|  |
| --- |
| SYLLABUS: ENG 104 FICTION  FALL 2020 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| INSTRUCTOR: | Chris Riseley |
| OFFICE: | North Santiam Hall 211-- no face to face visits during quarantine |
| OFFICE HOURS: | We will be in touch as needed via phone, text and Zoom, I plan to be as available as I can during the hours from 9:00am and 5:00pm Mon-Fri |
| TELEPHONE: | 541-250-1652 -- This is my private cell for use during quarantine only. You are welcome to text and call me here between 9:00am and 5:00pm Mon-Fri. |
| E-MAIL: | chris.riseley@linnbenton.edu |
| PREREQUISITE: | WR 121 is recommended for this class. |
| FIRST PRINCIPLES: | * Everything is a story. * Being able to understand stories means we can understand everything. * The world is a very complicated place that only gets more complicated every single year. Actively engaging with fiction offers us tools that will improve our ability to understand the structures that support and confine our lives. We also gain clarity about ourselves and our fellows. * We do this learning together. You will have partners in class and you will have partners in the Writing Center. * We succeed when we are engaged and willing. * Be engaged.   + What does genuine engagement look like?     - Completing assignments.     - Asking questions.     - Taking this course seriously.     - Visiting office hours to get help or just to talk * We learn best by bringing our genuine selves to whatever we do * Be curious * Take risks * Be respectful * Be curious -- wait, did I already say that? Oh yeah, I did. I’m saying it again because guess what: it is absolutely essential to becoming a better writer |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION: | Welcome to this course! The purpose of this class is to help you enjoy, interpret, and reflect on fiction. It’s partly a class about literature, and partly a class about humanity, psychology, and philosophy. We’ll look at how to read and enjoy stories more, as well as how to interpret them and reflect on them so we can understand ourselves and the world more clearly. We’ll explore issues of love, power, identity, ambition, spirituality, conformity, individual identity, fame, money, death, failure, politics, fear? What issues are important to you?  During the course, I’d like to explore some questions with you: Is fiction practical and relevant, or is it just a form of entertainment? How do you interpret a story so that you don’t feel you’re dissecting it, but finding meaning in it? How can seeing our own lives as a story, as a “Hero’s Journey,” give us wisdom and insight on how to live?  This course may also invite you into a world of contemporary fiction where you will discover fiction that you genuinely love.  This is how our LBCC catalog describes this course:   * Examines fiction through selected literary works, such as the short story and the novel, and increases understanding of the conventions of fiction. Encourages exploration of the human experience through the reading of significant short stories and novels, with an emphasis on analysis, interpretation, and the fiction-writer's craft. |
| LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: | Moodle.  You will be guided to many other websites during this term but the bulk of our interaction will happen within Moodle. If you ever have any questions, remember that I am available by text 40 hours a week for your success. |
| ENG 104 LEARNING OUTCOMES | By the end of the course students should be able to:   * Analyze stories using the major elements of literary fiction (plot, characterization, conflict, setting, point of view, irony, and symbolism). * Interpret and evaluate works of literary fiction based on analysis of their aesthetic, figurative, and narrative elements. * Understand traditional methods of literary analysis (mythological, psychological, sociological, or gender-based) at a basic level and apply them to form interpretations and evaluations of literary fiction. * Articulate how reading literary fiction affects their understanding of themselves and the range of human experiences and questions that fiction explores. Interpret and engage in literature and the arts, making use of the creative process to enrich the quality of life. * Critically analyze values and ethics within a range of human experience and expression to engage more fully in local and global issues. |
