

English 120  
Dr. Julianne Newmark  
Fall 2008

## Introduction to Literature

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 11:00 to 11:50 a.m.  
Classroom: Cramer 120

Office Phone: 835-5901  
Email: [jnewmark@nmt.edu](mailto:jnewmark@nmt.edu)  
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment in 211 Fitch.

### ABOUT OUR COURSE:

This course seeks to introduce you to three primary genres of literature: the short story, the poem, and the play. These, of course, are extremely capacious categories in themselves and as such serve as large “generic” terms. What I mean by this is that there are many sub-type of plays, or short stories, or poems (of course you’ve noticed that some poems rhyme and some don’t; some are written in 17<sup>th</sup>-century English and some are written in modern slang; some have words scattered all over the page and some are organized into neat stanzas). We will investigate the history of artistic writing, writing as “literary art,” primarily, across linguistic and geographic boundaries, as well as national and cultural boundaries. Sadly, we will not have the opportunity to read any novels or novellas this semester, but my hope is that the historical knowledge and critical tools with which this course will equip you will enable you to become a more sensitive and insightful reader of the novels you choose to read by yourself or that you will read in upcoming classes in your college career. The “Introduction to Literature” course seeks to introduce you to the beauties of writing *through* the act of reading beautiful and complex writing, writing that for centuries has made men and women feel compelled to react, struggle, celebrate, and contemplate. We will do all of these over the course of this semester.

### POLICIES:

#### **Required texts:**

- *An Introduction to Literature, Fifteenth Edition*. Barnet, Burto, Cain.
- A style-guide of your choice
- Occasional texts that I will post on my website

#### **Required work and grading scale:**

Your grade will be based on various factors, including attendance, participation, and completion and quality of written work. You will be expected to participate in daily class discussions, occasional online discussions, and occasional group work in class. You will write two formal papers and complete two exams.

Essay one (four to five pages)	90	<b>Grading scale:</b>	
Essay two (four to five pages)	90	A	465 and above
Midterm Exam	75	A-	450-464
Final Exam	150	B+	435-449
Textual analysis	20	B	415-434
Quizzes (as needed)	10	B-	400-414
Poetry recitation/drama presentation	15	C+	385-399
Blog postings	20	C	365-384
Participation and attendance	40	C-	350-364
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500</b>		

**Class Participation:**

You will be evaluated on your ability and willingness to participate in classroom discussions and other activities. Keep this in mind and be sure to be alert in class, prepared for class work, and engaged in our subject matter.

**Textual Analysis, Poetry Recitation, Drama:**

Once during the term, each student will offer an analysis of a reading of the student's choice (by the scheduled author for the class-day's discussion). This brief presentation must also incorporate discussion of one or two pieces of pertinent criticism of the author's work along with the student's own reading (i.e. analysis) of the text. During our week of poetry recitation, each student will have to memorize and present to the class a poem chosen from the selected authors for that week. The student must demonstrate preparedness and comprehension and be able to explain why he/she chosen the selected poem to recite. This is perhaps an "old-fashioned" activity, but it is one that students find that they enjoy! Also, student groups will present scenes from plays at the end of the semester. This fun activity will be an opportunity for students to work with peers on presenting and reflecting on dramatic literature.

**Attendance and Tardiness:**

If you miss more than three classes, you will be asked to drop the course or you will receive a failing grade. There are, of course, extraordinary situations in which absences might be excused. A stay in the hospital, for example, is what I would call "extraordinary." I do take attendance into consideration in the calculation of your final grade, along with the abovementioned factor of participation. Be sure to attend all class meetings and to be on time. Every three days that you are tardy (more than five minutes) count as one "absent" day. I consider this syllabus, incidentally, as your contract with me, and mine with you. If you choose to continue in this class, after reading this syllabus, I expect that you will abide by the requirements of this course.

**Quizzes:**

There will be a series of unannounced reading quizzes throughout the term.

**Our Class Blog:**

I will expect all students to actively participate in our class blog. I am not requiring a set number of postings per student, but I do want to see an active effort made by each student to write and think about the texts we're reading and to raise questions or present analyses on our class blog. Each week, I will start a new entry to which I will expect students to reply by entering their own "comments." We will discuss our blog, and our mutual expectations for it, in class.

**Late Papers:**

Papers must be turned in at the beginning of our class time on the day the assignment is due. After this time, for each day an assignment is late, I will deduct one letter grade (meaning, if the paper begins at an "A" and is one day late, I will begin grading it from an "A-" -- etcetera). Again, extraordinary circumstances might excuse a late assignment, but these are rare. I will not accept emailed versions of papers; you must come to class, or arrange to see me in my office, to turn in your paper-copy of your assignment. I reserve the right not to accept late papers.

**Courteousness and Cell Phones:**

We will be covering some sensitive topics in this class. So, I will expect you to behave appropriately and be open to different opinions. Above all, be courteous to your classmates. One sign of courteousness is that you turn off your cell phone before entering class. If there are repeated problems with your cell phone, I will ask you to leave the classroom for the day. You will take an absence that day.

