

Literature 2020: The Short Story in America (1820-1999)

MWF 10:10-11:00am, Rm. 121B

Instructor: Nora Bonner

Office Hours: By appointment; preferably before class

Email: njb10e@fsu.edu

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Perspectives on the Short Story, ed. Scott Ortolano and Caitlin Newcomer. Pearson, 2012.

You will need to bring the textbook, or a copy of the story we're discussing, to class each day. Consistently forgetting to bring the book may result in a lower participation grade.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this class is to learn how to read and analyze literature through a critical lens. This means we will move beyond reading a story to figure out what the story is about, and move into *how* the author conducts his or her storytelling. This requires familiarity with basic terms for literary analysis, which we will cover in the class. We will spend class time discussing the stories we read and reviewing these basic terms.

LIBERAL STUDIES DESCRIPTION:

The Liberal Studies Program at Florida State University has been designed to provide a perspective on the qualities, accomplishments, and aspirations of human beings, the past and present civilizations we have created, and the natural and technological world we inhabit. This course has been approved as meeting the requirements for Liberal Arts Area IV, Humanities and Fine Arts, and in combination with your other Liberal Studies courses, provides an important foundation for your lifelong quest for knowledge.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To examine the short story as a genre, identifying its conventions as well as its possibilities and limitations
- To become familiar with the historical development of the short story style and form in America
- To become familiar with a wide array of canonical texts and important authors
- To understand literary principles and use basic terms important to literary analysis
- To write analytic responses to works of literature without the aid of outside sources
- To develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills essential to a liberal education

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Papers

You will write two papers in MLA style, **one short** (5-7 pages) and **one long** (8-12), incorporating outside sources to help support your argument. A literary analysis is, overall, an argument paper. You'll make a claim in a thesis and back up your claim with evidence, mostly from the story itself. You may choose from a variety of prompts (see "Assignments"). Ideally, you will turn in your short paper first (before spring break) and your long paper at the end of the semester. If, however,

your first paper falls into the long paper page and source count, you may turn in your short paper at the end of the semester.

2. Prospectuses (Paper Proposals)

You will write a short proposal for each paper, which I'll approve before you go ahead with the writing. Each proposal will consist of one to two paragraphs describing the project and a briefly annotated bibliography. You are welcome to schedule a conference before class about your prospectus (before or after it's due), if you want additional feedback/instruction for preparing to write your paper.

3. Quizzes

We will have 15 pop quizzes throughout the semester. These will be short and to the point, serving mostly to gauge whether or not students are keeping up with the reading assignments. You cannot make up quizzes.

4. Presentation

Each student will deliver a 5-7 minute presentation on the story or author of his or her choice. Each presentation should have some sort of visual element and propose one or two questions for discussion (the discussion will take place after the presentation). We'll sign up for these on the second day of class. You will also turn in a one page outline or paragraph on the day you present.

5. Participation

Because this class is discussion based, participation is worth a significant portion (10%) of your grade. Participation includes: bringing your book to class and referring to specific passages during discussion, asking questions about the readings, speaking on behalf of small group discussions, and finally, refraining from disruptive behavior (see "Civility" section).

****ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE IN MLA FORMAT (where possible), PRINTED OUT AND STAPLED (if necessary) THE DAY THEY ARE DUE.****

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Short Paper: 200 points

Long Paper: 300 points

Prospectuses (Paper proposals): $75 \times 2 = 150$

Quizzes: 150 points (10 points each)

Presentation: 100 points

Participation: 100 points

Total: 1000 points

FSU/GPA Percentage

A = 4.0 93-100%

A- = 3.75 90-92%

B+ = 3.5 87-89%

B = 3.0 83-86%

B- = 2.75 80-82%

C+ = 2.5 77-79%

C = 2.0 73-76%

C- = 1.75 70-72%
D+ = 1.5 67-69%
D = 1.0 63-66%
F = 0 0-62%

COURSE POLICIES:

ABSENCE POLICY:

Students will be dropped from the course after **six** unexcused absences. Only university-sponsored events serve as excuses; doctor's visits, family emergencies, etc. cannot be excused.

TARDINESS:

I will take attendance right at 10:10am. Showing up to class after I take attendance counts as a tardy. Three "lates" count as an absence.

