

ENG\* K210 Fiction Sec. MO1

Instructor: Susan M. Topping

TR Office: Mohegan SHOP Phone: 892 5763 e-mail: stopping@trcc.commnet.edu

Office Hours: TR 8:00-9:00 on Mohegan; TBA on Thames.

### 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 OVERVIEW

This semester I would like to focus on genre within fiction and thus have decided to include examples of realistic, historical, detective, science fiction and fantasy novels. In addition, I want you to have input on the novels you will be reading and writing about and thus your last assignment will allow you to choose, present and write about a novel of your choice within the context of a particular genre. Clearly this is a reading-intensive course, and while the texts I have chosen are clearly idiosyncratic, I think you will find them worth reading.

### COURSE TEXTS

*Howard's End* E.M.Forster

*On Beauty* Zadie Smith

*Ender's Game* Orson Scott Card

*Master and Commander* Patrick O'Brien

*The King Must Die* Mary Renault

*The Beekeeper's Apprentice* Laurie R. King

TBA Paretsky, Grafton, ???

*The Wizard of Earthsea* Ursula LeGuin

*Deep Secret* Diana Wynne Jones

### 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. Only those students who hand in the completed essay on time and receive a grade of C or below will have the option to revise the paper; however, all such re-writes must first be discussed with me during office hours. I will not read a graded paper that has been revised if the student has not met with me prior to the revision. In addition, late work will be downgraded.

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.

### IN-CLASS GRADED WRITING

Because it is so easy for students to get by in a class like this to only read the texts they are writing about, we will be having weekly in-class graded assignments which will include quizzes, summaries, short essays etc. on the texts under discussion. These will be impossible to complete successfully if you haven't done the reading. Although these will receive a check minus, check or check plus grade at the time of completion, I will be collecting them at two points during the semester to grade them in their entirety. Thus you are responsible for keeping all of your in-class assignments in a folder. Although I expect you to type up the in-class assignments for your folder, you will hand in both hand written and typed versions; however, no revisions, late work or other amendments are allowed. If I see evidence of manipulation (and this includes correcting technical errors!) from the in-class version to the typed version, the entire folder will receive a zero.

### PARTICIPATION

Constructive participation in class discussion 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 assignments, and it will be impossible for you to complete the course successfully.

### FINAL GRADES

Essay #1 (8 pages)	20%
Essay #2 (12-15 pages)	35%
Weekly in-class writing assignments	30%
Final in-class essay	10%

Class participation

5%

ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED ON TIME, TYPED AND FOLLOW MLA FORMAT; LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO ONE WEEK PAST THE DUE DATE BUT WILL BE DOWNGRADED ONE LEVEL.

## COURSE POLICY

### Attendance

Attendance is a requirement. Two or more absences will have a negative affect 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.

### 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 behavior will have a negative affect on your grade.

### 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 read the Academic Integrity Policy in the TRCC catalogue.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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

## WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS

The last day to officially withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor is December 15<sup>th</sup>. A student who stops attending class, but does not officially withdraw, will receive an F for the course. Please be mindful of all policies regarding W grades as they impact financial aid and academic progress.

## MESSAGES AND CONFERENCES

If you need to reach me, please call my office phone (892 5763) or email me at [stopping@trcc.commmnet.edu](mailto:stopping@trcc.commmnet.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.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

### WEEK ONE:

T 9/2 Introduction

R 9/4 *Howard's End*

### WEEK TWO

T 9/9 *Howard's End*

R 9/11 *On Beauty*

### WEEK THREE

T 9/16 *On Beauty*

R 9/18 *On Beauty*

### WEEK FOUR

T 9/23 *The King Must Die*

R 9/25 *The King Must Die*

### WEEK FIVE

T 9/30 *The King Must Die*

R 10/2 *Master and Commander*

### WEEK SIX

T 10/7 *Master and Commander*

R 10/9 *Master and Commander*

IN-CLASS FOLDER #1 DUE

### WEEK SEVEN

T 10/14 *Ender's Game*

R 10/16 *Ender's Game*

ESSAY #1 DUE

### WEEK EIGHT

T 10/21 *Ender's Game*

R 10/23 *Wizard of Earthsea*

### WEEK NINE

T 10/28 *Wizard of Earthsea*

R 10/30 *Deep Secret*

### WEEK TEN

T 11/4 *Deep Secret* ELECTION DAY: DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

R 11/6 *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*

### WEEK ELEVEN

T 11/11 *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*

R 11/13 *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*

### WEEK TWELVE

T 11/18 TBA

R 11/20 TBA

### WEEK TWELVE

11/25-9 NO CLASSES THANKSGIVING BREAK

For the rest of the semester, class discussions will be based on all nine novels; however, there is some uncertainty as to where classes will be held due to the campus consolidation, so be prepared for uncertainty. YOUR FINAL ESSAY WILL BE DUE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>.