**Equal Access:**

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

**Plagiarism:**

In our course, I will review the standards of correct citation, academic honesty, and intellectual property. After this information has been presented to you in class, you are responsible for it and cannot claim ignorance as a defense against an accusation of academic dishonesty. You will need to quote directly from literary texts, and appropriately cite these texts, in both of your papers and in your exams. Each of your papers must have a Works Cited page.

Plagiarism, in very general terms, is the use of someone else's words or ideas without proper citation. The style guide *Everyday Writer*, which you may have from English 111 or 112, includes information about plagiarism. I suggest that you become familiar with pages 168 and 173-175 and commit to memory the information regarding plagiarism that I provide for you in class. All other good style guides provide detailed information on avoiding plagiarism. Also, the NMT library offers a handy website addressing many plagiarism issues and provides advice on avoiding plagiarism:  
<http://infohost.nmt.edu/~nmtlib/INFO/OREf/plagiarism.html>

**Essay Format:**

All work that is to be handed in must be in MLA format, typed, double-spaced, printed on white paper in black ink, and must use twelve-point font (preferably Times New Roman). If your paper does not conform to these stylistic requirements, I will hand it back to you without a grade and you will be required to reformat in and will suffer a late-paper penalty. Again, your papers must include correct text citations and a Works Cited page.

**Course calendar:**

	DATE	ITEMS DUE
1	Wednesday, August 27	Course introduction. What is literature? Why do we read it? What our course will – and won't – cover, and why.
	Friday, August 29	Ch. 1 through pg.13
2	Monday, September 1	NO CLASSES
	Wednesday, September 3	Ch. 1 to end. Genres of literature. Discuss student textual analysis.
	Friday, September 5	Ch. 5 to pg. 108. Plot, character, theme. Maugham, Chekhov, Chopin. <b>Student Textual Analysis</b>
3	Monday, September 8	Continue with above.
	Wednesday, September 10	Ch. 6 to 141. Narrative point of view. Concentrate on Updike and Bierce.
	Friday, September 12	Ch. 7 to 162. Hawthorne.
4	Monday, September 15	Ch. 7, 176 to end. Márquez and Lawrence. <b>Student Textual Analysis</b>
	Wednesday, September 17	Continue with above.
	Friday, September 19	Ch. 8, 203-210. View Bierce film. P.O.V. in film, in literature.
5	Monday, September 22	TBA
	Wednesday, September 24	Raymond Carver, "Cathedral": 313-323
	Friday, September 26	Oscar Casares, "Yolanda": 323-329
6	Monday, September 29	Ralph Ellison, "Battle Royal": 349-360 <i>Assign Essay One.</i>
	Wednesday, October 1	Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper": 391-402 <b>Student Textual Analysis</b>
	Friday, October 3	James Joyce, "Araby," and Franz Kafka "A Hunger Artist": 412-423
7	Monday, October 6	Ch. 3
	Wednesday, October 8	Ch. 3 continued Sign up for poetry recitation week.

	Friday, October 10	<b>ESSAY ONE DUE</b> Discuss and view our class blog.
8	Monday, October 13	<b>Poetry Recitation Week: Read all of Ch. 11.</b> During this week, I will read many poems to you and we will discuss narrative and lyric poetry, poetic tone and figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and rhythm. EACH student will present a poem from memory and will interpret the poem and explain <i>why</i> the particular poem was the student's choice.
	Wednesday, October 15	
	Friday, October 17	
9	Monday, October 20	Poetry discussion and review
	Wednesday, October 22	<b>In-Class MIDTERM EXAM</b>
	Friday, October 24	NO CLASSES
10	Monday, October 27	TBA
	Wednesday, October 29	Poetry continued. Poems to be assigned.
	Friday, October 31	Poetry continued. Poems to be assigned. Writing about poetry.
11	Monday, November 3	Ch. 25, 947-952
	Wednesday, November 5	Ch. 26, 1098-1133 (to the beginning of <i>Hamlet</i> 2.1)
	Friday, November 7	Ch. 26 to 1152 (to the beginning of <i>Hamlet</i> 3.1)
12	Monday, November 10	Ch. 26 to 1178 (to the beginning of <i>Hamlet</i> 4.1) <b>Student Textual Analysis</b>
	Wednesday, November 12	Ch. 26 to 1217 (to end of <i>Hamlet</i> )
	Friday, November 14	Ch. 30, 1471-1499 (August Wilson, <i>Fences</i> , to beginning of Act 2)
13	Monday, November 17	Ch. 30, 1499- 1520 (to end of <i>Fences</i> ) <b>Student Textual Analysis</b>
	Wednesday, November 19	Ch. 31 to 1545.
	Friday, November 21	Ch. 31 to end.
14	Monday, November 24	Essay question-and-answer day
	Wednesday, November 26	<b>ESSAY TWO DUE</b> Begin group drama presentation work in class.
	Friday, November 28	NO CLASSES
15	Monday, December 1	Group presentation of scenes from plays, with critical interpretation and explanation.
	Wednesday, December 3	
	Friday, December 5	Appendix B: Writing Essay Exams.
16	Monday, December 8	Exam review. Course evaluation.
	Wednesday, December 10	<b>In-Class FINAL EXAM Pt. 1</b>
	Friday, December 12	<b>In-Class FINAL EXAM Pt. 2</b>