

ENG 2001: INTRODUCTION TO FICTION: PRINCIPLES OF NARRATIVE

New York City College of Technology
Professor: Jody R. Rosen
Section 5540, M/W 11:30AM-12:45PM
Spring 2013
Namm 618

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Office Hours: M 12:45-1:45; W 11:00-11:30,
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This semester in Introduction to Fiction: Principles of Narrative, we will read a variety of prose narratives in the form of short stories, novels, and film, and use terminologies from the study of fiction and narrative theory to inform our explorations and analyses. Our class meetings will include discussions about the readings, in which we will consider elements such as content, form, historical period, biographical background, and the relationship among the readings throughout the semester. We will also actively maintain a course site on City Tech's OpenLab, which will extend our conversations beyond the classroom. Students in ENG 2001 must draw on the skills gained in the prerequisite course, ENG 1101, to meet the Outcomes outlined by the English Department.

Success in this class requires careful, punctual, inspired, and respectful work. You should expect to spend six hours per week on your work for this class in addition to the time you will spend in class. Students in this course will:

- Read actively, carefully, critically, repeatedly, and thoroughly, looking at details and at the piece as a whole;
- Formulate questions as part of the reading process in anticipation of class or online discussions;
- Analyze fiction with awareness to elements of fiction as well as cultural, historical, genre, and biographical contexts, and the literary canon;
- Discuss fiction through paraphrasing, interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating course material;
- Use clear, logical, and correct writing as a tool for analysis and a means of expressing understanding of course material;
- Develop a research project, drawing on various types of primary and secondary sources, and formatting according to MLA guidelines;
- Demonstrate the ability to draw from multiple texts to synthesize an effective comparison;
- Present orally the information learned through the course, and recite the poems we read;
- Gain familiarity with online tools such as blogs, online writing centers, and library research tools;
- Communicate professionally via e-mail and other online media;
- Demonstrate information fluency—the ability to find, evaluate, use, and create online resources.

GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will demonstrate ability to read, analyze, and interpret texts.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in written discourse.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency with digital content creation systems.
- Students will understand and use basic research techniques.
- Students will locate, evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources.
- Students will develop well-reasoned arguments.
- Students will identify, analyze and evaluate arguments in their own and others' work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Textbooks and Supplies: In lieu of a textbook, we will use online materials, as well as a novel. You will need to bring the following materials as appropriate to each class:

- Short stories, essays, and related materials available on our course site
- *Beloved*. Toni Morrison. 1987. New York: Vintage, 2004. ISBN 978-1400033416

- Access to a computer, the Internet, and a printer—most of our readings will be available online only—you are responsible for printing and bringing them.
- A college-level dictionary, such as the *American Heritage Dictionary* or a good online dictionary.
- A sturdy folder to hold your work and course handouts. Bring this to each class session.
- A notebook for class notes and reading notes.

Grading: Your course grade will be calculated based on the following percentages, which reflect the value of the entire project. Missing any component of an assignment will result in a lower grade:

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|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| • Essay #1: 10% | • Homework and | • In-class writing and |
| • Essay #2: 20% | Blogging: 15% | quizzes: 10% |
| • Midterm: 10% | • Attendance and | • Presentations: 10% |
| • Final: 15% | Participation: 10% | |

Passing ENG 2001 is contingent on successfully completing all assignments and passing the final.

COURSE POLICIES

CLASSROOM: Please be respectful of anyone in our classroom or our blog community, present, punctual, prepared, alert, and free of distractions such as cell phones, headphones, food, or other courses' materials that will negatively affect your participation and your classmates' ability to focus. Although we will use cell phones in class to access information, out-of-scope use is not permitted.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory. Arriving late, leaving during class, or leaving early will count as **half of an absence**. City Tech's policy states that **four or more absences will result in a WU grade**. I will not grant excused absences since three absences are permitted without penalty. Absence is not an excuse for missing or late work; you must get class notes from a classmate and keep up with your work. Furthermore, in-class quizzes, assignments, and exams cannot be made up.

PARTICIPATION: To meet the goals of this discussion-based course, participation is essential. For each class, you must come prepared, bring any required materials, avoid distractions, and contribute to the day's activity. Your physical presence is not enough! If you do not contribute to the discussion, workshop, or group activity, I will assume you are unprepared. Please be respectful of other viewpoints or opinions as you participate in class and on the course blog.

