

# ENGLISH 237 W: SEMINAR – INTRODUCTION TO FICTION

Fulfills the Doane Plan requirement. This is a writing course.

**INSTRUCTOR: DEB SHARP**  
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**PLEASE READ ASSIGNED STORIES BEFORE  
THE FIRST CLASS MEETING**

## Course Description

This course is the study of fiction that is international in scope and spans nearly two centuries. The stories themselves are widely diversified as to type and style and offer attractions to a multiplicity of tastes and interests. They also provide the opportunity to selective approaches organized around related themes. All of the stories, by women and men, were selected for their literary merit. **All reading for each session must be done prior to class.**

## Course Objectives

Students will have the opportunity:

- to foster an appreciation or reading and a serious study of literature,
- to learn and distinguish the elements of fiction,
- to use interpretive skills in regard to literature and life experiences,
- improve writing skills.

## General Focus

**All reading for each session must be done prior to class.**

The works for this course are selected to introduce the student to serious study of literature. The fiction read will be experienced through three logical sequences. The actual reading of the work will be the obvious beginning. Then, the purpose and nature of the fiction will be analyzed by questions of craft, the so-called elements of fiction. Lastly, each author's life will also be explored to help foster ways of seeing the works within their temporal and cultural contexts. The reading of the fiction may ultimately continue to the way we understand and experience our own lives.

- I. **Author Talks (10 minutes in length) DO NOT READ TO US**, as this will lower the presentation evaluation by one letter grade. Each student is required to select an author from the reading list and present a 10-minute review about the author prior to discussing their work. (Seminar students have the option of writing a paper.)
  - \* Choose any author from the assigned reading list.
  - \* Only one author talk about any given author per class section.
  - \* The author talk will be given verbally before the class **on the assigned date.**
  - \* Provide a fact sheet for everyone in the class. **One page only.**
  - \* **Cite** your resources in correct **MLA format** or **points will be deducted for plagiarism.**
  - \* Use at least three different sources. **No encyclopedias, please. DO NOT COPY!**

- \* **Do not include a list of their works.** This appears to be “filler.” Rather, touch on their **major** work.
- \* Make reference to the class selection in regard to discoveries made about the author.
- \* Include such things as the following:
  - where they were born
  - family
  - major works
  - formal education
  - cause of death
  - marriages
  - prizes received for work
  - other interesting trivia
- \* Please avoid copying chronologies from the first pages of biographies.

**DO NOT SIMPLY CUT AND PASTE FROM ELECTRONIC SOURCES.**

- **YOU MAY USE NOTES; HOWEVER, SIMPLY READING TO THE CLASS FROM YOUR HANDOUT OR INTERNET PRINTOUTS RESULTS IN POINTS BEING DEDUCTION FROM THE PRESENTATION**
- **SEMINAR STUDENTS HAVE THE OPTION OF WRITING A 5-8 PAGE CITED PAPER WITH A WORKS CITED PAGE.**
- **PLAGARISM IN ANY FORM WILL BE GIVEN A FAILING GRADE. TAKING ANOTHER’S THOUGHTS, IDEAS, OR INFORMATION IS A CRIME. GO AHEAD AND USE IT, BUT IT MUST BE CITED.**

## II. Reading Quizzes

**All reading for each session must be done prior to class.**

Questions will be asked about each story at the beginning of each session in a written format. These will not be interpretive level questions, but rather “Did you read it?” type questions.

One quiz each session: **192 points** (6 points each story). **NO QUIZ WILL BE TAKEN OR CREDIT GIVEN IF THE STUDENT DOES NOT STAY TO THE COMPLETION OF THE CLASS; YOU CAN NOT COME TO CLASS, TAKE THE QUIZ, AND LEAVE EARLY.**

## III. Exam: 200 points

**THIS IS A W (WRITING) CLASS**

- One 100 point essay, typewritten, double-spaced
- Take-home exam due one week after last class.
- **No late work accepted because grade are due immediately.**

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**ATTENDANCE IS AN EXPECTATION, NOT AN OPTION. CREDIT WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR THIS COURSE IF TWO OR MORE CLASSES ARE NOT ATTENDED, OR ONE OF THE WEEKEND CLASSES IS MISSED. PLEASE DO NOT ASK TO LEAVE EARLY. IF YOU MUST COME LATER OR LEAVE EARLY, HOWEVER, POINTS MUST BE DEDUCTED.**

**ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE OPTION TO WRITE ONE EXTRA ESSAY IF YOU HAVE MISSED A CLASS OR ARE DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR GRADE PERCENTILE. There is an extra option for one excused absence if the instructor has been notified.**

<b>Scale:</b>	<b>97 - 100</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>A+</b>
	<b>93 - 96</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>A</b>
	<b>90 - 92</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>A-</b>
	<b>87 - 89</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>B+</b>
	<b>83 - 86</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>B</b>
	<b>80 - 82</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>B-</b>
	<b>77 - 79</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>C+</b>
	<b>73 - 76</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>C</b>
	<b>70 - 72</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>C-</b>
	<b>67 - 69</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>D+</b>
	<b>63 - 66</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>D+</b>
	<b>60 - 62</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>D-</b>
	<b>59 and Below</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>F</b>

**TEXT: *Norton Anthology* (long version). A quiz will be given the first session over the assigned readings.**

**Reading list: BEGIN READING IMMEDIATELY, as all students are expected to have completed each session's assigned stories prior to attending class. THERE WILL BE A QUIZ AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CLASS SESSION.**

**Session 1:**

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown," p. 139  
Edgar Allan Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher," p. 1266  
Leo Tolstoy, "The Death of Ivan Ilych," p. 1452  
Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), "The Invalid's Story," p. 304  
Ambrose Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," p. 140

**Session 2:**

Guy de Maupassant, "Boule de Suif," p. 1013  
Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour," p. 297  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," p. 597  
Stephan Crane, "The Open Boat," p. 374

**Session 3:**

Willa Cather, "Paul's Case," p. 235  
Sherwood Anderson, "I Want to Know Why," p. 17  
James Joyce, "The Dead," p. 755  
Franz Kafka, "The Metamorphosis," p. 785

**Session 4:**

Isak Dineson, "Sorrow-Acre," p. 429  
D. H. Lawrence, "The Rocking Horse Winner," p. 851  
Katherine Mansfield, "Bliss," p. 992  
Katherine Anne Porter, "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall," p. 1292

**Session 5:**

F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited," p. 548  
William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily," p. 520  
Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants," p. 661  
John Steinbeck, "The Crysanthemums," p. 1389

**Session 6:**

Zora Neale Hurston, "The Conscience of the Court," p. 682  
Issac Bashevis Singer, "Gimpel the Fool," p. 1355  
Eudora Welty, "A Worn Path," p. 1544  
John Cheever, "The Enormous Radio," p. 250

**Session 7:**

Ray Bradbury, "The Veldt," p. 155  
Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery," p. 693  
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World," p. 585  
Alice Walker, "Everyday Use," p. 1512  
Amy Tan, "Rules of the Game," p. 1473