

Critical Approaches to Literary Texts

111-1 文學作品讀法（一）

Fall 2022

Monday 2:10-5:00, 人社二館 A101

Instructor: Prof. Jen-yi Hsu (許甄倚)

Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:30 p.m., and by appointment

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Course Description: This course will introduce students to the genre of fiction and unpack a complex field of interpreting and analyzing literature. We will learn how to approach literature as a distinctive genre with its own specifications and acquaint ourselves with the cultural and historical contexts surrounding the texts. The concern of this class is to engage literature with a critical eye and to introduce students to the complex interactions of region, gender, race, class, and narrative technique in shaping literary works.

Required Book:

Course Reader can be purchased at the xerox center located at the second floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building I (人社一館八角亭二樓影印部)

Grading Policy:

***Please join the Facebook group (Enter the name of the group: 111-1 Critical Approaches to Literary Texts) in which I will post weekly vocabulary lists, lecture slides, supplementary materials, and miscellaneous announcements related to the class.

- Midterm 25%
- Final exam 25%
- attendance & class participation: 10% (leave of absence for illegitimate personal reasons will not be granted)
- vocabulary quizzes 10% (There are no makeup quizzes for any reason!)
- 2 Short Essays 30%

Course Schedule:

Week 1: 9/19 General Introduction (not showing up will not be allowed to register for this course)

Week 2: 9/26 “The Elephant in the Village of the Blind”; “Cathedral” by Raymond Carver

Week 3: 10/3 “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings: A Tale for Children” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez; “A Hunger Artist” by Franz Kafka

Week 4: 10/10 (holiday)

Week 5: 10/17 “The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe; “Araby” by James Joyce

Week 6: 10/24 “Lusus Naturae” by Margaret Atwood; “The Things They Carried” by Tim O’Brien

Week 7: 10/31 “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway; “Interpreter of Maladies” by Jhumpa Lahiri

Week 8: 11/7 film screening: *The Namesake* (2006)

Week 9: 11/14 Midterm Exam

Week 10: 11/21 “A Rose for Emily” by William Faulkner; “Puppy” by George Saunders

- Week 11: 11/28** “The Birth-Mark” by Nathaniel Hawthorne; “A Wall of Fire Rising” by Edwidge Danticat
- Week 12: 12/5** “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” & “Good Country People” by Flannery O’Connor
- Week 13: 12/12** “Everything that Rises Must Converge” by Flannery O’Connor; “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin
- Week 14: 12/19** “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman; “A Jury of Her Peers” by Susan Glaspell
- Week 15: 12/26** “King of the Bingo Game” by Ralph Ellison; “Sonny’s Blues” by James Baldwin
- Week 16: 1/2 (holiday)**
- Week 17: 1/9 Final Exam**