

Critical Approaches to Literary Texts

112-1 文學作品讀法（一）

Fall 2023

Friday 9:10-12:00 AM, 人社二館 B103

Instructor: Prof. Jen-yi Hsu (許甄倚)

Office hours: Monday 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.

***ATTENTION: For those who are not English majors and want to take this course, please consider if you are really interested in “literature” and are able to answer essay questions in English. If you are not, you are advised not to take this course.

Required Course Reader:

Course Reader can be purchased at the Xerox center located on 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: 112-1 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 30%
- Final exam 30%
- Brief presentation 10% (first, read the paragraph of your choice; second, spend about 5-8 minutes explaining why you chose this paragraph and why you like it or think it's important or interesting)
- Attendance & class participation: 10% (leave of absence for illegitimate personal reasons will not be granted)
- vocabulary quizzes 20% (There are no makeup quizzes for any reason!)
- ATTENTION: All the above requirements need to be fulfilled in order to pass this course.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: 9/15 General Introduction (not showing up will not be allowed to register for this course)

Week 2: 9/22 “The Elephant in the Village of the Blind”; “Cathedral” by Raymond Carver (楊書瑜、陳佳韋、王舒婷、許凱雯)

Week 3: 9/29 (holiday)

- Week 4: 10/6** “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings: A Tale for Children” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (彭語綸、魏友宸); “A Hunger Artist” by Franz Kafka (李昀義、陳柏諺)
- Week 5: 10/13** “The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe (武必韜、盧洪溢、馬光華); “Araby” by James Joyce (蔡優賢、Jochebed)
- Week 6: 10/20** “Lusus Naturae” by Margaret Atwood (林千慧、李雅軒、陳怡萱); “The Things They Carried” by Tim O’Brien (劉筱琪、王欣)
- Week 7: 10/27** “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway (謝旻晏、徐琳登); “Interpreter of Maladies” by Jhumpa Lahiri (郭致寬、陳韋呈)
- Week 8: 11/3** film screening: *The Namesake* (2006)
- Week 9: 11/10** Midterm Exam
- Week 10: 11/17** “A Rose for Emily” by William Faulkner (王善業、施宇駿); “Puppy” by George Saunders (蔡宓杞、劉劭廷)
- Week 11: 11/24** “The Birth-Mark” by Nathaniel Hawthorne (劉家盞、孫鼎鈞、姚柏丞); “A Wall of Fire Rising” by Edwidge Danticat (陳立洋、何貫譽)
- Week 12: 12/1** “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” (許家綺、陳昱綦) & “Good Country People” (鍾竣皓、張瓊嫻) by Flannery O’Connor
- Week 13: 12/8** “Everything that Rises Must Converge” by Flannery O’Connor (陳柔均、曾冠綸); “The Story of an Hour” (羅以、李佳穎、謝昀真) by Kate Chopin
- Week 14: 12/15** “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (黃忠華、黃子桓、呂啟緯); “A Jury of Her Peers” by Susan Glaspell (許芷涵、蕭璽)
- Week 15: 12/22** “King of the Bingo Game” by Ralph Ellison (羅世鑫、陳致翰); “Sonny’s Blues” by James Baldwin (陳采葳)
- Week 16: 12/29** film screening: *Get Out* (2017)
- Week 17: 1/5** Final Exam