



Topics: Introduction to Literary Studies

ENGL 2000

Summer 2021, July 12 to August 13

3 undergraduate credits

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Course Description:

To introduce literary studies is first to introduce the genres of creative literature: fiction, poetry, and drama. It's also to talk about what authors do in creating their works, what those works feature on both the formal and thematic levels, and how they affect readers and audiences. In this course we'll use a handful of exemplary works to frame each of those questions: genre, texts, authorship, and audience.

First and foremost, however, this class is a literary seminar. As such, it is primarily a class in the close reading of individual literary texts, a skill to which our weekly conversations and Blackboard posts, and both the short and long papers will relate closely. Your voice and ideas, in each of those settings, will be my focus and will drive our work.

Course Guidelines

Grade Distribution:

Short Paper: 20%

Seminar Paper: 30%

Final Exam: 20%

Weekly Blackboard Posts: 30%

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE GRADING POLICY

<u>4.0</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>95 – 100</u>
<u>3.7</u>	<u>A-</u>	<u>92 – 94</u>
<u>3.5</u>	<u>A-/B+</u>	<u>89 - 91</u>
<u>3.3</u>	<u>B+</u>	<u>86 – 88</u>
<u>3.0</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>83 – 85</u>
<u>2.7</u>	<u>B-</u>	<u>80 – 82</u>
<u>2.5</u>	<u>B-/C+</u>	<u>77 – 79</u>
<u>2.3</u>	<u>C+</u>	<u>74 – 76</u>
<u>2.0</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>71 – 73</u>

<u>1.7</u>	<u>C-</u>	<u>69 – 70</u>
<u>1.5</u>	<u>C-/D+</u>	<u>67 – 68</u>
<u>1.3</u>	<u>D+</u>	<u>64 – 66</u>
<u>1.0</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>60 – 63</u>
<u>0.0</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>0 – 59</u>
-	<u>IN</u>	<u>Incomplete</u>
-	<u>IP</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
-	<u>W</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>

Texts:

All class readings will be available online through our Blackboard site.

Policies:

This is normally the place where I write about attendance, late paper policies, etc. I'm not going to do that this semester, though, because I really only have two such policies: be safe and take care of yourselves first and foremost; and keep me updated on everything so I can help make the class and semester as successful and productive for you.

Office Hours:

I will be available during the days on M-Th for virtual office hours over Google Meet. Please let me know if and when it will help to talk, and we'll figure out a time to do so!

Weekly Blackboard Posts:

Our principal class work will take the form of weekly posts on our Blackboard Discussion forums. The posts, due by 11pm EST on Wednesday, will be roughly 2 paragraphs in length, and will be written on a particular question or prompt (see separate sheet at end of syllabus). I will grade those posts on a check plus (~A), check (~B), and check minus (~C) scale.

Papers:

Specific paper information and suggestions are available in the paper assignment sheets. The progression will be from close reading of a passage from one text to an argumentative comparison of two texts. But a principle emphasis in both papers, and throughout this class, will be on reading closely and using evidence from texts to develop coherent and effective analyses of those texts. The short paper will be around 3 pages long; the long paper will be 5-7.

Exam:

At the end of the semester, there will be an open-book, take-home final exam that will ask you to work once more with a couple of our main class skills: close reading of a passage; and broader comparative analysis. The exam questions will be distributed a week ahead of time, and you'll send your answers back to me by email.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introductions, Short Stories: Joyce Carol Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”; Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”; Sandra Cisneros, “The House on Mango Street”; and Danielle Evans, “Boys Go to Jupiter”

Week 2: Poetry: Selected poems from Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, Sylvia Plath, and Martín Espada; **Short Paper due Friday by 11pm EST**

Week 3: Drama: Susan Glaspell, *Trifles* (1916)

Week 4: Novel: Sui Sin Far, *Mrs. Spring Fragrance* (1912)

Week 5: Conclusions, **Seminar Paper due Wednesday by 11pm EST, Exam due Friday by 11pm EST**

Further Info on Weekly Blackboard Posts

General Guidelines:

Each post will be roughly two paragraphs in length. In the first, shorter paragraph (really just a couple sentences), you will state clearly what story and topic you have chosen to address for that week’s subject, identifying it in such a way that your classmates and I can follow your post and then briefly noting why you have chosen that topic. In the second, longer paragraph, you will flesh out your analysis of the subject and topic at hand, including at least a couple quotes/specific details to help you make your points. The entire post should be around one page double-spaced (in 12-point font).

You must post your work to the designated Discussion Forum by 11pm EST on Wednesday to receive full credit; each day a post is late will knock the grade down one level (from Check Plus to Check, and so on). I will email each weekly post’s feedback and grade by the end of the week.

Subjects:

Week 1: Short Stories: Pick one of the week’s short stories, and analyze a couple aspects of any one character in it.

Week 2: Poetry: Pick one of the week’s poems, and analyze a couple images the author includes in it.

Week 3: Drama: Pick any one passage from Glaspell’s play and analyze choices that performers/directors might make to stage it.

Week 4: Novel: Pick any two stories from Far’s novel and analyze them in conversation with each other.

Week 5: Class Conclusions: An ungraded post, and a chance to reflect on our class and what texts have most stood out to you.

POLICY ON DISABILITY

Disability Services is the primary support system for students with disabilities taking classes in the day and evening divisions. The office is located on the third floor of the Hammond Building and can be reached at 978-665-4020 (voice/relay). If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medication information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment at the beginning of the course to talk with me. It is important that the issues relating to disabilities be discussed with me as soon as possible.

GRADE APPEAL

If you disagree with the evaluation of your work or believe an improper grade has been assigned, an appeal may be followed. Please discuss the matter with the instructor and refer to the Fitchburg State University Grade Appeal Policy in the university catalog.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Our academic integrity policy states that work submitted in fulfillment of course requirements will be solely that of the individual candidate and all other sources will be cited appropriately. University Academic Integrity Policy, as outlined in the University Catalogue, will be strictly adhered to.

Fitchburg State University encourages all Extended Campus students to take advantage of our online student services. We have created a “virtual student center” just for you. Here you will find access to Counseling Services, Career Services, The Student Activity Center, the university bookstore and many other helpful links. You can access our student center by going to the university homepage at <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu> and clicking on Offices and Services. Scroll down and click on Extended Campus Center. You will find links to Library Services, our Virtual Student Center and other important information.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY DISTANCE LEARNING & EXTENDED CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES

The Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University provides a full range of library services including borrowing privileges; document delivery (books and articles mailed to your home); Interlibrary Loan; reference assistance via: phone, email, IM, Blackboard’s Collaboration and Elluminate tools, Skype and in-person; library instruction; research help and more. Any questions relating to library services should be directed to the Linda LeBlanc, Access Services Librarian, at 978-665-3062 or dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu. There is also a special section for Distance Learning and Extended Campus Services at

<http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/dlservices> outlining the wide range of services available to you and how to access them.

Students who are currently registered with the university may access any of the library's subscription databases, including an increasing number with full-text, by visiting the Gallucci-Cirio Library's homepage at <https://library.fitchburgstate.edu/> clicking on the Research Databases button in the center of the page. Select the resource you want to access from the alphabetical or subject listing. Once you click on the database title you will be prompted for your Falcon Key logon information; this is the same logon you will use for your Fitchburg State email account and if you have any online Blackboard courses. If you do not know your Falcon Key username and password or if you have any problems logging in, contact the university's Technology Help Desk at 978-665-4500 or helpdesk@fitchburgstate.edu. The Library can issue you a temporary guest Falcon Key to use while the Technology Department is setting up your account: contact us at 978-665-3062 or dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu