Fall 2015

ENGL 2238

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In this course, we shall examine two novels and a variety of short stories from different parts of the world and across different literary periods. Our major area of focus will be the short story as a literary genre with emphasis on elements of prose fiction such as plot, storyline, characterization, dialogue, and point of view. We shall also explore the relationship between form and content and the link between literature and life.

**Student Learning Outcomes**
After successfully completing this course, students will be able to

1. discern the relationship between the short story and staple oral narratives such as the folktale and the fable

2. carry out an intelligent analysis of a work of prose fiction with regard to formal features such as plot, storyline, characterization, dialogue, point of view

3. appreciate the diversity and richness of prose fiction from different parts of the world

4. feel inspired to tell/write their own story
Course Texts

*Fiction 100: An Anthology of Short Fiction*
*Candide* by Voltaire
*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe


**Week 1**
Aug. 20
Course introduction
Aug. 25
Folktale: The Cat Who Came Indoors
The Enchanting Song of the Magical Bird

**Week 2**
Aug. 27, Sept. 1
Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*

**Week 3**
Sept. 3, 8
Gabriel Garcia Marquez: ‘A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings’ (pp. 478-483)
Anton Checkhov: ‘The Lady with the Dog’, pp. 227-238

**Week 4**
Sept. 10, 15  1st Essay due Tues. Sept 15
Sherman Alexie: *This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona* (pp. 15-23)
Mary Hunter Austin: ‘The Land’ (pp. 43-46)

**Week 5**
Sept. 17, 22  1st Quiz due Tues. Sept. 22
Toni Cade Bambara, ‘The Lesson’ (pp. 69-74)
Sandra Cisneros: *The House on Mango Street* (pp. 246-247)

**Week 6**
Sept. 24, 29
Molara Wood: Gani’s Fall
Margaret Atwood Rape Fantasies (pp. 31-37)

**Week 7**
Oct. 1, 6
Charlotte Perkins Gilman: ‘If I Were a Man’ (pp. 484-488)
Pam Houston: ‘How to Talk to a Hunter’ (pp. 599-603)
Week 8
Oct. 8, 13
Thur. Oct. 8: Midsemester Exam
Oct. 13 Sherwood Anderson: The Egg (pp. 24-30)

Week 9
Oct. 20, 22
Ernest Hemingway: ‘Hills Like White Elephants’ (pp. 595-598)
Doris Lessing: ‘Wine’ (pp. 815-818)

Midsemester Break Oct. 15, 16

Week 10
Oct. 27, 29
Guy Maupassant: ‘The Necklace’ (pp. 849-855)
Judy Troy: ‘Ten Miles West of Venus’ (pp. 1155-1159)

Week 11
Nov. 3, 5
Ivan Turgenev: ‘The Country Doctor’ (pp. 1160-1166)
William Carlos Williams: ‘The Use of Force’ (pp. 1114-1116)

Week 12
Nov. 10, 12  2nd Essay due Tues. Nov. 10
Syl Cheney Coker: The Concert (Text to be provided in class)
Alice Walker: To Hell with Dying (Text to be provided in class)

Week 13
Nov. 17, 19
Voltaire: Candide

Week 14
Nov. 24, Dec. 1  2nd Quiz due Tues. Nov. 24
Thanksgiving Holidays Nov. 26, 27
Nov. 24: Candide cont.
Dec. 1: Course Review

Week 15
Dec 3: Final Exam. (Last day of Class)
Course Requirements

Quiz #1               10%
Quiz #2               10%
Essay #1              10%
Essay #2              10%
Midsemester Exam      20%
Final Exam            20%
Class Participation  20%

The quiz is designed to test your close reading of the assigned texts: your ability to read and remember important ideas, issues, characters, places, events, dates, formal/stylistic characteristics, and other relevant features encountered in the texts and/or highlighted in our class discussions. It is to ensure that you read every text for depth and detail. The essays will be on topics emanating from our class deliberations, and will be given in class by me on dates specified in our course schedule. They are expected to be neatly typed or word-processed according to the MLA guidelines. (See the MLA Handbook and the Harbrace College Handbook). Late submissions will be penalized by one drop in grade level for each class-day the paper is overdue.

Attendance: Regular and prompt attendance of class is mandatory. Roll will be taken each day of class. If for any genuine reason you will be absent from class, notify me ahead of time or call the department secretary and explain why. See me immediately you return so that we can discuss what you have missed. Unexcused absence beyond two times carries a penalty of one drop in grade level. Serious cases of absenteeism may result in an ‘F’ grade. (For more information, see department handbook).

Class Participation is crucial. This class will be taught in a highly interactive manner. Remember: this is your class. Make the best of it. Do all assigned readings for your own edification and in preparation for meaningful contributions to class discussion. Be prepared to take the texts to task; raise issues; engage in stimulating debate; put forward your views logically and convincingly. Remember: one of the goals of the university is to make you a creative, questioning, and articulate person.

Academic Integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Therefore, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at


Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the
responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

**Classroom Conduct**

1. Be in class on time. Distracting interruptions caused by lateness are inconsiderate, disrespectful, and time-wasting. There is no excuse for arriving repeatedly late. Parking is often a hassle; allow enough time for it. Cell phones should be turned off before class begins. There should be no eating or drinking while class is in session.

2. Feel free to ask questions from the instructor during class. But please do not ask other students, as that disturbs my concentration and the concentration of other class members.

3. 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 will not be allowed.

4. Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinion of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely that you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. Learn to disagree respectfully. Courteous behaviour and responses are expected at all times.

**Conferences and Office Hours:** Take full advantage of my office hours and see me at least twice in the semester, one at the beginning, the other towards the end. If you wish to see me outside the stipulated office hours, let me know immediately after class so we can arrange a time suitable for both of us.

I look forward to a stimulating and rewarding semester with you.