

Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English and Foreign Languages
English 240.01: Introduction to Literature
Fall 2009

I. Locator Information:

Instructor: Dr. Chuck Tryon

Course # and Name: English 240

Semester Credit Hours: 3

Day and Time Class Meets: MWF 1-1 :50 PM

Class meets: Laretta Taylor 240

Total Contact Hours for Class:

Email address: ctryon@uncfsu.edu

Office Location: Butler 363A

Office hours: MWF 9-11, MW 4-5

Office Phone: 672-2223

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at
<http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

II. Course Description: We will explore the major genres of literature and develop the critical skills of reading, evaluating, and interpreting literary works and in writing critical papers about literature.

Available as a humanities option to students not majoring in English. Requirement for B.A. English major. Prerequisites: ENGL 110 and 120.

III. Disabled Student Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. Textbook:

Gardner, Janet, et al, eds. Literature: A Portable Anthology. 4th ed. New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 2004. Some articles and readings may also be made available on electronic reserve or via Blackboard.

V. Student Learning Outcomes –Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Employ literary terminology to identify literary devices in poetry, drama and prose.
- 2) Compare and contrast elements within two or more texts.
- 3) Analyze diverse works of literature using a literary framework or theory.

Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:

a. Grading Scale

A 90-100 B 80-90 C 70-80 D 60-70 F 59 and under

b. Attendance Policy:

Class attendance is required for all students enrolled in English 240. Class absences will be excused only when valid documentation is provided within a week of your absence for participation in university sponsored events, serious illness, court dates, and family emergencies (for example, death or extreme illness of a direct relation).

Three unexcused absences will result in an interim grade of EA on your transcript, which will indicate Excessive Absences. According to the catalog, "Students who receive EA interim grades must either withdraw or resume attendance...The EA is not a final grade, so students who are assigned an interim grade of EA, but do not withdraw from the class, will receive a

final grade based on the evaluation criteria for the class." Four or more unexcused absences will result in your grade being lowered by one letter per absence.

c. Graded assignments and value:

Attendance/Class Participation: 10%
Ten Blackboard Response Paper: 10%
Exam One: 15%
Final: 20%
Group Performance: 15%
Paper One: 10%
Paper Two: 20%

d. Policy on missed or late assignments:

- If you fail to hand in any written assignment for the class, **you will fail the class**, no exceptions.
- I will NOT accept written assignments more than two weeks after their original due date, or past the end of the semester, whichever is earlier.
- Late assignments will be accepted only with a written excuse and will be docked one grade step per calendar day that the assignment is late.
- EMAIL me your assignments if you're having problems either printing or getting into class. With the wide availability of email (local libraries, if nothing else), there is no excuse for not getting an assignment in on time.
- If you do not fulfill a paper requirement (type or number of texts to analyze, word count, number of citations and/or sources), your grade will be reduced by one full grade.

e. Academic Honesty:

Because this course involves a significant amount of writing, absolutely every word, phrase, sentence, and paragraph that you submit for credit must be your own work. Because you have all graduated from high school or the equivalent, you obviously understand the difference between your words and the work of others. This course's instructor has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy on plagiarism. This means that any student who turns in another writer's work pretending that it is his or her own will earn an "F" for the entire course.

f. Student Behavior Expectations:

Cell phones: I allow cell phones in class—I understand the need for them and will have mine on me as well—but I require them to be in a pocket and on vibrate. If they ring, you are to leave the room quietly to answer it. I do *not* want them out on a desk or in view at any time.

VI. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule:

All reading and writing assignments are due by the date listed. All writing journal responses should be posted to Blackboard by midnight the day before class. For all authors, be sure to consult the "About the Authors" page at the back of the book (or a similar resource such as the Modern American Poetry Site).

Week One:

Friday, August 21: Introduction to Course

Week Two:

Monday, August 24: William Shakespeare Sonnets 18 and 130, 379-80.
Wednesday, August 26: John Donne, "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," 382.
Friday, August 28: William Blake, "The Lamb" and "The Tyger," 420-21.
Also see the Blake Archives < <http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/> >

Week Three:

Monday, August 31: John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn," 454
Wednesday, September 2: Daniel Chandler, "Semiotics for Beginners," OL.
Visual arts texts TBA
Friday, September 4: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "Ulysses," 460.

