

ENG\* K210 Fiction

Instructor: Susan M. Topping

W 6:30-9:15pm Room E223

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Office Hours: MF: 12:00-1:00pm, W 12:00-3:00, and by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the elements, structure, technique and evolution of the novel in the Western literary tradition. Writing assignments will stress critical analysis including the incorporation of various critical approaches.

Prerequisite: ENG \*102 or permission of the instructor.

### COURSE TEXTS

F. Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby*.

Jonathan Safran Foer. *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*.

Jane Austen. *Pride and Prejudice*. Norton Critical Edition

Jeffrey Eugenides. *A Marriage Plot: A Novel*

We will also be adding more novels after our first few classes.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements, structure and techniques of the novel.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the evolution of the novel form.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between narrative structure and culture.
- Strengthen the ability to use the basic elements of formalist criticism to deepen literary understanding;
- Use various and appropriate critical strategies to analyze and interpret texts.
- Strengthen the ability to distinguish how different critical theories affect interpretation and levels of meaning, and to recognize the validity of differing interpretations;
- Strengthen the ability to incorporate independent research into both class discussion and written work;
- Formulate own perspectives about both meaning and structure in a work of literature, and support that perspective with specifics from the text;
- Write analytical, evaluative essays about literature which present interpretations, and support them with evidence from texts.
- Use MLA parenthetical style more adeptly to document references to texts.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

#### Essays

You will be asked to write two formal essays on topics generated from your reading and class discussions. All essays must follow MLA form. I will assign essay topics, but

students may also generate their own essay topics; however, all student-generated topics must gain my approval in writing. I will not read any essay on a topic that I have not formally approved.

PLEASE NOTE: While secondary sources may be used for any essay, copies of all outside sources, clearly marked according to instructions, must be submitted with the essay. I will not grade any essay that uses secondary sources if copies are not submitted, and the essay will receive a late penalty.

## READING RESPONSES, IN-CLASS WORK, and PARTICIPATION

### Reading responses:

At times I will ask you to reflect upon a particular reading assignment by writing a response that will be at least two typed pages in length (minimum 500 words). Although these responses may be fairly informal, I expect you to seriously engage in the ideas and issues the texts or our class discussions present. Reading responses are neither essays nor summaries; they are a place for you to focus on an issue and start generating ideas. Use them as a way to frame an approach, articulate a question, or explore a particular idea. Do not think about them as finished or polished pieces of work as they are primarily a way to think about what you are thinking. Thus, I am more interested in your ideas than the ways you are presenting them; however, I must be able to follow your patterns of thought, so do proofread them. I generally do not read for technical problems, and so a check mark, or check minus, should not be seen to reflect your expository writing abilities—it merely serves to record credit received. Remember that it shouldn't take more than about 45 minutes to produce a response that reflects evidence of engaged thinking.

### In-class work:

In addition to small and large group work, I will also at times ask you to do a brief in-class writing assignment that may be used to generate in-class discussion. I will collect these assignments and grade them as reading responses.

PLEASE NOTE: Neither reading responses nor in-class assignments can be handed in late.

### Participation:

Constructive participation in both discussion and peer review is expected; therefore, it is important that you come to class ready to discuss the reading and writing assignments. If you are not prepared, you will find it difficult to participate in class conversations and your work will reflect your lack of engagement

## FINAL GRADES

Essay #1 (6-8 pages)	25%
Essay #2 (8-10 pages)	35%
Mid-term	15%
Final in-class essay	15%
Reading responses, in-class work, and participation	10%

Please note: If I decide that the reading is not being done, I reserve the right to give pop

quizzes and will adjust the grade percentages accordingly. All major assignments MUST be completed in order to receive a final grade for this course.

ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED ON TIME, TYPED AND FOLLOW MLA FORMAT. LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO TWO DAYS PAST THE DUE DATE BUT WILL BE DOWNGRADED ONE FULL LETTER GRADE. LATE ESSAYS MAY NOT BE REVISED. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY. IN ADDITION, ANY ESSAY THAT USES OUTSIDE SOURCES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COPIES OF SOURCES AND THE ESSAY MARKED ACCORDING TO DIRECTIONS. I WILL NOT READ ANY ESSAY THAT IS SUBMITTED WITHOUT COPIES OF ALL SOURCES USED.

