

**English/Humanities 2413.1: Critical Approaches to Literature**  
**MW 1:00 – 2:15 ~ Fall 2010 ~ Hughes-Strong Hall 216**

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Office Hours  
Monday, Wednesday: 9-11am  
Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30-11am  
  
Other days/times by appointment only

If my office hours conflict with your schedule, please make an appointment to meet with me at your convenience.

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**Prerequisites**

For students to take this course, they need to have passed (or currently be enrolled in) English 1213: Freshman English II.

**Textbooks**

We shall use two books:

Kennedy, X. J., and Dana Gioia. *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. 8th ed. New York: Longman, 2002. Print. [This is available for rent in the bookstore]

Harmon, William, and Hugh Holman. *A Handbook to Literature*. 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2008. Print. ISBN: 0136014399 [You must purchase this book.]

**Course Description**

This is the foundation course for the study of literature. This course will develop students' knowledge of literary genres: short story, poetry, and drama. ***Extensive reading and writing are required.*** Students must read, think about what they have read, discuss what they have read, and then write about what they have read, thought, and discussed.

**Course Objectives**

To complete this course successfully, students will be able to

- Read and analyze different genres of literature,
- Discuss different genres of literature both verbally and in written form,
- Use appropriate literary terminology to support literary analysis,
- Demonstrate acceptable interpretation of literature,
- Use different approaches to analyze literature, and
- Use appropriate conventions of written and verbal language.

**Assessment**

I will use the following assignments to evaluate how well students meet the course objectives.

***Participation.*** Students will participate actively in class discussion concerning the reading assignments.

***Essays.*** Students will write three essays (one for each section: short story, poetry, drama) about the literature read.

***Daily Work.*** Daily work will consist of (but is not limited to) minor research assignments, minor literary analysis, creative projects, participation in rough draft analysis sessions, etc.

***Tests.*** Students will take three tests (one after each unit is covered).

***Presentations.*** Students will give one short presentation for each unit covered. Topics will be assigned at the beginning of each unit.

***Literary Journal.*** Students will keep a journal of literary terms. The definitions will be paraphrased from *A Handbook to Literature* and each will have a number of examples to prove the students understand the terms.

***Final Exam.*** Students will take a comprehensive final examination.

**Your final exam will take place from 1:00 to 3:00pm on Monday, December 6.**

## **Participation**

Because this is a literature class, participation is vital. You need to read the literature with a critical eye and discuss it in class. The great thing about literature is that there is no right/wrong answer—as long as you can support your point with information from the literature, you can never make a mistake! Everyone has a different opinion over each piece; share your ideas, for you might make us all see things from a different perspective. Let's make this class active and fun.

## **Attendance**

You are expected to come to class every Monday and Wednesday. Your attendance (or lack thereof) will impact your participation grade. If you miss class, you are responsible to ask someone in class what you missed and what is due the following time we meet. Chances are I will not be available to tell you what you missed; hence, make sure you are acquainted with people in class. Your being absent does not become my problem.

## **Late Work**

- ❖ I will not accept ANY late work—whether it be an essay, a test, or daily work.
- ❖ You cannot take the final early or late.
- ❖ No excuses.

## **Point Distribution**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Participation    | 20% |
| Essays           | 25% |
| Daily Work       | 10% |
| Tests            | 15% |
| Presentations    | 10% |
| Literary Journal | 10% |
| Final Exam       | 10% |

## **Grading Scale**

|           |
|-----------|
| A= 100-93 |
| B= 92-85  |
| C= 84-77  |
| D= 76-69  |
| F= 68-0   |

## **Scoring Rubric for English Curriculum**

English instructors use the following standardized grading criteria:

- "A" work indicates that students have advanced critical thinking skills, make sophisticated connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate an exceptional knowledge and use of standards of written English;
- "B" work indicates that students have above average critical thinking skills, make above average connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate an above average knowledge and use of standards of written English;
- "C" work indicates that students have average critical thinking skills, make average connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate an average knowledge and use of standards of written English;
- "D" work indicates that students have below average critical thinking skills, make below average connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate below average knowledge and use of standards of written English;
- "F" work indicates that students possess few critical thinking skills, cannot make connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate little knowledge and/or use of standards of written English.

