

ENGLISH 3355.010
FALL 2019
9:30-10:45 TR
A015
Syllabus

Instructor: Terence A. Dalrymple

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Office Hours: 8:00-9:00 & 11-12 MW; 8:30-9:30 & 11:00-12:00 TR; and by appointment

Course: English 3355—Fiction and Fiction Writing

Course Description: A study of the theory and accepted practices of fiction and fiction writing. Writing assignments may include both fiction and critical writing.

Prerequisites: Completion of freshman and sophomore requirements in English.

Purposes: This course is designed to introduce students to the principles of effective fiction writing and to provide abundant study and practice of those principles at work.

Major Objectives: Students will make progress in the following areas:

- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) (IDEA #21)
- Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course (IDEA #24)
- Developing creative capacities (Writing, inventing, designing, performing in art, music, drama, etc. (IDEA #26)

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to perform the following tasks effectively:

- Define literary terms discussed throughout the semester (see attached list of terms).
- Use literary terms to identify elements of individual literary works.
- Discuss the effectiveness of specific literary works.
- Analyze the effects of literary elements in specific works.
- Write effective original fiction.

Assessment Procedures: Student learning outcomes will be assessed via reading quizzes, writing exercises, group and class discussions, the complete original short story, and the final exam.

Student Activities: Students' major activities during the semester will include reading, listening to and taking notes on lecture material, discussing course material in class and group discussions, writing fiction exercises and one complete story, and completing quizzes and exams.

Methodology and Activities: Reading, lecture, class discussion, group work, writing, quizzes, exams.

Evaluation Procedure: Students final course grades will be calculated as follows:

Quiz average.....	25%
Writing exercises and daily work	40%
Complete story.....	30%
Final exam.....	05%

Grading Scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 59 & below = F

Major Assignments and Deadlines:

- Reading assignments** must be completed by class time on the date specified on the Daily assignments sheet.
- Quizzes** over reading assignments will be given on the day the reading assignment is due.
- Writing exercises** will be assigned by the professor at least one class day in advance of the due date; due dates are specified on the Daily Assignments sheet. Writing exercises must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point type. Most exercise are 1-3 pages long.
- The **complete story** will be an original short fiction, typed, doubled-spaced, in 12 point type; length must be between 6-10 pages. The due date is specified on the Daily Assignments sheet.
- The **final exam** will be both objective and analytical and will be given at the time specified by the University (see Daily Assignments sheet).

Required Text: *Method and Madness: The Making of a Story*, Alice LaPlante, W.W. Norton, 2009

Other readings may be provided by the professor via the internet, e-mail, or hard copy.

NOTE: Students must bring textbooks or other reading material to class when that work is under discussion. Students who do not bring reading materials to class may be counted absent and receive a zero daily grade.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every class meeting. They are expected to arrive on time and remain in class for the entire class period. Typically, the only valid reasons for missing class are illness, family emergency, and University business. Except in cases of emergency, doctor appointments should be scheduled for times other than class times. Students requesting make-up work or permission to submit late work must provide evidence of a valid reason for missing class. Students who know in advance that they will miss a class should consult with the professor in advance. **Any student who accumulates six (6) absences will receive an F for the semester.**

Students who are habitually late to class, habitually leave class early, or habitually leave and then return during class time will be counted absent for every two occurrences. If another professor regularly keeps the class late prior to this class, you should consult with that professor about leaving in time to attend this class. If you have difficulty finding a parking place, you should adjust your schedule accordingly so that you can arrive to class on time. If you must regularly leave class to visit the restroom, you should consult a doctor.

Please note that I do not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. An absence is non-attendance of any regularly scheduled class time. While I sincerely hope (as I’m sure you do) that you will not experience any extreme case of illness or family emergency, they do occasionally happen. **Any student who must miss three weeks or more of classes for any reason should seriously consider withdrawing from the course.**

Observances of Religious Holidays: A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to me prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within **what the instructor deems** a reasonable time after the absence.

Honors Statement: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>. **Students caught cheating on a quiz or exam will receive a zero for that assignment; if caught a second time, they will fail the course. Students submitting plagiarized written assignments will receive an F for the course.**

Common Courtesy: Students are expected to exhibit common courtesy toward their professor and their classmates at all times. A few guidelines for common courtesy follow:

- arrive on time and remain for the full class time
- if late arrival or early departure is unavoidable, sit near the door to avoid distracting others
- remain seated unless class assignment requires otherwise
- do not hold individual conversations unless directed to do so by the professor
- stay awake
- work on this course material only
- do not eat
- do not pop gum
- do not begin packing prior to the official end of class
- do not wear any sort of head phones
- prior to entering the classroom, turn off all cell phones and other electronic

devices that might create a distraction.

--NOTE: Formal, professional studies have demonstrated that no matter how good we think we are at multi-tasking, activities such as texting during class lecture/discussion significantly diminish our attention to lecture/discussion material and, therefore, our comprehension and understanding of that material. For your own sake, then, you may not use electronic equipment (e.g., head phones, cell phones, computers) in the classroom without the express permission of the teacher. Any student using such devices during class for any reason will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted absent.