LATE-ASSIGNMENTS:

Your grade will drop 10 points each day after it's due.

CELL PHONES:

Please keep cell phones in your bag, turned on silent. This means NO TEXTING.

CIVILITY:

This class will tolerate neither disruptive language nor disruptive behavior. Disruptive language includes, but is not limited to, violent, belligerent and/or insulting remarks, including sexist, racist, homophobic or anti-ethnic slurs, bigotry, and disparaging commentary, either spoken or written (offensive slang is also included in this category).

While each of you have a right to your own opinions, inflammatory language founded in ignorance or hate is unacceptable in the classroom (and remember that all virtual correspondence is an extension of the classroom) and will be dealt with immediately. Disruptive behavior includes any use of cell phones or any other form of electronic communication during the class session (this includes email, web-browsing, and especially Facebook/Twitter). Disruptive behavior also includes whispering or talking when another member of the class is speaking or engaged in relevant conversation (remember that I am a member of this class as well). Be aware of others' feelings and personal space. This classroom functions on the premise of respect, and you will be asked to leave the classroom if you violate any part of this statement on civility.

Remember these things:

- Take responsibility when you fail to do something. It is not your printer's fault.
- All final papers should be in black ink, on clean, white paper, stapled, and in MLA format. I won't accept papers via email.
- All papers should be thoroughly proofread. Your grade will drop significantly over simple spelling, grammatical and mechanical errors. This is college. Edit your work.
- Do not ask for extensions. The work is due as noted; plan accordingly. If an emergency arises, contact me.
- If you are absent, do not ask me if you missed "something important." Contact a

classmate.

- We will frequently write in class. When you come to class, bring paper and a writing utensil.

READING WRITING CENTER:

What is the RWC?

Part of the English Department, the RWC serves Florida State University students at all levels and from all majors. Think of the RWC as an idea laboratory: it is a place to develop and communicate your ideas!

Who uses the RWC?

In short: everyone! The RWC's clients include a cross-section of the campus: first-year students writing for composition class, upper-level students writing term papers, seniors composing letters of applications for jobs and graduate schools, graduate students working on theses and dissertations, multilingual students mastering English, and a variety of others.

Where is the RWC located?

As of Fall Semester 2012, the RWC currently has four locations: the newly remodeled Williams 222 location, the gleaming Johnston Ground location, the happening Strozier Library location, and the up-and-coming Dirac Library location. For students who are distance learners, online tutoring is available. Contact Dr. Wells at jwells2@fsu.edu for information.

What are the hours?

Hours vary by location. Check the online schedule for availability.

Who works there?

The tutors in the RWC are graduate students in English with training and experience in teaching writing, and undergraduate students who have completed a 3-credit English elective course in tutoring writing and who have been apprentice tutors in the RWC.

What happens in a RWC session?

Many things! You can come with a prompt and talk about your ideas with someone who will be an active listener and ask questions to help you figure out what you think. You can come with a few ideas jotted down, and you can talk through your organization with a tutor. Once you have written parts of a draft or a whole draft, you can see if you communicated your ideas clearly by having a tutor be your "practice audience." They will listen as a reader, and explain to you what they are thinking as a reader. If they hear what you intended to communicate, hooray! If not, you have an opportunity to revise before you give your work to your actual audience. The tutors will even help you learn editing and proofreading strategies so you can independently communicate your ideas clearly.

How do I make an appointment?

The best way is by using our online scheduling website: <http://fsu.mywconline.com> Instructions for making an appointment can be found here: <http://wr.english.fsu.edu/Reading-Writing-Center/How-to-Make-an-Appointment> While we will accept walk-ins if a tutor is available, it is usually best to book ahead.

How much tutoring help can I have?

All FSU students can have 1.5 hours of tutoring a week FOR FREE! This includes all locations, i.e., NOT 1.5 hours in Williams, 1.5 hours in Strozier, etc. Students who opt to register for ENC 1905, REA 1905, or ENG 5998 may have more time depending on the number of credits they choose to take. Appointments are limited to 60 minutes/day.

DIGITAL STUDIO (DS)

<http://wr.english.fsu.edu/Digital-Studio/> / fsu.mywconline.com

What is the Digital Studio?

