

Syllabus for Spring Semester, 2006
Course Number: ENLT 140
Dr. Rebecca Beal, Professor of English

Office: 208 CLP

Office Hours: Monday and Friday, 2-3; Thursday 2:30-3:30 (Please note: there will be no office hours on University holidays, snow days, or other days when classes are cancelled.

There will be no office hours when I am scheduled to attend conferences. These dates will be announced in class.)

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Course Description: “An exploration of fiction, poetry, and drama. The approach is inductive; the aims are a greater understanding of literature, and an introduction to techniques of literary scholarship, theory, and research” (2005-06 Undergraduate Catalog 138).

Area: ENLT 140 or its equivalent is a requirement for English majors and for Secondary Education (English) majors, whom we expect will take the course before (or concurrently) with their first English courses. The course also satisfies three credits of the general education humanities credit (CL) and prepares students to take another three credit course in English or literature. The course does not satisfy the writing intensive requirement.

Aims: You should learn to read fiction, poetry, and drama with greater discernment. You should be able, by the end of this course, to analyze the elements and strategies of these three genres, and you should learn to respond more articulately to works in all three genres, both orally and in writing.

Course Requirements:

- **Attendance** is crucial. This course follows current University policy, that “Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of courses in which they are enrolled. Every student is responsible for all material presented and announcements made during any class” (Undergraduate Catalog 62). You will be allowed a maximum of six absences, except in extraordinary circumstances. **Excessive absence (more than six absences) is grounds for failing this course.** If you discover you have missed an excessive number of class sessions, you should drop immediately.
- You will be asked to participate both orally and in writing.
- **All out-of-class papers** must be word-processed and printed. Papers will follow the guidelines laid out in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (5th ed.) and should be turned in on time. If you know you will be unable to complete a major paper on its due date, you must make arrangements with me at least 24 hours before the beginning of class when that paper is due. Otherwise, your late paper will lose a grade each calendar day (A will become A-, and so on.) No major paper will be accepted after a set of papers has been returned to the class. Your first out-of-class formal essay will consist of an analysis of a play we will read in class and view as a production. You must see the production to write the paper.
- **Failure to complete a major assignment (an exam or essay)** is grounds for receiving an F on the assignment and having the course grade lowered by one level (C to D, for instance).

- **Statement on plagiarism:** According to Gibaldi, plagiarism involves using “another person’s ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source” (30). If you plagiarize, whether intentionally or not, you will earn an F on the plagiarized assignment. Your semester grade will be lowered at least a full point (a C would become a D). A blatant case of plagiarism is grounds for failing the course.
- In this class, if you use a source, you must document that source using the MLA style of parenthetical documentation (see the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.) In order to give you a grade for that paper, I must have access to your sources. Thus, if you use a source, unless the source is one we all share (such as our textbook), xerox the source (and make sure your xerox contains applicable references), and turn in the source attached to your essay.
- You will attend two University of Scranton dramatic productions: The Ladies of the Camellias, showing February 23-26, and Urinetown, showing March 31 and April 1-2 and April 7-9 (University plays are presented on the first floor of the McDade Center for Literary and Performing Arts.) The times are as follows: a special 10 a.m. matinee performance, Friday, February 24, of Ladies of the Camellias which our class will attend (if you cannot attend that showing, you may attend another performance of the same play): for both productions, 8 pm for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday performances, and 2 pm on Sundays. Please save your program and ask a member of the cast or crew to sign it for you, then hand it in to me to receive credit for attendance. You will also write an essay on Ladies of the Camellias.

Required Texts:

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 5th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1999. N.B., this text is a must-have in all your English courses.

Kennedy, X. J. and Dana Gioia. Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama. 3rd Compact Edition. NY: Longman, 2003. Our main text for this class.

Recommended Text: a good dictionary.

Assignments and Grades: we will study three genres of literature in three distinct units. In each unit you will take part in class discussion, write a major paper (ca. 1400 words), take a 50-minute exam, and complete short written assignments, often in-class. The exam and paper will each count 40% of a unit, and the average of your short written assignments and oral class participation will count 20%. Each unit will count 1/3 of your **final semester grade**. Since I expect that one unit will build on the next, I will consider improvement throughout the semester when I calculate the final grade.

I will compute your **mid-term grade** on the basis of your grade in the first unit.

Expectations: To succeed in this class, you must take the course seriously. This means attending class prepared to work. Read the day’s assignment carefully before class and answer short questions before you arrive; take part in discussions on the basis of your reading, and plan to speak up at least twice, either sharing with others the insights you have had, or asking about those things you don’t understand. Finally, spend adequate time and thought preparing for longer assignments and examinations.

Exam dates: Unit #1 (Drama): March 1; Unit #2 (Fiction): March 31; Unit #3 (Poetry): Finals week (there will not be a cumulative examination in this class.)