Students' Special Requirements: Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Student-Professor Communication: Other than class time, you may consult with me in person during the office hours specified at the beginning of this syllabus or during another specified time on which we have agreed in advance. You may also contact me via e-mail or telephone. However, I neither check nor respond to telephone messages as regularly as I do e-mail messages. In addition, I do not check or respond to e-mail or phone messages after I have left my office for the day (usually between 4 and 5 p.m.).

Please Note: Your syllabus for this class lists class policies and deadlines for all major assignments. I distributed electronic copies to all students enrolled in this class at the beginning of the semester. The syllabus is also available on line. Please consult the syllabus before e-mailing or calling with questions that are answered there.

Please Also Note: A college education includes learning to communicate appropriately with individual audiences. To help you practice effective communication, I require that e-mails to me be designed and written appropriately for your purpose and audience. All e-mails must begin by addressing me (e.g., Dr. Dalrymple,); they must be written following the conventions of standard written English (e.g., complete sentences, capitalization where necessary, punctuation where necessary, correct spelling); they must end with your first and last name and the course and section number (unless the course and section # are included in the text of the message). **I will not respond to e-mails that do not follow these easy guidelines.**

Student Success: This course is designed so that all students with college-level skills in reading, writing, note-taking, and study skills can pass with a C or higher, so long as they complete all assignments on time, attend class regularly, and remain attentive during class time. More specifically, successful students will

- attend every class meeting on time and remain for the full time;
- regularly consult the syllabus for assignment deadlines and course policies;
- complete all reading assignments on time and bring reading materials to class;
- complete all writing assignments on time and submit them according to instructions;
- remain attentive during class and follow guidelines of common courtesy;
- take notes on class material, particularly on terminology discussed and on other major topics of discussion;
- review notes regularly;
- participate in class and group discussions;
- ask questions about material that remains unclear;
- study for exams as suggested by the professor;

Daily Assignments

NOTE: A complete, final draft of the required short story is due on 11-19-19. You should be working on it periodically throughout the semester. DO NOT wait until the last minute.

ALSO NOTE: All written exercises submitted to the Blackboard Discussion Board **must be submitted as Microsoft Word files**; in addition, the name of your files **must begin with your last name** followed by whatever else you wish to add (e.g., date, title, name of exercise).

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| T 8-27 | Intro to course |
| R 8-29 | Read Chapter 1, pp. 1-11 (not including the exercises) |
| T 9-3 | Complete either Exercise 1 OR Exercise 2, pp. 11-13; save your exercise in the class Blackboard Discussion Board before class; bring hard copy of your exercise to class |
| R 9-5 | Read Chapter 3, pp. 61-75 (not including exercises); read "The Man I Killed" (provided by Dr. D) |
| T 9-10 | Complete exercise provided by Dr. D; place completed exercise in the appropriate class Blackboard Discussion Board; bring hard copy to class |
| R 9-12 | Chapter 2 and Chapter 4 discussion***; read "Where Is the Voice Coming From?" (provided by Dr. D) |
| T 9-17 | Read Chapter 10, pp. 326-38 (not including exercises); read "Bullet in the Brain," pp. 570-573 |
| R 9-19 | Complete exercise provided by Dr. D; place completed exercise in the appropriate class Blackboard Discussion Board; bring hard copy to class |
| T 9-24 | Read Chapter 6, pp. 190-206 (not including exercises); read "Revelation" (provided by Dr. D) |
| R 9-26 | No class; begin working on required short story (due 11-19-19) |
| T 10-1 | Read Chapter 7, pp. 234-41 (not including exercises) read "Brothers" (provided by Dr. D) |
| R 10-3 | Read "True Romance" (provided by Dr. D) |
| T 10-8 | Complete exercise provided by Dr. D; place completed exercise in the appropriate class Blackboard Discussion Board; bring hard copy to class |

- R 10-10 Read Chapter 8, pp. 257-67 (not including exercises) Read “Hills Like White Elephants,” pp. 269-72
- T 10-15 Complete exercise provided by Dr. D; place completed exercise in the place completed exercise in the appropriate class Blackboard Discussion Board; bring hard copy to class
- R 10-17 Read Chapter 11, pp. 366-74
- T 10-22 Complete exercise provide by Dr. D; place completed exercise in the appropriate class Blackboard Discussion Board ; bring hard copy to class
- R 10-24 Read Chapter 9, pp. 278-88 (not including exercises)
- T 10-29 NO CLASS; work on required short story (due 11-19-19)
- R 10-31 NO CLASS; work on required short story (due 11-19-19)
- T 11-5 Read Chapter 12, pp. 397-404 (not including exercises); read “Ralph the Duck,” pp. 406-17
- R 11-7 Bring all assigned readings to class
- T 11-12 Discuss workshops
- R 11-14 Practice workshop
- T 11-19 **Submit hard copy of required short story**
- R 11-21 Practice workshop
- T 11-26 Practice workshop
- R 11-28 HOLIDAY
- T 12-3 Review
- R 12-5 **Review**
- T 12-10 Finals begin