

English 2413-701 Honors — Introduction to Literature
Spring 2015 – MWF 9:30-10:20

Dr. Patricia Macvaugh Office Hours: MWF 11:30-12:30; MW 9:00-9:30	Office: Morrill Hall 406 E-mail: trish.macvaugh@okstate.edu
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Welcome

In English 2413 we'll read and discuss short stories, poems, plays, a novel and film. You will learn to read closely and to develop the vocabulary of literary analysis and cultural/historical connections. We'll spend class time discussing and debating what we've read. I hope you'll be an active participant in that process.

Required Texts

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*, A Norton Critical Edition, 2nd ed. Margo Culley, ed. New York: WW Norton, 1994.

Kelly, Joseph, ed.. *The Seagull Reader*, 3rd ed. New York: WW Norton, 2015.

Assignments and Grading

More specifics about assignments will be discussed in class. You will receive detailed instructions via the Online Classroom before the assignments are due, and we will discuss what to expect in exams during class. Be certain that your e-mail address on the OC is the one you check regularly.

Assignments and Grading

Novel presentations (5%)

2 Essays (Short story analysis, poetry journal) (30%)

Group Pres. & Ind. Analysis (10%)

Individual Poetry Pres. (5%)

Assignment	Point Value	Your Score
Novel presentations	50	
Group pres. & ind. analysis	100	
Short story exam	150	
Short Story analysis	150	
Poetry exam	150	
Poetry journal	150	
Poetry presentation	50	
Final exam (Novel & Drama)	200	

2 Essay Exams (30%) Final exam (20%)

Grading Standards

- **A (90-100%)** An A paper exceeds the basic requirements. It demonstrates well-organized, clear, effective, eloquent, and insightful writing. It has an original, convincing, and inventive thesis; specific and well-constructed evidence and support; seamless organization; and smooth transitions. There are sporadic or rare mechanical errors.

- **B (80-89%)** A paper with this grade has a clear, concise, and interesting thesis. This essay also shows thoughtful efforts that go beyond the basic requirements, but might benefit from more effective organization, use of evidence, and critical analysis. There are few mechanical errors.
- **C (70-79%)** A paper with this grade adequately fulfills the requirements of the assignment. It meets most of the stated criteria but not all and probably does not do so consistently.
- **D (60-69%)** A paper with this grade meets only some of the requirements of the assignment, or the assignment was misunderstood. The thesis is difficult to determine, if it exists at all. There is no critical analysis and no evidence present. There is little organization and poor transitions.
- **F (below 60%)** An F is assigned if the work is either not done or does not meet any of the requirements for the assignment. It does not address the question or the instructions. There is no thesis, no organization, no supporting evidence, and there are numerous grammar, punctuation, and usage errors.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may affect your performance in the course, have Student Disability Services (315 Student Union) contact your instructor to request appropriate accommodations.

Attendance

With the exception of minor modifications for mandatory military service and university-sponsored activities such as inter-collegiate athletics and class field trips, I do not distinguish among kinds of absences for attendance purposes. See me immediately if you will be absent for any of the reasons listed above. You are expected to be present every day your class meets, but to accommodate accidents, illnesses, and emergencies, I allow six absences without penalty. Absences beyond six are considered excessive and result in 2% grade reductions (20 points) per absence in excess of six. Students are expected to arrive in class on time in order to be counted present. If you are late to class by more than ten minutes, that will constitute an absence. If you are late three times, but are late by less than ten minutes that will constitute one absence.

Missed in-class work

Students absent for university-sponsored activities (which do not include social or Greek-sponsored activities, clubs, or intramural athletics) or mandatory military service may make up work missed due to such absence in a timely fashion. Students must complete all course work in order to receive a passing grade.

Late work

Late essays will lose 3 points per day past the due date (this includes weekends). Thus, a paper due on Friday will lose 6 points if submitted on the following Monday. **Your Group Presentation Summaries and independent analysis may not be submitted late. If you do not have a hard copy of your analysis in class on the day you present, you will lose 75% of the possible points.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course.

Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration on homework or assignments, plagiarism, multiple submissions of the same assignment, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, having unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript, and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-5627, <<http://osu.okstate.edu/acadaffr/aa/academicintegrity.htm>>.

Writing Center: The OSU Writing Center is a wonderful resource, which I hope you will make use of. Just remember to plan ahead and take a copy of your assignment with you. writingcenter@okstate.edu

Helpful Hints

Reading: This class presumes close reading. That means that one reading of a text will be insufficient. Short stories and plays demand two or three readings; poetry requires even more and should be read ALOUD for maximum appreciation and understanding.

Essays:

You do not need a title page; instead, format your paper in the following manner:

YOUR NAME

English 2413-701

Essay #1

Word Count = 1034

Essays and Group Presentation Responses must be typed and double spaced, using 1" margins and an easily read font such as Arial or Times New Roman. Please staple your pages in the proper order.

Following is an outline of assignments and due dates. Minor adjustments may be made as necessary during the semester.

1/12: review syllabus/introductions

1/14: Introduction to stories xi-xxvii; Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour" (98); and "Desiree's Baby" (available on the PBS electronic library)

1/16: Ernest Hemingway's "Hills Like White Elephants" (180) and David Foster Wallace's "Good People" (available on the *New Yorker* website)

1/19: MLK holiday – no classes

1/21: Raymond Carver's "Cathedral" (61)

1/23: James Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues" (29)

1/26: Joyce Carol Oates' "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" (316)

1/28: Bobbie Ann Mason's "Shiloh" (230)

1/30: Alice Munro's "Boys and Girls" (300)

2/2: Group 1 presents Tom O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" (333)

2/4: Group 2 presents Sherman Alexie's "What You Pawn I Will Redeem" (8)

2/6: Group 3 presents Alice Walker's "Everyday Use" (469)

2/9: Discussion of Exam & Short Story Analysis; Writing about short stories xxvii-xliii

2/11: Short Story Exam (Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" (150) and Frank O'Connor's "Guests of the Nation." (368)

2/13: Short Story Choices for Individual Analysis: Chinua Achebe's "Uncle Ben's Choice" (3); John Cheever's "The Swimmer" (76); Louise Erdrich's "I'm A Mad Dog Biting Myself for Sympathy (126); Amy Hempel's "In the Cemetery Where Al Jolson Is Buried" (186); Tillie Olsen's "I Stand Here Ironing" (381)

2/16: "What is Poetry?" xxi-xl; Billy Collins' poems (64-69)

2/18: Seamus Heaney's poems (145-151)

2/20: **SHORT STORY ANALYSIS DUE**

Discussion of poetry journal and Poetry Foundation website

2/ 23: Rita Dove's poems (94-96)

The Awakening (1-26)

2/25: Elisabeth Bishop's poems (25-30)

The Awakening (26-54)

2/27: Gerard Manley Hopkins' poems (159-162)
The Awakening (54-74)

3/2: Sharon Olds' poems (233-235) and Edna St. Vincent Millay's poems (223-224)
The Awakening (74-88)

3/4: Galway Kinnell's poems (189-190) and Yusef Komunyakaa's poems (193-195)
The Awakening (88-103)

3/6: Langston Hughes's poems (170-172)
The Awakening (103-109)

3/9: Theodore Roethke's poems (270-271)

3/11: John Donne's poems (84-90)

3/13: Poetry Exam: poems of Louise Erdrich (110-111), Carolyn Forché (118), and Robert Hayden (142)

SPRING BREAK

3/23: Group 1: *The Awakening* discussion (113-130, 137-151)

3/25: Group 2: *The Awakening* discussion (159-184)

3/27: Group 3: *The Awakening* discussion (196-210, 221-230, 241-251)

3/30: **Poetry Journals Due** Poetry presentations begin

4/1: Poetry presentations continue

4/3: Poetry presentations conclude

4/6: "What is Drama?" (ix-xxiii and xxxiv-xxxvii)

4/8: "Trifles" – 253

4/10: discussion continues/ Evaluations

4/13-4/17: *Fences* 452

4/20-4/24: *W;t* 520

4/27-5/1: Pre finals week: discussion of and preparation for final exam

5/6: Final Exam 8-9:50

