

Welcome to The Novel, English 260, Spring 2016

Tuesdays: 2:15-3:15 (MB68)

Thursdays: 2:15-4:25 (E401)

Office: E103N

Hours: 1-2pm Tues/Thurs

Texts in LaGuardia Bookstore:

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston**

***Kafka on the Shore*, Haruki Murakami**

***Disgrace*, J.M. Coetzee**

Coursepak will be distributed first day of class.



Course Requirements:

Three 600 word essays, one on each novel (20% each=60%)

5-6 Blog entries (15%)

Presentation in groups and class participation (15%) (each group chooses one novel)

Final reflection on novels (10%)

YOU WILL NEED GMAIL ACCOUNT TO JOIN BLOG

<http://eng260novelspring2016.blogspot.com>

“All novels , of every age, are concerned with the enigma of the self. As soon as you create an imaginary being, a character, you are automatically confronted by the question: what is the self? How can the self be grasped?” Milan Kundera

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.” Marcel Proust

Catalogue Course Description:

This course introduces students to ways of reading, discussing and writing about novels through a close reading and analysis of their elements, and a consideration of their social, cultural and artistic contexts. Novels from a diverse range of sexual, racial, class and ethnic perspectives, from the 18th Century to the present, will be selected, including such writers as Jane Austen, James Baldwin, Charles Dickens, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Zora Neale Hurston, Yasunari Kawabata, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Toni Morrison, Mark Twain and Richard Wright.

CUNY Pathways: Flexible Core-Individual & Society

What I Hope You Will Discover in this Course:

- why reading closely is worth it
- how close reading is connected to strong writing
- how the novel is omnivorous—draws on many traditions
- what you should be looking for when you read
- what a literary “voice” is—and how writers differ
- different ways character is revealed
- different ways writers navigate plot
- different ways they portray inner life of characters
- why different elements of style from dialect to magical realism are important
- why literature is important for life~

OUR WORKING SYLLABUS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

TUESDAY MARCH 8

Introduction to the Novel

What is literature?

What is a novel?

A little history and context

Opening paragraphs of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

THURSDAY MARCH 10

Read Hurston biography in coursepak

Their Eyes Were Watching God: Chapters 1 through 3: pages 1-31

TUESDAY MARCH 15

Blog #1 on Hurston due Monday by midnight

Eyes: Chapters 5 through 8

THURSDAY MARCH 17

Eyes: Chapters 9-16: pages 84-132

Begin discussion of paper topics

TUESDAY MARCH 22

Blog #2: essay thesis paragraph by Monday midnight

Peer critique of paper topics

Finish novel! Film screening begins

THURSDAY MARCH 24

Eyes: papers due: peer critique

Finish screening of film

TUESDAY MARCH 29

Special class: Little Theatre presentation by Michio Kaku

Read chapters 1 through 6 of *Kafka* on the Shore (to page 45)

Class film on youtube—*Kafka* intro: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tJJLoA-G1E>

THURSDAY MARCH 31

Read chapters 7-12 of *Kafka* (pages 47-104)

Blog #3 due by Wednesday midnight

TUESDAY APRIL 5

Kafka: chapters 13-21 (pages 105-205)

Begin discussing topics for paper #2

THURSDAY APRIL 7

Kafka: Chapters 22-27 (pages 206-262)

Paper topics workshop

TUESDAY APRIL 12

Kafka: Read chapters 28-34 (pages 263-320)

THURSDAY APRIL 14

READING DAY FOR YOU: I AM AT CONFERENCE

READ CHAPTERS 34-41 (TO PAGE 382)

GOAL: FINISH NOVEL DURING SPRING BREAK!

PAPERS DUE RIGHT AFTER BREAK

TUESDAY MAY 3

DRAFT OF KAFKA PAPERS DUE

PEER CRITIQUE

Discussion of chapters to 382

What is unique about Murakami's vision?

THURSDAY MAY 5

Revision of papers due

Begin *Disgrace*!

"He had, to his mind, solved the problem of sex rather well" (1)

TUESDAY MAY 10

Chapters 1-3 *Disgrace* (to page 46)

THURSDAY MAY 12

Blog on *Disgrace*: your reaction to David's character, choices

Chapters 4-13 *Disgrace*

"*Sooner murder an infant in its cradle than nurse un-acted desires*" (69)

Refuge, asylum, David and Lucy

David's attitude towards, relationship with, animals

TUESDAY MAY 17

Chapters 14-16

Lucy's "disgrace"

"Like a stain, the story is spreading across the district" (115)

Aftermath of rape; adjusted relations

Petrus and David; the sheep, the party, the anger

Changes in David: dogs and the smell of shame (142)

Begin discussing topics for paper #3

THURSDAY MAY 19

Chapters 17-19

Lucy and David: confrontation; Lucy speaks (156-7)

David makes amends—in his own way (CH 19)

Paper topics on blog—peer critique

TUESDAY MAY 24

Finish novel

Film screening

Peer critique of paper drafts

THURSDAY MAY 26

Film screening of *Disgrace*

Discussion of David's evolution

TUESDAY JUNE 7

Submit essay on *Disgrace*

THURSDAY JUNE 9 (LAST CLASS)

Review of course: three novels

Final reflections

TUESDAY JUNE 15

Submit final reflection; conferences



Reflections on Reading and Writing from Students in Dr. van Slyck's Novel Classes:

1. What did you learn about reading literature that you didn't know before? What did you learn about yourself as a writer?

I learned that one must revisit passages in books to further increase our knowledge of the piece. Reading should be meticulous. This class made me understand that one simple reading will not suffice. In my case I loved Disgrace the most of all the readings we did. The questions that is posed about morality, combined with religious imagery really kept me intrigued.

Julien

Reading is FUNDAMENTAL!!! I learned that when reading, it is necessary to take notes or highlight passages. By doing so you are able to formulate a thesis and supporting evidence with ease, instead of hunting through pages.

Sadie

I learned that it's good to annotate while reading, talk to the text, ask questions so that when you get together with your group you can analysis and figure out what the author is trying to convey.

Kiara

I understood the way symbolism can set the tables for future events in a novel and how certain events sculpt the ultimate fate of a character for the good or for the bad.

Cantrell

I took this class to sharpen my skills in understanding novels and also to get more into novel reading as a hobby. I really enjoyed all the novels and I never thought to break it down in such analysis as we had down.

Lysandra

One or two things that I did not know about literature is that it can touch a part of you that you will not able to understand for example I learned that literature is like a drink , it fills you up with new knowledge until you are no longer thirsty.

Belle Reve

As a writer, this class taught me trust myself more. Before, I would spend so much time editing and reediting. In this class, because I found ways to connect with the stories, I was able to convey my thoughts effectively.

Sadie

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Annabel

I have always planned on being a writer and taking this course just enhanced my abilities to do so! I'm really happy I took this course and I wish there was a Novel pt. 2!

Stephanie

