Course Overview	
Monday 25-Aug	Reading Short Fiction	Read the syllabus. Read pages 1-6 of the text.
Wed 27-Aug	Writing About Short Fiction	Read pages 21-28 of the text. Read about formatting your writing for this class: http://ucacomp2.wikispaces.com/Essay+Format
Friday 29-Aug	How Not to Plagiarize	Read *Paraphrasing and Summarizing*, paying particular attention to "Everything You Need to Know About Plagiarism": http://ucacomp2.wikispaces.com/Paraphrasing+and+Summarizing **Deadline to sign up for presentation subjects/dates**
Monday 1-Sept	**Labor Day—No Class**	
Wed 3-Sept	**Part I** The Elements of Fiction: Setting	Sarah Orne Jewett, "The White Heron" p. 66 (9 pgs)
Friday 5-Sept		W. W. Jacobs, "The Monkey's Paw" http://americanliterature.com/author/w-w-jacobs/short-story/the-monkeys-paw (14 pgs)
Monday 8-Sept	The Elements of Fiction: Character	Toni Morison, "Recitatif" http://linksprogram.gmu.edu/tutorcorner/NCLC495Readings/Morrison_recitatifessay.doc.pdf (20 pgs)
Wed 10-Sept		Sherman Alexie, "This is What it Means to say Phoenix, Arizona" p. 411 (11 pgs)
Friday 12-Sept		Jamaica Kincaid, "Girl" p. 350 (1 pg)
Monday 15-Sept	The Elements of Fiction: Plot	William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" p. 152 (9 pgs)
Wed 17-Sept		**First Position Paper Due. Submit via Engrade by the beginning of class.** Margaret Atwood, "Happy Endings" p. 309 (3 pgs)
Friday 19-Sept		Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" p. 83 (2 pgs)
Monday 22-Sept	The Elements of Fiction: Theme	Nadine Gordimer, "A Beneficiary" (Dropbox) (19 pages)
Wed 24-Sept		Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" https://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~surette/goodman.html (11 pgs)
Friday 26-Sept		Alison Bechdel, From "Fun Home" (via Dropbox) (5 pgs)
Monday 29-Sept	The Elements of Fiction: Style & Symbol	Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery" p. 194 (9 pgs)
Wed 1-Oct		Ursela K. Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" p. 242 (6 pgs)
Friday 3-Oct		Gabriel Garcia Marquez, "The Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" p. 235 (6 pgs)

Monday 6-Oct	The Elements of Fiction: Point of View	Raymond Carver, "Cathedral" p. 278 (14 pgs)
Wed 8-Oct		Toni Cade Bambara, "The Lesson" http://cai.ucdavis.edu/gender/thelesson.html (6 pgs)
Friday 10-Oct		**MIDTERM EXAM**
Monday 13-Oct	Fable, Fairy Tale, Folktale, and Legend Fairy Tales and the Wicked Stepmother	"The Twelve Brothers" http://www.grimmstories.com/en/grimm_fairy-tales/the_twelve_brothers "Little Brother and Little Sister" http://www.grimmstories.com/en/grimm_fairy-tales/the_brother_and_sister
Wed 15-Oct	The Wicked Stepmother, continued	**Second Position Paper Due** "Snow White" http://www.grimmstories.com/en/grimm_fairy-tales/snow-white Neil Gaiman, "Snow, Glass, Apple" (Dropbox)
Friday 17-Oct	**Fall Break**	
Monday 20-Oct	**Part II** Reading Thematically: *"The first rule of Fight Club is: You do not talk about Fight Club. The second rule of Fight Club is: You do not talk about Fight Club"* (Stories about Aggression and Violence)	Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried" http://corysnow.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/ttc-full-text.pdf p. 10-27 (17 pgs)
Wed 22-Oct		Louise Erdrich, "The Red Convertible" p. 373 (9 pages)
Friday 24-Oct		James Thurber, "The Catbird Seat" http://goffstown.k12.nh.us:8100/~pmccann/The%20Catbird%20Seat%2011.pdf (7 pgs)
Monday 27-Oct	Reading Thematically: *"I love you. You're my only reason to stay alive… if that's what I am"* or Stories of Love	John Steinbeck, "The Chrysanthemums" http://nbu.bg/webs/amb/american/4/steinbeck/chrysanthemums.htm (10 pgs)
Wed 29-Oct		William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" p. 152 (9 pgs)
Friday 31-Oct		Zora Neale Hurston "Sweat" p. 140 (11 pgs) Margaret Atwood, "Happy Endings" p. 309 (4 pgs)
Monday 3-Nov	Reading Thematically: *"I got love for my brother…"* or Stories about Society and the Individual	Maile Meloy, "Travis, B." (Dropbox) (20 pgs)
Wed 5-Nov		**Third Position Paper Due** Richard Wright, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man" p. 166 (12 pgs)

Friday 7-Nov		Gish Jen, "In the American Society" p. 383 (14 pgs)
Monday 10-Nov		Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek" p. 362 (11 pgs)
Wed 12-Nov		Ellison, "A Party Down at the Square" p. 188 (6 pgs)
Friday 14-Nov		Alice Walker, "Everyday Use" http://faculty.weber.edu/jyoung/English%206710/Everyday%20Use.pdf (8 pgs)
Monday 17-Nov	Reading Thematically: *"I'm not a monster; I'm just ahead of the curve"* or Stories about Human Nature	George Saunders, "Puppy" (Dropbox) (12 pgs)
Wed 19-Nov		Helen Simpson, "Diary of an Interesting Year" (Dropbox) (11 pgs)
Friday 21-Nov		H. H. Munro ("Saki"), "The Open Window" http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/OpeWin.shtml (4 pgs)
Monday 24-Nov		Annie Proulx, "Them Old Cowboy Songs" (Dropbox) (29 pgs)
Wed 26-Nov	**Thanksgiving Break**	
Friday 28-Nov	**Thanksgiving Break**	
Monday 1-Dec		
Wed 3-Dec		**Fourth Position Paper Due** TBA
Friday 5-Dec	**Reading Day, No Class**	
Monday 8-Dec	11am: **Final Exam** for 19259	
Wed 10-Dec	8am: **Final Exam** for 11130	