English 2305 Introduction to Fiction  
Fall 2006—Syllabus

Instructor Name: Sasha West
Email Address: sswest@uh.edu
Office Location/Hours: Roy Cullen 101, by appointment
Mailbox Location: Roy Cullen 230A
Time: Monday & Wednesday 4:00-5:30 PM

Course Description/Goals:
An introductory study of fiction, encompassing both the short story and novel genres, with an emphasis on understanding the vocabulary of literary analysis, several major periods of literature, and various critical approaches to literature. This knowledge will be applied to fiction in both discussion and writing. Students will improve their critical thinking and their analysis of literature, with the goal of being able to independently analyze in-depth a major work of fiction by the end of the semester.

Learning Outcomes:
--Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills in their writing about literature and critical texts.
--Students will be able to demonstrate their conceptualized understanding of specific creative and critical texts.
--Students will recognize the value of their English studies for their future pursuits by understanding how the effective use of language influences communication and creates effective arguments.

Prerequisites:
Eligibility for English 2305 requires passing grades for English 1303 and 1304, passing grades for equivalent courses at another university, or proof of exemption.

Students who do not show proof of meeting the prerequisites by the 12th day of the semester will be dropped from the course. It is your responsibility to turn in proof that you have met the course prerequisite to me or to my mailbox in Roy Cullen, RM 230A.

Required Materials:

A notebook dedicated exclusively to the class that you will bring to every class meeting. You will use it for in class writing, notes, and homework assignments; I may ask to see it during any given class period.

Recommended Texts:
A current handbook for grammar and spelling rules.
Course Policies and Format:

All class members (teacher and students) are expected to treat each other with a respectful and professional manner.

Students are expected to be prepared: they will arrive on time for class, will have read all assigned material, written all assigned prompts, and they will be ready to discuss or work on that material.

Course Requirements:

Two short papers, 3-4 pages in length, covering assigned topics
One research paper, 7-10 pages in length, on a topic agreed upon by the instructor and the student
One group presentation on a critical theory
A final exam to be completed in class
Special projects such as oral reports, daily quizzes on reading, class discussion of assigned readings and journal entries
Class participation and attendance

A note on participation and attendance:

Because this is a seminar style class, your participation is of paramount importance and will be factored into your grade. Students are expected to attend regularly and participate actively in all discussions. All absences and tardies will negatively affect your grade. In a class that meets twice a week, students are permitted to miss four classes and will be dropped for excessive absence on their fifth missed class meeting. If you are more than 10 minutes late for class without prior consent, you will be counted absent.

Religious holidays may be excused if the student submits a notice to me stating his or her intention in advance of the absence.

Students will make up all work missed during an absence. It is the student’s responsibility to contact me or another student to get missed assignments.

Grading Standards:

Written assignments are to be set up in the format designated by the Modern Language Association [MLA]. (e.g. typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, paragraph indents)

A 90-100% Exceptional work; superior in analysis, mechanics, and style
B 80-89% Above average work; superior in one or two of the following areas: analysis, mechanics, and style
C 70-79% Average work; analysis is correct but lacks superior mechanics or style
D 60-69% Below average work; noticeable weak in analysis, mechanics, and style
F 0-59% Failing work; clearly deficient in analysis, mechanics, and style

Breakdown of grades is as follows:
Short critical essay #1 10%
Short critical essay #2 10%
Group analysis of critical theory [oral presentation with handout] 20%
Term paper 30%
Final Exam 20%
Classroom participation and minor assignments 10%

Note: you must turn in all assigned essays to pass the class. No paper will be considered for a grade if it is not typed, unless otherwise specified.

Essays are due at the date and time specified on the specific assignment sheet. Essays submitted late will lose one third of a letter grade for each 24 hours (or portion thereof) they are late. For example, if a paper would have received a B but is 4 hours late, its grade is automatically reduced to a B-. Essays more than one week late will receive a failing grade.

If you are submitting an essay late, do not wait until the next class period. I recommend that you email it to me as a .doc or .rtf file in order to accurately record the date it was submitted. However, you are still responsible for submitting a hard copy to me or to my mailbox. If you only submit a paper to my mailbox I will count it as having been submitted the day I pick it up, which will not necessarily be the day you turned it in.

Extensions on assignments must be arranged ahead of time. If you anticipate getting behind in coursework talk to me immediately so that we can work out a mutually agreed upon schedule of due dates. If you fall ill or have a family emergency, talk to me immediately. If I do not hear from you, you could be dropped from the course for excessive absences.

If you enrolled in the course late you will be expected to make up all missed work within your first two weeks of your enrollment date.

General Policies for All Written Work
All essays should be typed in 12-pt font, with 1-inch margins on all sides, in a typeface that would be published in a textbook or scholarly journal (i.e. no “Sand” or “Dingbats”).

You are responsible for keeping an extra copy of your written work (either a hard copy or an electronic copy) and for keeping graded copies once they are returned. Never turn in your only copy of an assignment! In the instance of a grade discrepancy, the student is responsible for producing the original graded paper(s).

Students are expected to do their own work. Work represented as the student’s that is not his or her own (be it taken from a website, other resource or person) constitutes plagiarism. The assignment will receive an automatic zero and the student may be expelled from the University, depending on the severity of the plagiarism. I will not accept a paper from you until you submit a plagiarism contract.

Academic Honesty:
In this class, we function as a community of scholars sharing ideas. Plagiarism means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work into one’s own written work offered for credit regardless if such plagiarism occurs intentionally or
unintentionally. According to university and departmental policies, plagiarism constitutes grounds for failure of the assignment in question, possible failure of the course, and/or suspension from the university.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following:
--Copying from another student’s paper
--Using unauthorized materials during a test
--Collaborating with another student on a paper or during a test
--Knowingly using, buying, selling, transporting, copying, or soliciting in whole or in part the contents of an assigned paper or an administered test

Protect yourself by keeping all research notes & drafts of your papers.

**Academic Support Services:**

**The Writing Center,** AH 211-217, maintains a staff of tutors who are trained to help you with your writing at any stage of the writing process. You are encouraged to visit the writing center at any time; students may occasionally be instructed to visit the writing center for a specific purpose.

**The Center for Students with DisABILITIES** “provides academic support services for all UH students who have any type of health impairment, learning disability, physical disability, or psychiatric disorder.” Students who want to know more about these services should consult the Student Handbook, or should contact CSD in 307 Student Services Center, 713-743-5400 (voice) or 713-749-1527 (TTY); www.uh.edu/csd.