

English 378-1
Contemporary Fiction
University of Wisconsin, SP, Fall 2021

Professor: G. Christopher Williams
Office: CCC 423
Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom
Office Phone: 346-2769
E-mail: cwilliam@uwsp.edu
Class Time: 5:00PM-6:15PM MW
Classroom: CCC 206

Catalogue Description: 3 cr. International fiction since World War II with experimental narrative techniques and/or thematic relationships. GEP: HU

Course Goals and Objectives:

The *primary goal* of this course is to interpret and analyze novels and stories that have emerged within the contemporary literary landscape. In particular, the course is interested in considering the development of postmodern literature in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

As such, we will additionally consider the literary and historical context surrounding these novels and stories and how they reflect changing literary philosophies and aesthetics in contemporary fiction.

Texts:

McCarthy. *The Road*.
Burgess. *A Clockwork Orange*.
Pynchon. *The Crying of Lot 49*.
Barth. *Lost in the Funhouse*.
Palahniuk. *Choke*.
Vonnegut. *Breakfast of Champions*.
Moore. *Watchmen*.



Grading Formula:

Exam #1	100 pts.
Exam #2	100 pts.
Exam #3	100 pts.
Thesis Proposal	20 pts.
Analytical Paper	50 pts.
Final Research Paper	200 pts.
In Class Writing	50-100 pts.
Attendance & Participation	50 pts.

Grading Scale:

	94-100% = A	90-93%=A-
87-89% = B+	84-86% = B	80-83% = B-
77-79% = C+	74-76% = C	70-73% = C-
67-69% = D+	64-66% = D	60-63% = D-
59% and below = F		

Classroom Regulations:

1. **Make-up work. Daily work and exams cannot be made up.** If you choose to not attend and miss a daily writing, **you will receive no points for that assignment.** Missing one or two of these writings will probably have no significant effect on your final grade but missing many of them will. Regular attendance is encouraged. Likewise, your presence is expected on exam days and exams may not be made up. (Note to commuters: exceptions may be made for severe or inclement weather conditions that create unsafe driving conditions)

2. **Exams.** Essay exams will be given in class and will be open book. Bring your book, **since quotation from it will be required for justifying your answers.** No cell phones or other electronic devices will be allowed during the exam period. Blue books will be provided on the date of the exam. As noted, exams may not be made up. Plan to attend.

3. **Research Essay.** This is the most important assignment in the course and must be written in the assigned sequence. You cannot receive a grade on a later stage until you have submitted all of the work previously assigned.

To write this paper you need to do the following:

A. **Read and take notes** in the library (on your own).

B. **Research** using both the library and the internet to familiarize yourself with research on your topic and text. Journals and books are preferred sources of research. Internet sources are largely used for general reference and are generally not preferred.

C. Develop a **thesis proposal** that introduces your argument and some of the research that you will use to frame the argument and/or be opposing in your argument. At least two sources of a scholarly nature should be directly quoted and discussed in this proposal, leading to a discussion of your specific approach to the text and your thesis. This proposal will be about **one page** in length.

D. Write and submit a **four to five page rough draft** of the paper **focusing on the primary source of your research** (that means that quotation of the primary source as well as descriptions of scenes, characters, etc. are the most important evidence in this draft, limit use of secondary sources in this version of the paper largely to the introduction) with an **MLA formatted works cited page.**

E. **Revise and expand** the rough draft to **8-10 pages** using at least **five additional secondary sources** to help you create a framework for your own argument about your primary source or to provide some idea of what you are arguing against. Develop this based on feedback from on your rough draft and, again, using additional secondary research sources.

3. **Plagiarism.** Students in this course are responsible for reading and understanding the university's policy on plagiarism. While inadvertent plagiarism can be easily corrected, intentional plagiarism is a serious academic offense with potentially grave consequences. With the rise of internet usage, incidents of plagiarism have risen. At the same time, internet tools have made plagiarism easier to identify. Don't take chances. Do your own work.

4. **Schedule.** The following schedule **is subject to change at my discretion.** If you have been absent, please make sure to always check with me or with your fellow students regarding possible schedule changes for the next day that you will be attending. While you may have been absent, you are still responsible for being prepared for class when you return.

5. **Attendance.** Attendance is taken at each class. You are allowed **TWO** absences without penalty. Save these for days when you need them. Any absence following the second absence may result in loss of up to 25 attendance points per absence and lost points for daily work. In addition to attendance, these 50 points are also considered participation points. As long as you attend and contribute to discussion regularly, these points are yours. Plan on coming **prepared** to discuss the readings. Additionally, plan on leaving your electronic devices

off during class time. Texting throughout a class, for example, is not being present and participating in a class.

6. Students With Special Needs. If there is anything I can do to help you to make the best of your opportunities in higher education, please let me know. If any special equipment, interpreters, or books on tape that would aid you in pursuing your interests in the course, I will do my best to help make those things available to you.

	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 - Week of Aug. 29	No Class	No Class
2 - Week of Sept. 5	No Class	Introduction to the syllabus
3 - Week of Sept. 12	<i>Lost in the Funhouse</i> , “Frame-Tale,” “Night-Sea Journey,” “Ambrose His Mark”	<i>Lost in the Funhouse</i> , “Lost in the Funhouse,” “Autobiography,” “Water-Message”
4 - Week of Sept. 19	<i>Lost in the Funhouse</i> , “Title,” “Life-Story” “Anonymiad”	<i>Breakfast of Champions</i>
5 - Week of Sept. 26	<i>Breakfast of Champions</i>	<i>Breakfast of Champions</i>
6 – Week of Oct. 3	<i>The Crying of Lot 49</i>	<i>The Crying of Lot 49</i>
7 – Week of Oct. 10	Exam #1	<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>
8 - Week of Oct. 17	<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>	<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>
9 - Week of Oct. 24	<i>Choke</i>	<i>Choke</i>
10 - Week of Oct. 31	Discussion of Research Paper	<i>Choke</i>
11 - Week of Nov. 7	Exam #2	<i>The Road</i>
12 - Week of Nov. 14	Thesis Proposal Due	<i>The Road</i>
13 - Week of Nov. 21	<i>The Road</i>	Thanksgiving No Class
14 - Week of Nov. 28	<i>Watchmen</i>	<i>Watchmen</i>
15 - Week of Dec. 5	<i>Watchmen</i>	Analytical Draft Due

Final Exam: Friday the 17^h, 12:30-2:30PM