

SSEI '00
PM

**Chaminade University of Honolulu
Interim Term Evening Program
June 14 – June 30
Barber's Point**

COURSE: English 255 60

TIME(S): M, W, F 1645 – 2055, Sat 0800 1210

INSTRUCTOR: Steven W. Bannow Telephone (H) 382-0129
(W) 971 4052
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TEXTS: Clayton, John J., The Heath Introduction to Fiction, 5th ed.
(Lexington, D.C. Heath ands Co., 1996) [H]

Howe, Irving, Classics of Modern Fiction, 5th ed.
(New York, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993) [C]

OPTIONAL READINGS:

I plan to distribute various selections covering the historical, cultural, and artistic background relating to the authors under consideration and their times. These selections will come from a variety of texts and critical journals.

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION:

Each student shall make an in-class presentation on a writer of his/her choice and a short novel by that writer. Details (including a list of short novels) are found on the last pages of the syllabus.

I. General Objectives of Literature and this Course:

Literature helps us to understand and respond to the major realities of human existence: life, death, love, good, evil, the spiritual. Writers speak to us in many ways: through poetry, drama, short prose, and novels. Some authors succeed in reaching us – through the generations – while others do not.

We study literature to learn about life and, through this process, to grow – emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. We also study literature to acquire a sense of quality and taste. Why, for example, is one author widely regarded as a master or a genius and another is not? Why do the works of one writer withstand “the test of time” and become classics while others’ works are set aside and virtually forgotten soon after they are published?

We will explore the issues raised in the preceding paragraphs as well as others. Our references will be drawn from the world. We will conduct our study in a manner that will cover as much territory as possible without attempting to be overly ambitious. Our studies will be most beneficial if we keep a few things in mind:

1. Read actively, pen or pencil in hand, challenging the writer, noting key passages, and asking questions.
2. Get ahead and stay ahead with your reading assignments. The earlier in the semester you read a work, the more time you will have to reflect upon it.
3. Look for key themes and motifs and try to establish ways of linking or differentiating between the works and their creators through these themes and motifs.
4. Keep your mind open, your creativity unfettered, and your sense of humor engaged at all times.
5. Above all, be ready to think and to have fun.

II. Relationship of this course to the general objectives of the university:

To develop in the student approaches to the creative and analytical understanding of prose fiction, specifically through the study of some of the world's greatest writers.

To open to the student the wealth of our literary heritage – both artistic and intellectual.

To encourage a search for truth through literature and to assist the student in forming a value system and/or a philosophy of life.

III. Format of Course:

Presentation of key points in literary works in-depth supplements by the instructor.

Class discussion of key issues and themes within the works. **Student involvement will be emphasized in all aspects of the learning experience.** Active reading of the assigned material is absolutely essential to a complete understanding of class discussions and to successful completion of all graded requirements.

Student-led responses to various concerns found within the works – both to encourage critical thinking and research and to afford an opportunity to demonstrate effective oral communication techniques.

IV. Grading:

Introductory Assignment	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
In-class presentation	25%
Attendance/Class Participation	15%

NOTE: Class attendance and promptness are essential – especially since we meet for a total of only ten sessions. Unless particularly unusual circumstances can be demonstrated by the student, more than two absences will result in a failing grade. PLEASE give me advance notice any time you must miss a class. (Each student shall obtain the names and telephone numbers of at least two other classmates for the purpose of exchanging information about class notes, syllabus changes, and assignments in the event of an absence.)

V. Schedule.

June 14	Orientation/Distribute Syllabus Video (<u>Of Mice and Men</u>) with Written Assignment. A few literary terms READING ASSIGNMENT: “Introduction: On Fiction” (H – pp. 1 – 32) “To the Student” (C – pp. v – ix) <u>Notes from Underground</u> , Part 1, “Underground,” Chapter 1 (C – pp. 13 – 54)
June 16	Additional Introductory Information Discuss Assignment Distinctions Between Short Story and Novel Discuss Assigned Readings In-Class Reading ASSIGNMENT: “How to Read and Write about Fiction” (H – pp. 33 – 44) Oppression “Desiree’s Baby,” “A Worn Path,” “That Evening Sun,” and “Sunny’s Blues. (All of these selections are in H)

- June 17 Discuss Assigned Reading
In-Class Reading
ASSIGNMENT:
Alienation
Review Notes from Underground
“The Blue Hotel,” “The Metamorphosis,” “The Displaced Person,”
and “The Minister’s Black Veil.”
- June 19 Discuss Assigned Readings
In-Class Reading
ASSIGNMENT:
Love
“The Lady with the Dog,” “The Rocking Horse Winner,” “City
Lovers,” “Hills Like White Elephants,” “The Chrysanthemums.”
- June 21 Discuss Assigned Readings
In-Class Reading
Mid-Term Exam
ASSIGNMENT:
Death or Approach/Awareness of Death
“The Open Boat,” “The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,” “A Good
Man is Hard to Find,” “The Man I Killed,” “The Lives of the
Dead.”
- June 23 Discuss Assigned Readings
In-Class Reading
ASSIGNMENT:
The Mysterious, the Gothic
“The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Madman,” “A Rose for
Emily,” “Idiots First.”
- June 24 Discuss Assigned Readings
In-Class Reading
ASSIGNMENT
Comic Stories
“A Silver Dish,” “Lost in the Funhouse,” “Everyday Use,” “The
Darling.”
Preparations for Student Presentations
- June 26 Discuss Assigned Readings
Begin Student Presentations
In-Class Reading
ASSIGNMENT:
Stories About Storytelling
“Conversations with My Father,” “An Unwritten Novel,”
“Gooseberries.”
Continue to Prepare for Presentations & Final Exam

June 28	Discuss Assigned Readings In-Class Reading Student Presentations ASSIGNMENT: Continue to Prepare for Presentations Continue to Prepare for Final Exam
June 30	Overview of the Short Story and the Novel Continue Student Presentations Final Exam Course Wrap up

Student Presentation Guidelines

Recommended Short Novels:

The Secret Sharer

Heart of Darkness

Animal Farm

1984

War of the Worlds

The Time Machine

Notes from Underground

The Death of Ivan Ilych

Miss Lonelyhearts

Day of the Locusts

The Old Man and the Sea

The Pearl

Billy Budd