ENG 104
Introduction to Literature: Fiction
Summer 2023

Instructor: Damien Weaver
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CRN: 17083
Office: Zoom

Location: Online
Meeting times (virtual): Wed/Sun. 11:59 PM
Credit Hours: 3
Office Hours: Thursday, 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Prerequisites: College level reading and writing skills (WR 121) are strongly recommended for success in this course.

Course Description
In a 1955 essay on the Russian author Isaac Babel, Lionel Trilling gives fiction writers a unique job description: "To reveal the human fact within the veil of circumstances." In describing the effect of Babel's remarkable manipulation of voice and structure in fictional narrative, trilling summons James Joyce's notion of "the epiphany," a sudden realization of the essential nature of something—"a showing forth." Joyce had the theory that when experiencing literature, "suddenly, almost miraculously, by a phrase or a gesture," the humanity of a character could "thrust itself through the veil" of narrative "and for an instant show itself forth, startling us by its existence." Literary fiction, then, in Trilling's view, is not just concerned with conveying what life is, in a statistical or clinical sense, so much as how it *feels* to experience it. The perpetual vacillations between ecstasy and agony, passion and ennui, hope and despair, etc. that characterize human existence.

This course proceeds on the basis of such a notion. Here, we will read and discuss numerous works of short fiction with the aim of cultivating an awareness of "the human fact" it seeks ever to convey. We will familiarize ourselves with the basic elements of literary fiction—character, setting, plot, symbolism, theme, structure, style, tone, and so forth. Overall, we're concerned with thinking about how different writers seek to convey "the human fact" as a timeless, universal condition and as something shaped by the specific contexts—social, cultural, historical, etc.—in which these stories are set and in which they were written. We're also concerned with the significance of the text at the time of its reading, i.e., how is this relevant to us in the current moment of 2023?

Required Resources and Materials:

- Textbook: None. Everything is provided for you on Canvas.

- Internet and Canvas access to complete assignments.

- Access to a word processing program such as Microsoft Word: While Google Docs is robust and useful tool, it can be difficult to properly format documents on that platform. Microsoft Word is much easier and it is available for free to teachers and students. Click here for details.

- Adobe Acrobat Reader DV or similar program that allows you to make notes and highlights on a .pdf. Click here to download Acrobat for free.

GRADING BREAKDOWN	

Discussion Board Posts:
 	
Each week you will produce two analytical responses to one of the assigned stories. These are posted to a discussion board.
 	
     Minimum length: 200 words.
 	
After you have submitted your literary response, you will respond to at least two peers' posts with the aim of furthering the discussion initiated by their writing.
 	
     Minimum word count for each peer response: 50 Words.
 	
*Your two lowest grades in this category will be dropped.
	35%

Reading Quizzes: Multiple choice quizzes on assigned stories, key terms, author biographies, and historical context. All quizzes are open book/open notes, and they will not have a time limit. ***Your two lowest grades in this category will be dropped.**	**35%**
"Professor for a Day" Class Presentation: At some point in the term, you will give a discussion board presentation on an assigned reading.	**10%**
Mid-term Exam Covers assigned readings and relevant literary terms from the first half of the course.	**10%**
Final Exam Covers assigned readings from second half of the course, and ALL literary terms covered from the beginning of the course.	**10%**
Note: Full and detailed descriptions of assignments are available on Canvas.	

Discourse Community and Assignments:
This course treats writing and the analysis of it as an inherently social act. Thus, it is heavily discussion and workshop based. Everything you write for the course constitutes a contribution to the broader discourse created by the class. Weekly written responses to assigned readings are posted to a discussion board on Canvas where students can view and respond to one another. So, like the published authors we read, you will have the opportunity to share your own writing and thoughts with others.

LATE WORK:
Assignments are due at the assigned dates and times, otherwise they are considered late. Weekly literary response assignments and your mid-term essay drafts may be submitted late at a grade penalty of 10 percent per day up to 3 days. After three days, late submissions are not accepted. Submitting major essay drafts late will also affect your peer review grade, which is not possible to make up. The final draft of your final essay cannot be submitted late.

CLASSROOM DECORUM (Applies to the virtual space as well):
Because much of this course is discussion-based, the ability for each student to learn is affected by the contributions and behaviors of every other student. Please show respect to your instructor, to your classmates, and to the process of learning as a whole. Allow others time to talk, try not to interrupt, and above all refrain from rude, offensive, or belittling comments. Remember, we critique writing and ideas, not people. No deliberate derision of your peers or myself will be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, offensive speech regarding one's nationality, race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or disability.

Academic Honesty Policy: When using ideas, words, and short passages from other people's writing in your own writing, you are *required to acknowledge the source*. Failure to acknowledge the contribution of others is considered plagiarism, a serious academic offense; fabrication of sources is another form of academic dishonesty. We'll discuss academic honesty more in class, but note that suspect papers (e.g., those without drafts or works cited pages, papers which make large departures in style from your other work) may be submitted to Turnitin.com as part of the grading process. Plagiarism may result in receiving zero credit for an assignment.

WRITING RESOURCES

Office Hours You're welcome to come to office hours any time you'd like to discuss questions or concerns related to this course. If you have a time conflict with my office hours, please schedule an appointment.

LBCC Writing Center
From initial ideas to final drafts, the LBCC Writing Center can help you take your writing to the next level. Please feel free to drop in during regular hours to work one-on-one with one of the supportive Writing Assistants. In addition to your draft, please bring your assignment and any questions you have. You may also submit your writing online at lbcc.writingcenteronline.net where you will receive a personalized response within 1-2 business days. For more information, visit the Writing Center online at
http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/learning-center/writing-help

SCHOOL POLICIES

Disability Services
If you have a documented disability, I will help you in any way I can. Talk to me during the first week of class. If you think you might have a disability, but you are not sure, contact Disability Services, 917-4789. Here is a lot more useful information about Disability Services and LBCC's disability policies.

LBCC Non-Discrimination Policy
Everyone is welcome at LBCC, regardless of whether they are black, white, Latino, native, gay, straight, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, atheist, male, female, transgendered, married, disabled, a veteran, a non-English speaker, an immigrant, or any number of other categories not listed here. For the official nondiscrimination policy click here. What is more, LBCC sees our differences as a source of strength and an important part of education. Click here to see what the LBCC board has to say about diversity.