

Introduction to Literature
Fall 2002
Section 001: MWF, Mitchell Hall 215
Section 002: MWF, Mitchell Hall 205

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Office Hours: MWF, 12:00-2:00
or by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to literature for non-English majors. We will be discussing (or I will be convincing you) why literature matters: because the themes and stories have significance to readers outside their original contexts and eras. In this class, we will explore three major genres of writing, fiction, poetry, and drama, and use some basic literary criticism to talk about the three genres. Studying literature can be pretty stressful for students, who sometimes feel like they are struggling for the one “right” answer as to what a text “means,” or worse yet, what the teacher says it “means.” In this course we will discuss the idea that there *is* no one “right” interpretation of a piece, but how we read literature and interpret it is influenced by our nationality, race, culture, sex, economic status, and so on. With this approach, there can be a whole bunch of “right” answers! We will discuss *how* we read a text as well as *what* the text is about to give a better understanding of the literature that we will discuss. We will also look at some of the major themes found in literature, and we will discuss the way these themes relate to the period in which the text was written, the author’s background, etc., and then address the way the texts and/or themes have been manipulated to create new meaning and relevance in a different context. To do this, we will be watching and discussing a number of films based on themes or texts we will be reading.

Required Texts

Austen, Jane. *Emma*
Conrad, Joseph, *Heart of Darkness*
Crane, Stephen, *The Red Badge of Courage*
Homer, *The Odyssey*
Remarque, Erich Maria, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Shakespeare, William, *Othello*
Stevenson, Robert Louis, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
There will be some pieces available on my website for you to download

Grading

The course grade will be composed of four take-home exams worth 250 points each. Each exam should be a *minimum* of four to five pages in length. All written work turned in to me should be double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and stapled or paper-clipped. There should be page numbers on all the pages. Also, use 12-point, Times New Roman font. Using larger font sizes to pad out a paper doesn’t fool anyone, and in addition, it’s annoying. You must take all four exams to pass the class.

Exams will be collected at the beginning of the class on the assigned due dates. I will not accept late work for any reason.

Attendance

Because this is a discussion-intensive class, I expect you to attend regularly and participate in class discussions. Being absent from class, or being late, is not an excuse for missing a due date or not understanding the assignment. If you need to miss a class, you will need to get notes from a classmate. You have my office telephone number and my e-mail address, so if you need to be absent, I expect to hear from you. You may have four absences for the semester. After that, you will be dropped from the class with no recourse.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

(Subject to change)

Week 1

M	Aug 19	Intro to Class
W	Aug 21	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> , Ch. 1-11
F	Aug 23	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> , Ch. 12-end

Week 2

M	Aug 26	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> /Supplementary Materials
W	Aug 28	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> , Ch. 1-5
F	Aug 30	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> , Ch. 6-8

Week 3

M	Sept 2	No class
W	Sept 4	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> , Ch. 9-end
F	Sept 6	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> /Supplemental Materials

Week 4

M	Sept 9	Film – <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
W	Sept 11	Film – <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
F	Sept 13	Film – <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> (meet in Humanities 319)

Week 5

M	Sept 16	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> , Ch. 1-7 (“Story of the Door” – “Incident at the Window”) Take Home #1 due at the beginning of class
W	Sept 18	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> , Ch. 8-end (“The Last Night” – end)
F	Sept 20	<i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> /Supplementary Material/Start film (meet in Humanities 319)

Week 6

M	Sept 23	Film – <i>The Nutty Professor</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
W	Sept 25	Film – <i>The Nutty Professor</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
F	Sept 27	Discussion (meet in Humanities 319)

Week 7

M	Sept 30	<i>The Odyssey</i>
W	Oct 2	<i>The Odyssey</i>
F	Oct 4	<i>The Odyssey</i>

Week 8

M	Oct 7	<i>The Odyssey</i> /Supplementary Readings
W	Oct 9	Film – <i>O Brother, Where Art Thou?</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
F	Oct 11	Film – <i>O Brother, Where Art Thou?</i> (meet in Humanities 319)

Week 9

M	Oct 14	Discussion
W	Oct 16	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> , Part I
F	Oct 18	No class

Week 10

M	Oct 21	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> , Part II Take Home #2 due at the beginning of class
W	Oct 23	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> , Part III/Supplementary Materials
F	Oct 25	Film – <i>Apocalypse Now</i> (meet in Humanities 319)

Week 11

M	Oct 28	Film – <i>Apocalypse Now</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
W	Oct 30	Film – <i>Apocalypse Now</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
F	Nov 1	Film – <i>Apocalypse Now</i> (meet in Humanities 319)

Week 12

M	Nov 4	Discussion
W	Nov 6	<i>Emma</i> , Vol. I
F	Nov 8	<i>Emma</i> , Vol. II

Week 13

M	Nov 11	<i>Emma</i> , Vol. III Take Home #3 due at the beginning of class
W	Nov 13	<i>Emma</i> /Supplementary Materials (meet in Humanities 319)
F	Nov 15	Film - <i>Clueless</i> (meet in Humanities 319)

Week 14

M	Nov 18	Film – <i>Clueless</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
W	Nov 20	Discussion (meet in Humanities 319)
F	Nov 22	<i>Othello</i> , Acts I and II

Week 15

M	Nov 25	<i>Othello</i> , Acts III-V
W	Nov 27	Film, <i>O</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
F	Nov 29	No class

Week 16

M	Dec 2	Film – <i>O</i> (meet in Humanities 319)
W	Dec 4	Discussion (meet in Humanities 319)
F	Dec 6	Take Home #4 due