

ENGL 7471/8471-001: FORMS OF FICTION
Topic for Spring 2017: Classic Novellas

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Catalogue Description

ENGL 7471 - Forms Of Fiction

A study of how fiction works through analyzing the short story, the novella, and the novel with attention to historical developments. May be repeated up to 6 hours with change of topic/course content and approval of Program Coordinator.

3.000 Credit Hours

3.000 Lecture hours

Extended Course Description

Examples of fiction will be studied, with special attention to technical developments employed by different authors. The craft of fiction will be explored through the examination of the short story, the novel, and novella.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will analyze the use of fictional techniques in published examples of the short story, the novel, and the novella.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the critical vocabulary of fiction writing.
3. Students will engage in discussion of reading assignments and will show an advanced understanding of the depth and complexity of the assignments.
4. Students will produce original work that makes use of the techniques of fiction writing.

Overview

Course emphasis will be on the use of biographical or autobiographical elements in the texts and on the methods used by selected major authors to adapt and transform real-life material into works of fiction. Discussion of published works and students= fiction will constitute the bulk of class time. The course will be approximately 2/3 literary study and 1/3 workshop. Requirements include two written projects. One of those is also to be presented orally.

Texts: Required TBA

Requirements and Grading

Project #1

30%

Project #2 40%

Participation, including written critiques 30%

If quizzes are given, they will count as 1/3 of partic. grade

All work must be new and not submitted for any other class or project, past or current.

Plus/minus grading is in effect. Late work will be penalized. Any form of plagiarism will result in an F for the course.

Check your memphis.edu email account. Course information may be sent via email.

Attendance: Missing more than 2 sessions, unexcused, of this weekly class will result in a grade no higher than C. This does not mean you are allowed two absences. If you miss a class, you are responsible for material covered and assignments given at that session. Check with a classmate to get that information. Attendance and participation are vital.

Schedule TBA

Project #1 Oral and Written Report. Prepare an 8-10 page (plus Works Cited page) paper on one of the authors we're studying: his/her adaptation of biographical or autobiographical material. Consult and document at least 5 different BOOKS for your sources. Online sources may be used in addition, but not instead of, BOOKS. Other students will be working on the same author. Coordinate your reports so that, although some of the written material might overlap (i.e., relevant facts about the author's life), the oral report does not involve repetition. Practice your presentation so that it is concise and informative. Allow about 20 minutes for it. Due dates will correspond to the day(s) we discuss a particular author. Turn in the written version.

Project #2. You have a choice of the following:

Analytical paper: 12 pgs. Original thinking is key. I want your thoughts, insights, and conclusions. Formulate a topic that was not addressed, or at least not fully covered, in class. You may compare/contrast two of the books, but make sure to draw conclusions. If you consult any outside sources at all, even at a glance, document appropriately. Choose a different book(s) than you used in Project #1. Discuss your topic with me beforehand.

OR

Original Story: Minimum 12 pgs. Must be original and endeavor to make use of character development, plot, conflict, and other elements of fiction. Base the story, however loosely, upon the subject of work, and use details about the activities involved in that work. Bring enough copies of your story for each member of the class, plus two for me (one for your file, the other to come back w/ comments). For classmates= work, write a critique of about half a page, and bring two copies of the critique, one for the writer and one for your file.

[Accommodations will be made for documented special needs.](#)

Student Disability Services 678-2880

110 Wilder Tower

<http://saweb.memphis.edu/sds/g-iff.htm>

Student Health Center 678-2287
<http://saweb.memphis.edu/health/>

Counseling Center 678-2068
211 Wilder Tower
<http://www.memphis.edu/cpcc/>

Accommodation/Disability Statement

“Students who have a disability or condition that may impair their ability to complete assignments or otherwise satisfy course criteria are encouraged to meet with the Student Disabilities Services Center to identify, discuss, and document any feasible instructional modification or accommodations.”

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