## **Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism is defined as "Verbatim copying of an entire paper or other assigned work, not writing or composing your own work, submitting anyone else's (student, friend, professional, web) work, structure, or ideas, in whole or in part, without adequate acknowledgement of the sources used to construct a paper or other assigned work, giving or obtaining answers on a test."

Please refer to the OPSU *Student Handbook* for more detail about the OPSU Academic Integrity Policy.

I will not tolerate plagiarism/cheating.

## **Disabilities**

Requests for accommodation for disabilities should have been made prior to the start of the semester through the Vice President of Academic Affairs Office (academic, i.e. learning disabilities) or the Vice President for Student Affairs Office (physical, i.e. mobility, vision, hearing). However, if you think you have a disability and are in need of special accommodations, I will work with you to provide a reasonable accommodation to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform well in this class. Please advise me and the appropriate VP of such disability and the desired accommodation at some point before, during, or immediately after the first scheduled class period.

## **Words to the Wise**

- The use of cell phones (either to call or send/receive text messages) and/or mp3 players is not allowed in the classroom. So, please, turn off/silence your phone/players before class begins. Also, if I see you text messaging during class, I will ask you to leave—this is disrespectful, and I will not tolerate it.
- The use of tobacco products is not permitted in the classroom.
- This class will require you to do extensive reading, writing, and re-reading; so be prepared for that.
- You need to be able to **follow directions**. MLA format means MLA format. If you don't own an MLA handbook, you may use one in the library. Work that is not in MLA format—no matter how accurately and fluently written it is—will not be given a grade higher than a D-.
- Make sure you are acquainted with the <students.opsu.edu> email system and with your account. I may use it if I need to contact students.
- The literature we discuss in class **has to be read in full by the assigned times**. You cannot appreciate or discuss a work of fiction if you have not read it completely.
- You may not use an essay that you previously wrote. This means that if you are retaking this class, you may not use the same papers you have already turned in for a grade—either to me or to another instructor. In addition, you may not write one paper for this class and for another class. It is considered plagiarism as per the *MLA Handbook*, and you will receive a zero.
- This is a college class. I expect you to be mature, hardworking, and responsible. You are to meet this course's standards, not the course meet yours.
- Make sure you have my office phone number and email address handy. Contact me whenever you have a question. Don't wait until it's too late—you are not my only student! If you wait too long, you might not be able to contact me or I might take longer than expected to reply. Be wise, ask questions in class and/or contact me via phone or email the moment a concern arises.
- When sending emails, use standard email etiquette: sign your emails with your name and the class and section which you attend.
- Be acquainted with MLA style.
- All assignments will be submitted typed and double spaced and will bear the following information on the top left margin:
  - John Doe (Your Name)
  - Tito Aznar
  - English 2413.1
  - 23 August 2010
  - Name and Page Number of Assignment
- All essays will be submitted via email (as DOC or RTF attachments). If you don't own a computer or don't have access to the Internet, make sure you know where computer labs are on campus and their operation hours. It is your responsibility to check and make sure I get your essay. If I don't get your email with your essay attached, you will not receive a grade.
- I expect everyone to be on time for class. If you are late repeatedly, I will not allow you to come in. On occasion, I might lock the door once class begins.

## **Important Dates**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| August 13:      | Overload Hours Request Due   |
| August 17:      | Last Day to Change Sections, to Enroll or Add a Class, or to Change from Audit to Credit |
| August 24:      | No Refund on Dropped Courses   |
| September 6:    | Labor Day—No School  |
| October 21-22:  | Fall Break   |
| October 29:     | Last Day to Change from Credit to Audit  |
| November 1:     | Beginning of "W" or "F" fro Dropped Courses  |
| November 4:     | Opera Scenes (7pm @ Centennial Theatre)  |
| November 12:    | Last Day to Withdraw from a Class  |
| November 12-14: | <i>The Star-Spangled Girl</i> (7pm @ Centennial Theatre)                                 |
| November 21-22: | Thanksgiving Break   |
| December 6-9:   | Final Exams  |

***This syllabus is a living document; hence, it is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.***