

ENGLISH 2370 INTRODUCTION TO FICTION  
Narrative Patterns & The Art of Storytelling  
Fall 2021

Instructor: Michael Blanchard

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Classes meet: MWF 10–10:50 a.m.

Classroom: Irby 303

Office hours: MWF 11 a.m.–12 noon and by appointment

### Course description

This course satisfies the humanities requirement in the general education program. Students will learn to read short stories carefully and analytically and be encouraged to see the way works of fiction both reflect and enhance our understanding of life.

### Text

Joseph Kelly, ed. *The Seagull Book of Stories*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Norton)

Supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard and noted as (BB) in the schedule of assignments below.

### Course calendar

The semester will be divided into five (5) units of relatively equal length (7 class meetings). Each unit will be capped with a test on the following dates: September 10, September 29, October 18, November 8, and December 8. In addition, there will be one (1) term essay due on December 1.

► **NOTE:** The out-of-class assignments listed on the dates below are to be completed before coming to class on that day. In addition, the posted schedule — as well as the format of instruction for this course — are subject to change.

### Schedule of Readings & Assignments

#### Overview

August 20: Introductions & course overview and a brief history of storytelling

August 23: View online presentation “Narrative Patterns & the Art of Storytelling” (BB); read “Narrative Patterns & Character Types” (BB)

#### Part 1: Narrative Patterns

August 25: The 12 Stages of the Hero’s Journey (BB); “A Worn Path” (489)

August 27: “What You Pawn I Will Redeem” (8)

August 30: Slaying the Dragon (BB); “Woman Hollering Creek” (98)

September 1: The Initiation Story (BB); “Young Goodman Brown” (188)

September 3: "A White Heron" (225)

**September 6: Labor Day Holiday – No Class**

September 8: "Araby" (236)

**September 10: Unit 1 Test**

Part 2: Part 2: Personality & Motivation – Character

September 13: **Turn in 1<sup>st</sup> installment of reading journal (by email);** "Character – Key Elements in Fiction" (BB), "Cathedral" (70)

September 15: "Shiloh" (254)

September 17: "Character – Depth of Field" (BB), "Big Bad Love" (288)

September 20: "The Things They Carried" (355)

September 22: "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" (374)

September 24: "A & P" (472)

September 27: "The Yellow Wallpaper" (171)

**September 29: Test #2**

Part 3: The Importance of Place – Setting

October 1: **Turn in 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of reading journal (by email);** "Setting in Fiction" (BB), "Setting – Literary Naturalism" (BB), "The Open Boat" (110)

October 4: "Setting – Southern Gothic Literature" (BB), "A Rose for Emily" (154)

October 6: "Boys and Girls" (322)

October 8: "A Loaf of Bread" (268)

October 11: "The Lottery" (215)

October 13: "Vampires in the Lemon Grove" (418)

October 15: "Everyday Use" (480)

**October 18: Test #3**

Part 4: The Teller of Tales – Narrative Point of View

October 20: **Turn in 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of reading journal (by email);** "Narrative Perspective in Fiction" (BB), "Recitatif" (302)

**October 22: Fall Break – No Class**

October 25: "At Home" (85)

October 27: "I'm a Mad Dog Biting Myself for Sympathy" (147)

October 29: "Hills Like White Elephants" (201)

November 1: "I Stand Here Ironing" (390)

November 3: "The Cask of Amontillado" (401)

November 5: "The New Dress" (498)

**November 8: Test #4**

► **NOTE:** No reading journals will be required for Part 5 of the course. Instead, begin to focus on the term essay, due December 1.

#### Part 5: Putting the Pieces Together

November 10: **Turn in 4<sup>th</sup> installment of reading journal (by email);** “The Lesson” (61)

November 12: “Sonny’s Blues” (29)

November 15: “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings” (164)

November 17: “Yellow Woman” (449)

November 19: “A Hunger Artist” (242)

November 22: “The Jilting of Granny Weatherall” (408)

#### **November 24 & 26: Thanksgiving Break – No class**

November 29: “The Chrysanthemums” (459)

**December 1: Turn in Term Essay**

#### **December 3: Study Day – No Class**

**December 6 (8–10 a.m.): Test #5**

### **The Learning Experience**

The learning experience offered in this course will involve a four-part process of reading, discussion, reflection, and assimilation. Course-related activities have been designed to facilitate that process.

