

Dr. Julie Hall  
English 266: Introduction to Literature  
Fall 2007  
MWF: 10-11; Evans

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### Introduction to Literature

**Course Description:** The course is a study of the three major genres of literature--fiction, poetry, and drama—drawing from various national literatures and time periods. In addition to increasing student understanding of approaches to literature, the course focuses on strengthening critical and analytical thinking, reading, and writing. (Prerequisites: 6 hours of freshman English. Credit hours: 3)

**Course Objectives:** This course has several objectives, the most important of which are as follows:

- 1) Developing students' creative and analytical capacities.
- 2) Helping students attain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual pursuits, such as literature.
- 3) Increasing students' ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas and arguments.
- 4) Developing students' ability to express themselves orally and in writing.

**Required Texts:**

*Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing.* X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. Pearson Longman Publishers.  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God.* Zora Neale Hurston. Harper Perennial Publishers.  
ISBN: 0-06-093141-8

**Assignments:**

(Note: This syllabus is a **projected one**: changes will occur during the course of the semester)

**Week 1**

- Aug. 20: Introduction to the class
- Aug. 22: Introduction to Fiction:  
*Family Matters*  
Alice Walker, "Everyday Use"
- Aug. 24: Alice Walker, "Everyday Use"

**Week 2**

Aug. 27: Eudora Welty, "A Worn Path" (p. 64)

Aug. 29: James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (p. 43)

Aug. 31: D. H. Lawrence, "The Rocking-Horse Winner" (p. 593)

**Week 3**

Sept. 3: **Labor day holiday**

Sept. 5: Katharine Anne Porter, "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" (p. 76)

Sept 7: Writing about Fiction  
Frequent writing errors

**Week 4**

Sept 10:

Sept 12:

Sept 14: Reading day

**Week 5**

Sept 17:

Sept 19:

Sept 21: Review for exam

**Week 6**

Sept 24: **Exam 1**

Sept 26:

Sept 28:

**Week 7**

Oct 1:

Oct 3:

Oct 5:

**Week 8**

Oct 8:

Oct 10:

Oct 12:

**Week 9**

Oct 15:

Oct 17:

Oct 19:

**Week 10**

Oct 22:

Oct 24:

Oct 26: Review for exam

**Week 11**

Oct 29: **Exam 2.**

Oct 31:

Nov. 2:

**Week 12**

Nov 5:

Nov 7:

Nov 9:

**Week 13**

Nov 12:

Nov 14:

Nov 16:

**Week 14**

Nov 19:

Nov 21:

Nov 23:

**Week 15**

Nov 26:

Nov 28:

Nov 31:

**Week 16**

Dec 3:

Dec 5:

Dec 7: **Study day**

**Week 17: Final Exams**

### *Course Policies and Requirements*

**1. Attendance.** Attendance is required in this class, and I will check attendance at the beginning of each class period. **Note: If you come to class after I have called roll, you are responsible for checking with me after class to ensure that you are not marked absent.**

You are allowed **4 absences** in the class, **excused or unexcused. I do not need to know the circumstances of these absences.** If you miss class more than 4 times, points will be deducted from your **final average**, 5 points for every additional 2 absences. **With more than 9 absences, you may fail the class.**

**2. Exams.** You will have 3 exams in this class. The final exam will not be comprehensive. All exams will be objective and essay.

**3. Missed exams.** If you are absent on an exam day, you **must** present me with a signed excuse from a doctor, or other documentation of your excuse, in order to take the exam or the quiz without penalty. Please call or e-mail me as soon as you know that you will miss an exam.

**4. Reading Notebook:** A reading notebook will be required for this course. In the notebook, you will record your thoughts about, responses to, or questions arising from an assigned reading. You can focus on one thing that interested you in the reading, or range over several points. The notebook is a place for you to think on paper, explore ideas about an assignment in a format that is looser and more informal than a paper, and become accustomed to writing about literature. From time to time, you will write an entry in class.

**To make a B on the Reading Notebook,** you must meet the following requirements:

1. You must record **2 entries each week**, beginning August 28 and ending November 31. No entries are required during weeks when you have a major exam. At the end of the semester, you should have **22 entries**.
2. Each entry **must be at least three quarters of a page long**.
3. Entries must give your reaction to the piece of literature we are reading. I will not accept entries that are either summaries or re-hashes of what we have talked about in class.

Earning a higher grade on the notebook will depend on the **content** of the entries; having longer entries or more entries will help your grade, although they will not ensure an automatic A.

I will take the notebooks up once during the semester to check your progress. They will be due at the end of the semester and will receive a final grade then.

**5. Plagiarism** is the presentation of someone else's words or ideas as your own. It can take many forms, such as turning in another person's work as your own, copying from someone else's test or paper, or lifting too exactly from sources when you are doing

research. It is a particularly serious academic offense, because it amounts to academic theft and is, of course, dishonest. **Plagiarism can result in failure of the assignment and/or the course. In addition,** The University and its representatives may initiate **disciplinary proceedings** against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

**6. Final grade.** Your final grade will be composed of a straight average of the exams and the notebook grade; a 100-point grade scale will be employed on all work.

**7. Student evaluations.** Each student will be asked to evaluate the course at the end of the semester.

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### **University Policies:**

#### **Student Absences on Religious Holy Days**

Section 51.911b of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 86101 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. Students desiring to absent themselves from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day shall present to each instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act.**

It is the policy of SHSU that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, I encourage you to register with the “SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosure of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **Please note:** No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.