Syllabus

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Office: L&L 416F                 Office Hours: MWF 11:00-noon (or by appt)

The Point of English 105

This course exists to introduce you to a variety of literary works—short stories, poems, plays, nonfiction, and novels—from different time periods and countries. We will examine the language, construction, meaning, and impact of each work, as well as its relationship to other works we read in class. Rather than find the supposed hidden meaning in each text, we will find how each text has a variety of meanings.

My personal goal this quarter is to be a literary ambassador of sorts, attempting to share my passion and appreciation for Literature to such an extent that it begins to rub off on you. I cannot guarantee that you will enjoy every reading we do this quarter. Or the assignments. But if you are open to it, this is a course that can expand your understanding of literature, the world, and yourself.

What to Expect When You’re Explicating

From me, you can expect a reasonable amount of notice before anything is due, as well as an equally reasonable return time on any assignments you turn in for a grade. You can expect emailed questions to be answered within twenty-four hours on weekdays and forty-eight hours on weekends. You can also expect me to be fair and courteous. Finally, you can expect up to fifteen hours of homework per week.

From you, I expect you to act respectfully, to do every reading and assignment, to watch every video, and to thoughtfully engage with this course. Additionally, I expect you to respect my time, which especially means checking your syllabus and Canvas before you ask a question that has already been covered in our syllabus—readings, due dates, my office location, office hours, etc.

Course Outcomes

1. You will read and respond to literary works from a variety of cultures and from a range of historical periods.
2. You will read and respond to literary works of poetry, fiction, and drama; you may also read nonfiction or view films, depending on the organization and orientation of class materials.
3. You will demonstrate an understanding of how literary elements such as character development, setting, and figurative language relate to literary meaning.
4. In accordance with the General Education Writing Requirement, you will submit at least seven pages of writing "that is assessed for content and mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation, and organization)."
Grades are determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Journal</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #3</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #4</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500 points</strong></td>
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You are expected to turn in a reading journal after you finish each book/section (a total of five). You may have noticed, however, that there are five sections but only four essay assignments. You must write four of the five essays for this course. That means you can look at the readings and criteria sheets ahead of time and choose the essay that you want to skip. (All of the essays have the same page length requirement and similar criteria.) You are still expected to do the readings and journal for that section.

Course Policies

- Twenty percent of your grade is based on your reading journal. To receive full credit for your journal, you must do your bi-weekly readings and thoughtfully interact with what you read. Sample entries will be provided that you can follow.

- Turn in your assignments on time—by or before the due date. I will accept late journals, but they will receive significantly less points. Late essays will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made in advance. I do not allow rewrites.

- A blatant case of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the paper and may result in a failing grade for the class. Furthermore, such a violation of the Student Code of Conduct may be reported to Student Affairs. (See CWU’s policy on academic dishonesty in appendix B of the catalog.)

Required Texts

- Carver, Raymond. Where I’m Calling From: Stories. ISBN: 978-0679722311
- Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus. ISBN: 978-0486282114

ADA Statement

If you have a disability and wish to set up academic adjustments in this class, give me a copy of your “Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments” as soon as possible so we can discuss how to implement the approved adjustments. If you do not have this form, contact the Disability Support Services Office, Bouillon 205 or dss@cwu.edu or 963-2171.
# Course Schedule

| Section 1                  | Poetry: Seamus Heaney’s translation of *Beowulf*  
|----------------------------| [Modules 1a and 1b] |
| T Mar. 31- T Apr. 14       | Homework: |
|                            | 1. Buy your textbooks! |
|                            | 2. Read Tennyson’s “The Eagle” and take a look at the essay tips handout (found under Module 1a) |
|                            | 3. Watch the Course Introduction Video linked under Module 1a |
|                            | 4. Read over the syllabus, journal criteria sheet, and Essay #1 criteria sheet. Then look at the sample journal entries and sample essays. Do not skip steps 2-4; they will set you up for success in this class! (All of these are found under Module 1a except for the Essay #1 criteria sheet, which is located under Module 1b) |
|                            | 5. Optional/Recommended: Go to the *Beowulf* Wikipedia page linked under Module 1b and read the summary (I recommend printing it and putting it in your book). Doing so makes the story easier to follow. |
|                            | 6. Read *Beowulf*, writing in your journal as you go. |
|                            | • Reading Journal due by 5pm on Wednesday, April 15th. |
|                            | • Essay #1 due by 5pm on Tuesday, April 21st. |

| Section 2                  | Novel: Mary W. Shelley’s *Frankenstein*  
|----------------------------| [Module 2] |
| W Apr. 15- T Apr. 28       | 1. Watch the Section 2 video |
|                            | 2. Read the handouts and check out the links for Section 2 and *Frankenstein*. |
|                            | 3. Read the criteria sheet for Essay #2. |
|                            | 4. Read *Frankenstein*, writing in your journal as you go. |
|                            | • Reading Journal due by 5pm on Wednesday, April 29th. |
|                            | • Essay #2 due by 5pm on Tuesday, May 5th. |
### Section 3
#### Short Stories: Raymond Carver’s *Where I’m calling from*

[Module 3]

| W Apr. 29 - T May 12 | 1. Read the criteria sheet for Essay #3.  
2. Watch the Section 3 video  
3. Read the handouts and check out the links related to Section 3.  
4. Read the following stories from Carver’s book, journaling as you go:  
   - “Nobody Said Anything” (3)  
   - “Bicycles, Muscles, Cigarettes” (21)  
   - “They’re Not Your Husband” (44)  
   - “What Do You Do In San Francisco” (53)  
   - “Fat” (64)  
   - “Are These Actual Miles?” (128)  
   - “One More Thing” (147)  
   - “Why Don’t You Dance?” (155)  
   - “What We Talk About When We Talk About Love” (170)  
   - “The Third Thing That Killed My Father Off” (198)  
   - “So Much Water So Close To Home” (213)  
   - “Where I’m Calling From” (278)  
   - “Fever” (303)  
   - “Cathedral” (356)  
   - “A Small, Good Thing” (376)  
   - “Elephant” (472)  
   - “Blackbird Pie” (491) |

- Reading Journal due by 5pm on Wednesday, May 13th.  
- Essay #3 due by 5pm on Tuesday, May 19th.

### Section 4
#### Novel: Dezső Kosztolányi’s *Skylark*

[Module 4]

| W May 13 - T May 26 | 1. Read the Essay #4 criteria sheet.  
2. Watch the Section 4 video  
3. Read *Skylark*, journaling as you go |

- Reading Journal due by 5pm on Wednesday, May 27th.  
- Essay #4 due by 5pm on Tuesday, June 2nd.
| Section 5 | Play: Bertolt Brecht’s *Galileo*  
[Module 5] |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| W May 27-W June 10 | 1. Read the Essay #5 criteria sheet.  
2. Watch the video for Section 5.  
3. Read *Galileo*, journaling as you go |
| | • Reading Journal due by 5pm on Wednesday, June 10th.  
• Essay #5 due by 5pm on Wednesday, June 10th. |