English 201, Spring 1997

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PAS 2222

Office hours M 4-5:30
Extension 3841

English 201 deals with the history and techniques of the short story, and will consider both the elements of narrative and elements of genre. Course requirements include two essays, a midterm, and final exam. Marks are not allotted for participation, but attendance and preparation for group discussion are expected.


Assignments:
short essay (4 pages, 1000 words), due June 9, 20%
midterm June 16, 15%
long essay (6 pages, 1500 words), due July 28, 30%
final exam (in exam period) 35%

Readings:

May

5 Introduction

12 Plot and Setting
   “Preview” 3-8, 10
   “Plot” 107-110:
   “Setting” 31-34:

19 Holiday

26 Characterization
   “Character” 67-70:

June

2 The (Un)Reliable Narrator: vision and voice
   Point of View:
   Style and Language:
June (cont’d)

9 Theme and Symbolic Meaning
   Madness and the grotesque:
   “Theme” 225-227; Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”; Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”; Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner”
Symbol and sense of self:

16 Midterm

23 Introducing “genre”: stories about story(-telling)

30 Holiday

July

7 genre as physical and social/historical “form” (myth/able/fairytale and other story-telling traditions: the gothic, the western, science fiction/fantasy)

14 genre as contents: “something in common” (ties and transitions: life and death, the past and present, girls and boys, men and women, children and parents...)

21 genre as “social function”: personal and cultural (de)constructions

28 The Art(ifice) of Fiction(s)
   James, “The Real Thing”; Le Guin, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas”; Bierce, “Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”
Review; long essays due

Essays are due on assigned dates; 3 marks will be deducted per day of unarranged lateness. Be aware of the University of Waterloo’s policy regarding the definition of and academic penalties for plagiarism, “the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one’s own.” Essay topics and use of external sources will be discussed in class and on handouts.