

ENL 3: Introduction to Literature

Gossip and Rumors, Facts and Fictions

Course Description:

This course will help you develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills through the careful study of literature. ENL 3 focuses this development of skills through literature, because of the tools that the study of literature provides. Any telling of a set of events is a telling of a narrative—a story. If literary study is the systematic study of narratives, then studying literature is invaluable to understanding much of how we communicate and relay information. Storytelling plays a central role in sociocultural practices, and literary study provides the tools to examine those stories and their tellings. This is particularly clear when we understand that historical accounts, reports of science, newspaper articles, and biographic material are themselves forms of storytelling, which use the same strategies and techniques we can identify in literature.

For this section of ENL 3, we will think about literature through the lens of gossip and rumors. This provides us access into examining what the relationship is between fact and fiction, distinguishing between what people say and what is or may be true. Through gossip, we have purchase to think about the categories of fact and fiction, truth and lies, but also about social networking, reputation, evidence, witnessing, accusations, secrets, interpretation, speculation, power, and politics. Questions of credibility and evidence, witnessing and interpretation, are central to gossip. Gossip and rumors highlight the tentativeness of our linguistic statements, their modalities. They rely on inconclusive utterances, indexing elsewhere for evidence and authority for corroboration. They defer belief in favor of proliferation. They circulate in networks and operate as tools, resources, and weapons. They accrete to form and alter reputations.

Required Texts:

Course Reader available at Copyland (231 G Street; 530.756.2679).

Wharton, Edith. *The House of Mirth*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. [ISBN #978-0199538102]

Williams, Tennessee. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. New York: New Directions, 2004. [ISBN #978-0811216012]

Shakespeare, William. *Othello*. 3rd Ed. Croatia: Arden Shakespeare, 1996. [ISBN #978-1903436455]

Course Goals:

You will learn how to read and write at a university level. You will, in particular, be trained in how to read literary texts and write about them. You will learn technical vocabulary to equip you with the skills to think and write about grammar, syntax, genre, form, and style. You will be trained to write effectively and read literary texts of all kinds. We will be investigating how to enjoy literature thoroughly, intelligently, and imaginatively.

| Class Schedule | | |
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| Week | Date | Material |
| 1 | M, 1 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class introduction, syllabus, logistics |
| | W, 3 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virgil. Excerpt of <i>The Aeneid</i> [c. 29-19 BCE] Dickinson, Emily. "Tell All the Truth but Tell It Slant" [1868] |
| 2 | M, 8 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Browning, Robert. "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister" [1842] Poe, Edgar Allen. "Annabel Lee" [1849] O'Hara, Frank. "Personal Poem" [1964] |
| | W, 10 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare, William. "Sonnet #96" [1609] Shakespeare, William. "Sonnet #112" [1609] Shakespeare, William. "Sonnet #121" [1609] |
| 3 | M, 15 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malory, Sir Thomas. Excerpt of <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i> |
| | W, 17 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennyson, Lord Alfred. "The Lady of Shalloy" [1856] Mather, Cotton. Excerpt from <i>Magnalia Christi Americana</i> [1702] |
| 4 | M, 22 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Williams, Tennessee. Act I and II of <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> [1955] |
| | W, 24 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Williams, Tennessee. Act III of <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> [1955] |
| 5 | M, 29 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIDTERM |
| | W, 31 Oct 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wharton, Edith. Book I, Chapters 1-4 of <i>The House of Mirth</i> [1905] |
| 6 | M, 5 Nov 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wharton, Edith. Book I, Chapters 5-10 of <i>The House of Mirth</i> [1905] |
| | W, 7 Nov 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wharton, Edith. Book I, Chapters 11-15 of <i>The House of Mirth</i> [1905] |
| 7 | M, 12 Nov 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wharton, Edith. Book II, Chapters 1-5 of <i>The House of Mirth</i> [1905] |
| | W, 14 Nov 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wharton, Edith. Book II, Chapters 6-9 of <i>The House of Mirth</i> [1905] |
| 8 | M, 19 Nov 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wharton, Edith. Book II, Chapters 10-14 of <i>The House of Mirth</i> [1905] |
| | W, 21 Nov 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare, William. Act I of <i>Othello</i> [1603] |
| 9 | M, 26 Nov 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare, William. Act II and III of <i>Othello</i> [1603] |
| | W, 28 Nov 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare, William. Act IV of <i>Othello</i> [1603] |
| 10 | M, 3 Dec 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare, William. Act V of <i>Othello</i> [1603] |
| | W, 5 Dec 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare, William. <i>Othello</i> [1603] <i>Othello</i> Group Project Work |
| FINALS | R, 13 Dec 2012 10:30AM-12:30PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Othello</i> Performances |