PLEASE NOTE: If you hand in your essay late, it will go to the bottom of the pile of essays waiting to be graded. Thus, late essays may not be returned quickly, and any problems you have with your written work may not be uncovered until quite late in the semester. It is your responsibility to hand in all work on time.

## **COURSE POLICY**

### **Attendance**

Attendance is a requirement. Absences will have a negative effect on your grade. If you miss class, it is up to you to find out what you have missed and make up the work in whatever way you can. In addition, if for some reason, you miss an in-class exam, you must take the exam before the next class meeting. Makeup exams must be scheduled through the Testing Center. Once you have an appointment, I will drop off the exam for you. Please email me immediately if for some reason, the scheduling at the Testing Center proves impossible.

### **Make-up Examinations**

If for some reason, you miss an in-class exam, you must take the exam before the next class meeting. Makeup exams must be scheduled through the Testing Center. Once you have an appointment, I will drop off the exam for you. Please email me immediately if for some reason, the scheduling at the Testing Center proves impossible.

There will be NO exceptions to this policy.

### **Class Participation**

Constructive participation is expected; therefore, it is important that you come to class ready to discuss the reading assignments. If you are not prepared, you will find it difficult to participate in class conversations and your work will reflect your lack of engagement.

### **Classroom Decorum**

If you are late, leave class early, or allow your cell phone to ring, you are being disruptive. I expect you to come to class on time with all the necessary texts and remain in the classroom for the entire period. Disruptive or inappropriate classroom behavior will have a negative effect on your grade.

### **Withdrawal Dates**

Students may officially withdraw at the Registrar's Office up until May 7<sup>th</sup>. Any student who stops attending class, but does not officially withdraw, will receive a grade of F for the course. However, withdrawal grades may have a negative impact on financial aid and

academic progress. Please see an advisor before you withdraw.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the intentional use of someone else's words or ideas. It is a serious violation of academic standards that is subject to one or more of the following penalties: a failing grade for the paper; a failing grade for the course; a report to the administrative authorities for appropriate action (i.e. a notation on the student's permanent record, suspension, or expulsion). Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity policy in our on-line catalogue.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any student with a hidden or visible documented disability which may require classroom modification should see me during the first week of class so that an appropriate plan to meet your needs may be arranged.

### **MESSAGES AND CONFERENCES**

If you need to reach me, please call my office phone or email me at [stopping@trcc.comnet.edu](mailto:stopping@trcc.comnet.edu) I am also available during office hours and look forward to meeting with you to discuss your work. If my office hours are not convenient for you, please make an appointment to see me at another time.

### **EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS**

I encourage you to communicate with me via email; however, please be mindful that any email communication with me should be regarded as a formal communication; emails that do not follow standard written English conventions will be neither read nor replied to.

### **EMAIL SUBMISSIONS**

I do NOT accept email submissions, and I do require that you to come to class with a hard copy of your assignments. However, if for some previously approved reason, I have agreed to accept an email submission, it is vital that any work submitted via email be saved in Word. Whatever word processing program you are using, please save the document in html format so that I can open the attachment. I cannot open WordPad and some other formats. I will consider essays sent in these formats as late.

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

Week One

W 1/25 Introduction

Week Two

W 2/1 *The Great Gatsby*

Week Three

W 2/8 Discussion Cont.

Week Four

W 2/15 *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*

Week Five

W 2/22 Discussion cont

Week Six

W 2/29 Discussion cont.

Week Seven

W 3/7 **In-class Exam #1**

*Pride and Prejudice*

Week Eight

W 3/14 Discussion cont.

**Essay #1 Due**

Week Nine

NO CLASSES

Week Ten

W 3/28 *Pride and Prejudice*

Week Eleven

W 4/4 *A Marriage Plot: A Novel*

Week Thirteen

4/11 Discussion cont.

Week Twelve

W 4/11 TBA

Week Thirteen

W 4/18 TBA

Week Fourteen

W 4/25 TBA

Week Fifteen

W 5/2 **Essay #2 Due**

Week Sixteen

W 5/9 Last Day of Classes

**In-class Exam.**