Fall 2015

ENGL 2043

Jennifer Kuchta

University of New Orleans

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REQUIRED TEXTS: ***MUST have actual hardcopies of these two books.

- *Old Creole Days*, Cable (ISBN 9780882897806)

- *The Awakening and Selected Short Stories of Kate Chopin* (Signet Classics edition), Chopin**


- Stories from *The Goodness of St. Roque and Other Stories*, Alice Dunbar (handout and or link on Moodle)

- Essays, short sketches, and or editorials by Lafcadio Hearn (handout or link on Moodle)

THE COURSE: In this non-majors course, students will read a variety of works set in New Orleans, beginning in mid-1800s New Orleans and ending in Post-Katrina New Orleans. This semester we will read works in various genres, including fiction, literary non-fiction, and drama, in relatively chronological order. The goals of this course are to introduce you to a wide variety of literature, to teach you the fundamentals of literary analysis, to encourage you to express your reactions to these various genres through writing and discussion, and to expose you to the pleasurable aspects of reading.

Come to each class prepared (with the text or texts in hand) to discuss whatever reading has been assigned for that day. Not having the required texts is not an excuse for not doing the reading. **You cannot pass the class if you do not do the reading.** All of these works are available from a wide variety of sources, including both the UNO Bookstore and the Internet. Do not wait until the last minute to purchase the texts. Do note, however, that you **will not be able to use electronic versions of the texts during the mid-term and/or final if portions of those exams are open book.** You will have to have hard copies of those materials. (See Readings and Due Dates portion of the syllabus.)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the semester, students should be able to

1) Recognize and discuss themes (race, gender, religion, culture, etc.) common to the various genres of New Orleans literature (short stories, novels, plays, and essays), and analyze how and why these themes are relevant and or have changed (or not) alongside the many ways in which New Orleans itself has or hasn’t changed in the last 200 years.

2) Define and analyze the various elements of fiction (plot, symbol, point of view, etc.) and of literary non-fiction that are the building blocks of those genres.

3) Express and validate their own interpretations of the various texts (or elements of them) through literary analysis during class discussion as well as in well-formulated and supported persuasive essays.
PAPERS: You will write two formal papers in this class dealing with matters of interpretation and analysis with regards to the texts we have read and discussed. You will choose your paper topics from a list provided by the instructor. Each paper must reach a minimum of 1200 words (approx. 4-5 typewritten pages) and be doubled-spaced and documented in MLA style. We will review MLA format (for layout and citing) later in the semester. You should also call upon your knowledge of the grammar and mechanics of Standard American English. Lack of proofreading and editing will lower your paper grades.

These papers require no outside research and must contain a clear thesis that is well supported with thorough explanations, evidence, and quotes from the text or texts. Your papers will include in-text citations and a Works Cited list. (The list is not included in the word count.) These papers will be assigned more formally at a later date, and you will have the opportunity to turn in an optional first draft. Failure to write (and have graded) either or both of the papers will result in the automatic failure of the class. (See Grading portion of the syllabus.) Paper 1 will be due around Midterm, and Paper 2 will be due on the last day of class.

EXAMS: There will be two exams, a mid-term (10/6 & 10/8) and a final (12/10). The mid-term will cover readings from the first half of the semester, and the final will cover readings from the second half of the semester. All other general material, such as terms and definitions, is cumulative. Each exam will have an in-class essay component (minimum 600 words) as well as a short-answer component. Failure to take (and have graded) either or both of the exams will result in the automatic failure of the class. (See Grading portion of the syllabus.)

QUIZZES/ASSIGNMENTS: There will be quizzes (or possibly small assignments or other in-class work) over the reading just about every class to keep you up on your reading and thinking habits. Quizzes are taken at the beginning of class only. If you are late, you may miss the quiz.

DEADLINES: ALL assignments are due in hardcopy the moment class begins or else they are subject to the One-Week Rule and other penalties/restrictions spelled out below.

- **The One-Week Rule: NO work will be accepted once it is a week late unless you have made prior arrangements with me.** For example, if an assignment is due on a Tuesday, your last chance to turn it in is that Thursday.

- Unexcused, missed exams, quizzes and/or in-class work cannot be made up.

- Unexcused, late out-of-class essays are docked 5 points (half a letter grade) for each class period they are late (one period only).