WRITING: You will write in class, on the blog, and privately at home. You should write notes when you listen in class, when you read, and when you plan your essays or blog posts. There will be due dates for finished copies of formal assignments, and you will need to pace yourself to complete each part of the assignment, including drafts. Assignments are due at the start of class unless otherwise noted; absence is not an excuse for missing or late work. Informal writing will contribute to your essay assignments, and will count toward your in-class writing and quiz grade. These pieces of informal writing must be kept in your folder, since we will return to texts, themes, and ideas throughout the semester. Late assignments will be marked down significantly. If you believe you have a legitimate reason for requesting an extension, do so at least 24 hours before the due date.

READING: Before each class, you will complete the reading assignment according to the schedule below. As you read, you will need to take notes both within the text and in your notebook, look up any words you do not know, and consider what about the reading you want to discuss in class and on the blog. Reading quizzes and in-class impromptu responses will help me see that you have completed the reading assignments.

COURSE SITE: In addition to our meetings in the classroom, we will have a virtual community on City Tech's OpenLab (<http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu>). **Students will write blog posts and comments according to a schedule, in addition to other assignments on the blog.** Students

will also use a discussion forum, draft collaborative documents, and upload files for submission. These activities will help shape our classroom discussions. Further details will be distributed in class.

SUPPORT: Please do not hesitate to speak with me during my office hours or by making appointment—this is one of the most direct and effective ways to improve your work or to seek advice! If you cannot meet with me during my office hours, please make an appointment. There are many other avenues of support at City Tech, including the Ursula C. Schwerin Library, the Atrium Learning Center, the Academic Advisement Center, and the Counseling Service Center. Students with disabilities should consult with the Student Support Services Program for documentation and support, and should speak with me privately to coordinate appropriate accommodations.

CITY TECH POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

Plagiarism, the act of presenting another person's ideas, research, or writing as your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, is not tolerated at City Tech. Using proper documentation and thorough textual analysis will help you avoid plagiarism. **Any cases of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero and appropriate measures taken.** Please familiarize yourself with City Tech's policies on academic honesty. If you have any questions about avoiding plagiarism, contact me before your assignment is due.

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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES (subject to change): **Readings and assignments are due by the beginning of class on the dates shown.** Additional readings may be assigned as appropriate.

M 1/28: Introductions: to Introduction to Fiction, to the OpenLab, and to each other. Be sure to create an account on the OpenLab, add an avatar and bio in your profile, and join our course before our next class.

W 1/30: Ann Charters, "Elements of Fiction"—including all the sub-pages identified on the left-side menu: "Plot," "Character," "Setting," "Point of View," "Style, Tone, and Language," "Theme," and "Symbolism, Allegory, and Image"; and Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour"

M 2/4: Susan Glaspell, "A Jury of Her Peers"

W 2/6: Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"

M 2/11: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Cottagette," "The Yellow Wall-Paper," and excerpts from *Women and Economics*

W 2/13: William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"

M 2/18: President's Day—College is closed

W 2/20: Monday Schedule: **Essay #1 drafts due:** writing workshop; reading TBA

M 2/25: Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”

W 2/27: “The Metamorphosis”; **Essay #1 due**

M 3/4: Edgar Allan Poe, “The Purloined Letter”

W 3/6: Thomas Wolfe, “Only the Dead Know Brooklyn”; Visit to Brooklyn Historical Society

M 3/11: Junot Diaz, title TBA

W 3/13: Toni Morrison, “Recitatif”

M 3/18: Review for Midterm Exam

W 3/20: **Midterm Exam**

M 3/25: Spring Recess

W 3/27: Spring Recess

M 4/1: Spring Recess

W 4/3: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, page assignments TBA

M 4/8: *Beloved*

W 4/10: *Beloved*; Brooklyn Historical Society: research

M 4/15: *Beloved*; Brooklyn Historical Society: presentations

W 4/17: *Beloved*

M 4/22: *Beloved*, “Beloved”—film clips

W 4/24: *Beloved*

M 4/29: Final discussion of *Beloved*

W 5/1: Louise Erdrich, “The Shawl,” Cynthia Ozick, “The Shawl”

M 5/6: Sherman Alexie, “What You Pawn I Will Redeem”

W 5/8: Writing workshop: **Essay #2 drafts due**; reading TBA

M 5/13: **Essay #2 due**

W 5/15: Review for Final Exam

M 5/20: **Final Exam**

W 5/22: Conclusions