### **Reading Assignments**

Course participants are expected to be just that: active and contributing members in the learning experience. As such, they should stay current with reading assignments and be prepared to contribute to classroom discussions. While there will be no objective grade assigned to classroom participation, it may be a factor in determining a student’s final grade.

► **NOTE:** Equally important to willing and active participation is the respect for the opinions of other students and their opportunity to participate freely as well.

**Tests:** There will be five (5) unit tests on the dates noted above. Tests will cover the material for that unit only and will help assess how well students have assimilated basic factual details and key concepts from the readings and class discussions. There will be no comprehensive final exam.

## Writing Assignments

To facilitate the process of personal reflection on readings and classroom discussions, students will maintain a reading journal. Writing prompts for each reflection will be posted on Blackboard at the beginning of each unit. Students will submit their journals in four (4) installments on the dates noted above.

In addition, students will write and submit on the date noted above a critical appreciation of their choice of a short story from the assigned readings. The essay will be typed and double-spaced, using Times Roman font and font size no larger than 12-point. The minimum length is five (5) full pages. There is no maximum length limit. Additional guidelines regarding essays will be posted on Blackboard later in the semester.

## Make-up Policy

Please inform the instructor as soon as possible when you see that you will not be able to complete assignments or be present for exams on the dates scheduled. With few exceptions, work must be completed within one calendar week (7 days) of the original due date. Failure to make up the missed assignment will result in a grade of "0".

## Grading

Tests: 700 points possible (100 points per test); Reading Journals: 100 points possible (25 points per journal installment); Essay: 100 points possible. Tests will be graded on the following scale: 91-100 (A), 81-90 (B), 71-80 (C), 61-70 (D), 0-60 (F).

A student's final grade will be determined using the following point scale for the semester:

<b>637-700</b>	<b>= A</b>
<b>567-630</b>	<b>= B</b>
<b>497-560</b>	<b>= C</b>
<b>427-490</b>	<b>= D</b>
<b>0-420</b>	<b>= F</b>

Classroom participation and attendance (See below) may be secondary factors in determining a student's final grade.

## Attendance

In order to create and sustain a vital learning experience, it is important that students attend class on a regular basis. In addition, excessive absences may lead to a reduction in a student's final grade or failure, regardless of the average on writing assignments and exams. "Excessive absences" is defined as follows: 1) a reduction of one letter grade after three (3) total absences without a legitimate and verifiable excuse; 2) a grade of "F" for six (6) or more total absences; 3) elimination from the class roster for three (3) consecutive absences without notice to the

instructor. As in all good relationships, communication is the key. Please inform the instructor in advance when you foresee an absence or as soon as possible when absences are not foreseeable.

### **UCA Policy Regarding Wearing Face Coverings**

Recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control encourages wearing a mask in areas where there is a high transmission rate of the virus. In accordance with these new CDC guidelines, UCA encourages the use of face coverings indoors for everyone – regardless of vaccination status – during this period of substantial transmission. While wearing face coverings on campus is not required, we encourage the UCA community to follow the CDC recommendations during this period of widespread distribution of the Delta variant across our region.

### **Electronic Devices**

Before class begins, students should turn off their cell-phones and any other electronic devices. Exceptions are laptops and tablets used for taking notes in class and/or downloading reading assignments.

### **Food and Drinks**

Students are permitted to bring to class and consume snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. They are reminded that such consumption should not be a distraction to other course participants and that they must discard their trash at the end of class. Failure to leave a clean classroom will result in a forfeiture of this privilege for the entire class.

### **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.

### **Evaluations of Instruction**

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.

### **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.

### **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 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 Policy and Disabilities**

If you have any questions about a university policy, including Academic policies and the Sexual Harassment policy, please see the Student Handbook. 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 450-3135.