- Unexcused, late homework assignments are docked 1 point for each class period they are late (one period only).

- If an absence is “excused” via documentation, any missed quiz points will not count against your overall point total (quizzes cannot be made up), and you may be allowed to make up the in-class work. “Excused” late essays and homework assignments are due upon your return to class unless you have made prior arrangements with me. “Excused” missed exams must be made up within one week of the exam. This late work may still be penalized and is subject to the one-week rule spelled out above.

- If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed (assignments, handouts, returned materials, etc.). Checking the syllabus or Moodle is a good place to start.

- Do NOT email any assignments to me without permission. Emailing your work to me does not mean it’s on time, and it will not be read.
GRADING: Your grade will be weighted and determined as follows:***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Homework/In-Class Work</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = 90 – 100  B = 80 – 89  C = 70 – 79  D = 60 – 69  F = 0 – 59

***Again, you must complete all four major requirements (two papers and two exams). Failure to complete even one of these requirements will result in the automatic failure of the course.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: When it comes to attending class, the UNO Website itself notes, “Class attendance is a vital part to academic success. When you miss a class you miss the material covered that day plus you give the impression that you do not consider the class important. Blowing off class to go to the beach is a bad idea. Class attendance is the number one predictor of success for the vast majority of college students. Excessive class absence and/or tardiness will result in a lowered overall grade and possibly failure of a course. Expectations for attendance are indicated in the course syllabus, so be certain to read the entire syllabus and always communicate with the instructor about absences and tardiness” (First Year Advising: “Frequently Asked Questions”).

Additionally, the following attendance requirements are outlined on the UNO Website (Parent FAQs: “What are UNO’s attendance requirements?”):

- Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. A student who is not present when attendance is checked in a class is considered absent.
- A student must attend all classes in any course for which he or she is registered. All unexcused absences in such a course are counted against a student’s attendance record.
- Any student registered in a college may, at the discretion of the dean, be placed on attendance probation. The dean is further authorized to drop from the rolls of the University any student who violates this attendance probation.
- A student placed on academic probation is automatically placed on attendance probation.
- A student on academic or attendance probation is expected to attend all classes and an absence from any class may be reported to the appropriate administrator.
- Each instructor shall report all cases of absence from class which, in the opinion of the instructor, jeopardizes the student’s chances of satisfactorily completing the course.

As such, come to class prepared, on time, and ready to actively participate. If you are doing homework for another class, reading a newspaper or magazine, sleeping, texting, etc., you are not participating. **Students who are repeatedly asked to put away their phones, stop talking, pay attention, etc., will not receive the curve (if there is one) at the end of the semester.**

Attendance is mandatory in English 2043, and English Department policy requires that you be placed on attendance probation with your Dean for excessive absences. **Excessive absences (excused or not—there is no difference) and chronic tardiness will lower your grade as follows:**

- **Upon reaching your fourth absence, you forfeit any chance of receiving the curve** (if there is one) at the end of the semester, and your final grade will be dropped half a letter grade. For example, an 83% B- becomes a 78% C+ final course grade, and there is no curve to “bump” you up.

- **If you incur a fifth absence, your grade will be dropped a whole letter grade** at the end of the semester. For example, an 88% B+ becomes a 78% C+ final course grade, and there is no curve to “bump” you up.

- **Students missing more than five classes (more than two weeks) will automatically fail the class.** Remember, **there is no difference between an excused and an unexcused absence** except that an
absence “excused” via documentation allows you to make up work, generally without penalty.

- Roll is taken at the beginning of class only; coming in late (even five minutes late) doesn’t guarantee that you will be marked “present” or “late” for the day. Three “lates” equal one absence.

- If you leave class early, you will be marked “late” or “absent” for the day depending upon how early you leave.

Again, it is your responsibility to notify me if you will be late or miss a class, to ask me about making up work, to check Moodle for announcements and assignments, and to provide documentation regarding your tardiness or absence. You will be able to track your class attendance in our course shell on Moodle.

UNO STANDARD STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu.

WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is presenting as one’s own the writing or ideas of another person. Some students think of plagiarism only as extensive copying, but copying a single sentence, or even a genuinely distinctive and individual phrase is dishonest if you pretend it is your own expression. Furthermore, it is plagiarism to paraphrase another writer’s ideas without providing proper documentation. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, you should ask me before you turn in your paper. Your two formal essays MUST be submitted in hardcopy form as well as in electronic form. These essays will not be graded until I have received the electronic copies and checked them for plagiarism via Turnitin.com.