Exam Content and Etiquette. Exams will usually consist of short answer questions and an essay question and will be conducted in class. You should bring a couple of pens; no other materials will be required. You should stay in class until you have completed the exam. I will assume that you have finished your exam when you leave the room. Please respect other students taking the test, and remain silent even after you (and your friends) have finished.

Final notes:

- Save notes and rough drafts of your written work. Make back-up files of all work you complete on the computer.
- Plan to write each unit's paper in stages: first, a draft containing a main thesis and the major points, along with supporting examples for each point; next a revised version improving the introduction and conclusion, fine-tuning the order of the argument, and inserting transitions between major points. Let this version rest a day or so, then edit the final version for grammar, mechanics and spelling. Format the essay according to MLA. At each point in this process run off a hard copy of your essay and read that before proceeding to the next stage. Save all copies.
- Keep and review records: for each unit in class, save class notes, written assignments (and my comments), and exams. Review all your notes, texts, and written assignments when you prepare for exams. Review my comments on previous papers as you go on to other papers. If you have questions about any grade you get, ask!
- Find a place to study for this class, and go there at a particular time. Make study a habit, so that when you are in that particular place, you train yourself to focus on the work at hand. Study in smaller chunks of time but over a longer sequence (1 1/2 hours a day, six days a week, instead of three hour chunks twice a week).

Schedule of Readings, Exams and Assignments

Day	Date	Assignments: readings refer to pages in Kennedy and Gioia, <u>Literature</u> .
M	30-Jan	INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AND ONE ANOTHER
		UNIT #1: DRAMA
W	1-Feb	Reading a Play: Glaspell Read: 865-84
F	3-Feb	Reading a Play: Martin, McNally Read 884-902; 1357-60
M	6-Feb	Modern Theatre: Ibsen, <u>A Doll's House</u> , Act I Read 1103-29
W	8-Feb	<u>A Doll's House</u> , Act II Read 1129-46
F	10-Feb	<u>A Doll's House</u> , Act III Read 1146-64
M	13-Feb	View taped scenes of <u>A Doll's House</u> No reading.

- W 15-Feb Discussion: Evaluating a Play, Writing about Drama
Read 1189-92; 1461-68; Background--1415-24
- F 17-Feb Modern Theatre: Ladies of the Camellias
Reading TBA
- M 20-Feb Ladies of the Camellias
Reading TBA
- W 22-Feb Ladies of the Camellias
Reading TBA
- Febr. 23-26: Ladies of the Camellias.
- F 24-Feb Attend matinee performance of Ladies of the Camellias
This performance will last longer than class time and will be followed by a discussion.
- M 27-Feb In-class peer review of first essay. Bring two copies of a finished draft.
- W 1-Mar Exam #1: Drama
- Unit #2: Fiction**
- F 3-Mar **THE SHORT STORY AND PLOT (1-15)**
Read: Updike, "A & P" (15-20)
- M 6-Mar **POINT OF VIEW (23-28)**
through Read: Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (29-36).
- W 8-Mar Read: Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (53-79)
- F 10-Mar **CHARACTER (81-83)**
Read: Walker, "Everyday Use" (92-99); Baldwin (77-79)
- M 13-Feb **SETTING (116-18)**
through Read: Chopin, "The Storm" (119-23); Tan, "A Pair of Tickets" (132-48)
- W 15-Mar
- F 17-Mar **TONE AND STYLE (150-54)**
through Read: Faulkner, "Barn Burning" (158-72); Irony (172-73)
- M 20-Mar Read: Hemingway, "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" (154-57)
- W 22-Mar **THEME (AND SYMBOL (200-202)**
through Read: O'Connor, pp. 253-54; "Revelation" 265-81. Backgrounds, 281-96.
- F 24-Mar Read: O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" 254-65.
- M 27-Mar **Discussion of Fiction Paper Assignment.**
Read: Writing Critically 1415-24; 1425-39.
- W 29-Mar **In-class peer review of first essay. Bring two copies of a finished draft.**
- F 31-Mar **Exam #2: Fiction**

M	3-Apr	Unit #3: Poetry Reading a Poem Read Chapter 10
W	5-Apr	Listening to a Voice Read Chapter 11
F	7-Apr	Words Read Chapter 12
M	10-Apr	Saying and Suggesting Read Chapter 13
W	12-Apr	Imagery Read Chapter 14
F	14-Apr	Figures of Speech Read Chapter 15
M	17-Apr	Song Read Chapter 16
W	19-Apr	Sound Read Chapter 17
F	21-Apr	Rhythm Read Chapter 18
M	24-Apr	Closed Form Read Chapter 19
W	26-Apr	Open Form Read Chapter 20
F	Apr. 28	Symbol Read Chapter 21
M	1-May	Discussion of Poetry Paper Assignment
W-F	3-5 May	To be announced.
M	8-May	Poetry and Personal Identity Read Chapter 23
W	10-May	Emily Dickinson Read 735-50
F	12-May	Peer review of paper #3 on poetry; bring two drafts to class. Read 751-769