The Digital Studio provides support to students working individually or in groups on a variety of digital projects, such as designing a website, developing an electronic portfolio for a class, creating a blog, selecting images for a visual essay, adding voiceover to a presentation, or writing a script for a podcast. The DS has both Macs and PCs, and some of the cool software available in the DS includes Photoshop, InDesign, Windows Movie Maker, iMovie, and more!

Who uses the DS?

Any FSU students who want to complete digital class assignments (e.g., for FYC or WEPO) or to improve overall capabilities in digital communication. Students also use the DS to make Prezis, business cards, flyers for their own student organizations, and more!

Where is the DS?

There are two DS locations: Williams 222 and Johnston Ground.

What happens in a DS session?

Like the RWC, think of the DS as an idea lab, only it is a place to explore ideas in digital texts and to learn new technologies to communicate ideas in those mediums.

How do I make an appointment?

The best way is by using our online scheduling website: <http://fsu.mywconline.com> The DS does accept walk-ins, but the DS gets booked by large groups and is very busy at the end of the semester, so it is best to plan ahead.

How much tutoring can I have?

You can use the DS as much as you'd like!

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is grounds for suspension from the university as well as for failure in this course. It absolutely will not be tolerated. Any instance of plagiarism must be reported to the Director of First-Year Composition and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Plagiarism is a counterproductive, non-writing behavior that is unacceptable in a course intended to aid the growth of individual writers. Plagiarism is included among the violations defined in the Academic Honor Code, section b), paragraph 2, as follows: "Regarding academic assignments, violations of the Academic Honor Code shall include representing another's work or any part thereof, be it published or unpublished, as one's own."

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY:

The Florida State University Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "... be honest and truthful and [...] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>)

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should, in the first week of class, 1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) and 2) bring a letter to the instructor from SDRC indicating the need for academic accommodations. This syllabus and all other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

COURSE CALENDAR FOR LITERATURE 2020

WEEK ONE

T Aug 26: Syllabus & Introductions

Th Aug 28: Basic Literary Terms/Strategies

WEEK TWO

T Sept 2: Avoiding Plagiarism & Reading Fiction Critically (Not Glossary Terms) 1537-1554

Th Sept 4: Fall of the House of Usher (Poe) Quiz

WEEK THREE

T Sept 9: Critical Lens Terms (1569-1587)

Th Sept 11: Bartleby the Scrivener (Melville) Quiz

WEEK FOUR

T Sept 16: The Sheriff's Children (Chestnutt) _____ & _____

Th Sept 18: The Maid of Saint Phillipe (Chopin) _____ & _____

WEEK FIVE

T Sept 23: My Old Man (Hemingway) _____ & _____

Th Sept 25: Bernice Bobs Her Hair (Fitzgerald) _____ & _____

PROSPECTUS DUE

WEEK SIX

T Sept 30: Sweat (Hurstun) _____ & _____

Th Oct 2: Big Blonde (Parker) _____ & _____

WEEK SEVEN

T Oct 7: That Evening Sun (Faulkner) _____ & _____

Th Oct 9: Battle Royal (Ellison) _____ & _____

WEEK EIGHT

T Oct 14: Good Country People (O'Connor) _____ & _____

Th Oct 16: Sonny's Blues (Baldwin) _____ & _____ **PAPER ONE DUE**

WEEK NINE

T Oct 21: Defender of the Faith (Roth) _____ & _____

Th Oct 23: The Death of Justina (Cheever) _____ & _____

WEEK TEN

T Oct 28: The Idea (Carver) _____ & _____

Th Oct 30: Yellow Woman (Silko) _____ & _____

WEEK ELEVEN

T Nov 4: Recitatif (Morrison) _____ & _____

Th Nov 6: Bloodchild (Butler) _____ & _____

WEEK TWELVE

T Nov 11 Veteran's Day

Th Nov 13: Never Marry a Mexican (Cisneros) **PROSPECTUS DUE** _____ &

WEEK THIRTEEN

T Nov 18: CivilWarLand in Bad Decline (Saunders) _____ & _____

Th Nov 20: A Temporary Matter (Lahiri) _____ & _____

WEEK FOURTEEN

T Nov 25: The Last One (Coover) _____ & _____

Th Nov 27 THANKSGIVING

WEEK FIFTEEN

T Dec 2: The Faery Handbag (Link) _____ & _____

Th Dec 4 Last Day: **PAPER TWO DUE**