| FALL 2020  CONTRACT  GRADING: | Students in this class will contract for an A grade, a B grade, or a C grade.  This is an important decision for you to make, so please read carefully.  This policy is enacted because we realize that during our current pandemic, students’ lives have become increasingly complicated, and we want to place you more in charge of your time. How much time, effort, energy, and enthusiasm will you be capable of bringing to your work in this class?  Read the difference in the amount of work and dedication closely.  Students in pursuit of the C grade will complete the following at the C level:   * core material (lectures, videos, audio, etc.) * read, analyze, and discuss 15 short stories at C level * 1 midterm exam (C level) * 1 final exam (C level)   Students in pursuit of the B grade will complete the following at the B level:   * core material (lectures, videos, audio, etc.) * read, analyze, and discuss 20 short stories at B level * write 5 to 7 page research paper with citations at B level * conversation with instructor regarding paper (B level) * 1 midterm exam (B level) * 1 final exam (B level)   Students in pursuit of the A grade will complete the following at the A level:   * leadership role in groups and forums -- often requiring several more posts per discussion * core material (lectures, videos, audio, etc.) * read, analyze, and discuss 20 short stories at A level * read, analyze, and discuss the novel Beloved by Toni Morrison * write 7 to 10 page research paper with citations at A level * conversation with instructor regarding paper (A level) * creative writing project: short story (A level) * conversation with instructor regarding short story (A level) * 1 midterm exam (A level) * 1 final exam (A level) |
| SKILLS | • Enjoy, appreciate, and analyze fiction  • Discover fiction you can enjoy and recommend  • Provide critical response to peers’ work  • Develop your responses to readings  • Focus, develop, and organize your thoughts in writing  • Evaluate your own work using commonly accepted standards for thoughtful writing  • Follow standard grammatical conventions for academic writing  • Integrate outside sources using MLA or APA standards |
| Textbooks & Materials: | This term you will receive links to materials during class.  Students selecting the A grade contract will read the novel Beloved, by Toni Morrison which is available in our bookstore. |
| College Resources | Library  Writing Center and ONLINE WRITING LAB (OWL) |
| Tips for Success | Make this class fun for you. Crack yourself up as you practice your writing. Crack up your friends. Take risks.  Teach me how to make this class as fun and engaging as an online college level writing class can be.   * Come to class prepared and read/write assignments before class. * Do your work on time. * Always have your materials at hand. * Do your own work.   + *Plagiarism (using someone else’s work as your own without proper intext citation and documentation) will result in your failing the assignment and failing the class.*   Write about what matters to you. |
|  |  |
| **LATE WORK POLICY** | After many years of being both a student and teacher, I have learned that getting our assignments in on time is best for us as students and for me as your teacher. This is the most ideal situation and it is the most fair one for all of the members of our class. We have deadlines and everyone meets the deadlines.  I realize that life can interfere with a deadline, but more often than not it is not really something important and unforeseen that interferes with our ability to turn in an assignment on time. Very often it is simply a lack of focus on time management that causes a paper to be late. I feel like it isn’t fair to other students in the class if late papers are awarded the same points as papers that were turned in on time. The maximum score that late paper can receive is a C. Turning in any assignments late will default your contract grade to C regardless of previous efforts. Make sure to connect with me if you foresee challenges in turning assignments in on time.  Late Papers can receive a grade no higher than a C and will be offered zero notes or feedback. To get feedback you will have to bring the paper to a regularly scheduled office hour. |
|  |  |
| Disability Statement: | You should meet with your instructor during the first week of class if  · You have a documented disability and need accommodations,  · Your instructor needs to know medical information about you, or  · You need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.  If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 917-4789. |
| Nondiscrimination Statement: | LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. |
| Distractions  (not really relevant to online versions of this course) | There will be times when students need to take notes and really concentrate during this course. It is our responsibility to keep our environment as free from distractions as possible. For this reason food is not allowed in the classroom. Please eat before or after class.  Of course all personal technological devices should be silenced during class. There might be times when you absolutely must be available to take a phone call. I understand that. If such a day arises, please sit in one of the chairs nearest the door and place your phone on vibrate. Take your call outside the classroom. |
|  |  |
| Revisions | Students will work with writing specialists and their instructor to bring their grades on their paper in alignment with their contract grade. In some cases this may be impossible and students may have to reconsider their contract grade so that it aligns with the scores they are receiving on their papers. |
| Theme | Let’s succeed together. |