Since plagiarism is cheating, I may report any offense to the UNO committee on discipline for appropriate action, which may include probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. All coursework suspected of being even minutely plagiarized will be checked against any and all available sources, especially the Internet and its various “free term paper” sites.

ALL plagiarism penalties will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but generally:
- A paper with ANY form of plagiarism, no matter how “minor,” accidental or unintentional, will receive a grade no higher than 50% F.
- BLATANT plagiarists will automatically receive ZEROES on their papers, which will lead to failing grades in the course as well because the assignment is incomplete.
- Plagiarists will not receive the curve, if there is one, at the end of the semester.
- Additional penalty info/specifies will be spelled out on the assignments themselves.
- YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED. THERE ARE NO SECOND CHANCES.

STUDENT/CCLASSROOM CONDUCT:

1. Be in class on time—not five, ten, or twenty minutes late. Interruptions are inconsiderate, distracting, and disrespectful. There is no excuse for repeatedly arriving late. Traffic may well be a problem, but it is not an excuse; plan accordingly. Parking is often a hassle; allow enough time for it.

2. Once you are in the classroom, you should remain there. It’s only a 75-minute class, and students coming and going during class is very disruptive. Take care of business ahead of time.

3. Feel free to ask questions of the instructor during class, but do not ask other students, as talking
disturbs my concentration and the concentration of other class members.

4. Students are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. Any actions that purposefully and maliciously distract the class from the work at hand (texting, eating, talking, etc.) will not be allowed.

5. Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely that you may not “like” everything we read and/or agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. This includes ANY form of sexual harassment.

6. Only students enrolled in the class will be allowed to attend the class. Leave all significant others, friends, children, parents, pets, etc., where they belong.

**PHONES, LAPTOPS, AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** These devices MUST be turned off (or to the silent mode) and stowed away during class—**unless you are clearly using them for reading or taking notes. They must be out of sight.** No earphones or headsets may be worn during class. Do not leave the classroom to answer or make a call and do not answer or make a call while in the classroom. **Do not text, Facebook, Google, or the like while in class. You will be called out and potentially counted absent for the day. If you can’t refrain from entertaining yourself with your phone, pad, or laptop for 75 minutes, this probably isn’t the class for you.**

**EMAILS, INSTRUCTOR-STUDENT CORRESPONDENCE, OTHER COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES:** You must have Internet access to [www.uno.edu](http://www.uno.edu) (for email) and Moodle, and you should check both regularly. Class announcements and assignments will be posted on Moodle, mostly as backup. Ideally, grades will be posted on Moodle so that you can easily keep track of your progress during the semester. Use only your UNO email account to email me—other addresses will be regarded with suspicion. This is not an online class, but you should become familiar with and utilize all of these resources.

Emails to me should be composed and sent with audience in mind. I am not your mother, brother, sister, best friend, or enemy and should be written to and addressed in a professional manner. This is an English course after all. Be sure to refer to the course and your subject in the subject line (for example, English 2043: Question about Plagiarism). I check my UNO email throughout the day Monday through Thursday and on Sunday until 9pm. However, you may not get a response as quickly as you would like. Be patient. I have a lot of students. I do check my email sporadically on Friday and Saturday, but generally only before noon. Emails sent on those days may well not be answered until Sunday. Additionally, if you send an email, check for a response. If you expect me to answer your email, I expect you to read my response.

Do note, however, that **I will not respond to emails or talk to you about grades or written comments of any sort on the same day those grades/comments are returned to you.** There is a twenty-four hour waiting period for such discussions—unless you literally can’t make out or don’t understand something I’ve written. This timeframe allows you to read ALL of my comments, absorb what was said, and think things over before discussing any problems or concerns with those grades/comments. **The ONLY exceptions to this are the Optional First Drafts of the two essays. I will be happy to talk to you about them once you have very carefully read through all of my annotations and end comments.**

**UNO STANDARD STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to [http://www.ods.uno.edu](http://www.ods.uno.edu).

**SYLLABUS OF READINGS and DUE DATES** will be handed out Tuesday 8/25. Paper due dates and exam dates are already included in this course syllabus (those dates are subject to change, however).