Week Four:

Monday, September 7: **Labor Day: No class.**

Wednesday, September 9: Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess," 464.

Also see Richard Howard, "Nikolaus Mardruz" OL.

Friday, September 11: Matthew Arnold, "Dover Beach," 486.

Anthony Hecht, "The Dover Bitch," OL.

Week Five:

Monday, September 14: William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming," 499-500.

Wednesday, September 16: T.S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," 525-9.

Friday, September 18: Walt Whitman, From *Song of Myself*, 467-78 [selections].

See also, Whitman, "I Hear America Singing," and Whitman Archive, OL.

Week Six:

Monday, September 21: Emily Dickinson, three poems, 488-89.

See also The Dickinson Electronic Archives, OL.

Paper One Due.

Wednesday, September 23: Claude McKay, "America," 531.

McKay, "The White House," OL.

Friday, September 25: Langston Hughes, "I, Too, Sing America," OL.

Hughes, "Harlem," 539.

Week Seven:

Monday, September 28: Rita Dove, "The Satisfaction Coal Company," 678-79.

Wednesday, September 30: Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*, 719-34.

Friday, October 2: *Oedipus Rex*, 734-45

Week Seven:

Monday, September 28: *Oedipus Rex*, 745-62.

Related: Woody Allen, "Oedipus Wrecks."

Wednesday, September 30: **Midterm exam.**

Friday, October 2: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Acts I and II.

Week Eight:

Monday, October 5: *Hamlet*, Act III.

Leonardo da Vinci, "Vitruvian Man," revisited.

Wednesday, October 7: *Hamlet*, Act IV

Review contemporary (re)stagings of *Hamlet* (Olivier, Branagh, Martin, etc).

Friday, October 9: *Hamlet*, Act V

Interim Grades Due.**Week Nine:**

Monday, October 12: Churchill, *Top Girls*

Wednesday, October 14: Churchill, *Top Girls*

Friday, October 16: **Fall Break: class cancelled**

Week Ten:

Monday, October 19: Nina Paley, dir, *Sita Sings the Blues*, OL,

Ramayana, selections, trans. Desiraju Hanumanta Rau and K.M.K. Murthy.

Wednesday, October 21: Paley, *Sita Sings the Blues*.

Thomas Leitch, "Twelve Fallacies of Contemporary Adaptation Theory," OL.

Friday, October 23: Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown," 3-13.

Week Eleven:

Monday, October 26: Herman Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener," 20-49.

Wednesday, October 28: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," 82-95.

Friday, October 30: William Faulkner, "Barn Burning," 161-75.

Week Twelve:

Monday, November 2: Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery," 208-15.

Wednesday, November 4: Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find," 247-59.

Friday, November 6: In-class activity TBA

Week Thirteen:

Monday, November 9: James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues," 220-46.

Wednesday, November 11: **Veterans Day, no class.**

Friday, November 13: Louise Erdrich, "The Red Convertible," 359-67.

Week Fourteen:

Monday, November 16: Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried," 324-31.

Paper Two Due

Wednesday, November 18: Orson Welles, dir. "War of the Worlds" (radio broadcast), OL.

H.G. Wells, *War of the Worlds*, selections, OL.

Friday, November 20: Motoko Rich, "Literacy Debate: Online, R U Really Reading?"

Week Fifteen:

Monday, November 23: Selected Work form The Art History Archive

Wednesday, November 25: Tom Pettitt, "Before the Gutenberg Parentheses," OL.

Additional text, TBA.

Friday, November 27: **Thanksgiving**

Week Sixteen:

Monday, November 30: Contemporary Rewritings of classic texts: "Dracula Blog," etc.

Wednesday, December 2: Henry Jenkins, "If It Doesn't Spread, It's Dead," OL.

Videos, TBA.

Friday, December 4: Review

Final Exam: