**Introduction to Fiction ENGL 2370**

**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.” Although we currently live in the least violent era of human existence, there are still dystopian elements to many governments and many aspects of our lives, which makes these texts especially relevant. This course will cause you to question the nature of human society and humanity in general. Why are we here? Why do we behave the way we do? Is there a true answer to such a question? 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:** *1984* by George Orwell

*Brave New World Dystopians Stories*, ed, by John Joseph Adams

*Children of Men* by PD James

*The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margeret Atwood

**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 are interested, and I expect you to behave accordingly, meaning you should have read the materials and be prepared to learn and discuss. You can miss up to six 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. 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. There will also be reading quizzes to insure that you are keeping up with the reading and to help you prepare for the exams.

Exams: I will prepare you for these. I expect you to come classes on the day that we have an exam planned ready to write. I will provide you with a question to respond to based on the texts we are currently reading and you will respond to the best of your ability.

**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 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 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*.

**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 424 Irby

Office Hours: 11-12, 2-3 MWF, and by appointment

e-mail: lgass1@cub.uca.edu