ENGL 252 – Studies in Short Fiction

I. Basic Course Information

A. **Spring 2012**

B. **Instructor:** Carr Kizzier

C. **Office:** E325

D. **Phone:** 443-840-1638  **Email:** ckizzier@gmail.com

E. **Homepage:** http://faculty.ccbcmd.edu/~ckizzier/index.htm

F. **Office Hours:** T 1-5pm; W 1-2pm; R 12:30-1:30; or by appointment

G. **Pre-requisite:** ENGL 101 or consent of instructor

**Emergency Closings:** For school cancellations, call 443-840-4567 or listen to local radio and television stations like WBAL.

**Course-related concerns:** Students should first attempt to take concerns to the faculty member, Mr. Kizzier. If students are unable to resolve course-related concerns with the instructor they should contact Ms. Brooke Bognanni, Coordinator of English for CCBC-Essex at (443) 840-1531 or bbognanni@ccbcmd.edu. The CCBC Student Concerns Policy can be found in the 2011-2012 CCBC College Catalog at www.ccbcmd.edu/catalog12/senatepolices/Student Concerns Policy.html.

II. Course Goals

A. **ENGL 252 –** In Studies in Short Fiction we will explore short fiction from diverse backgrounds, emphasizing literary research and critical writing.

B. **Overall Course Objectives --** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify basic elements of short fiction (character, plot, exposition, symbolism, figurative language, point of view, etc.)

2. assess the ways in which the selected literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context;

3. engage in critical / collaborative discussion about a text's relevance to life today, and whether and how contemporary readers can benefit from it;

4. analyze the ways in which issues of culture, race, gender, and class shape works of literature;

5. identify different literary genres and periods as they have been traditionally defined, and discuss ways in which these definitions have been challenged;

6. write a well informed literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support;

7. access and apply relevant literary criticism found both in traditional sources and through the Internet;

8. work collaboratively on questions and problems related to the texts, and on developing and refining their written work.
III. Evaluation

A. Requirements

1. **Papers**: During the course of the semester each student will write **two essays** analyzing various works of short fiction. Each essay will be 1000 – 2000 words long and in MLA format. Each essay will also include some scholarly source material, cited in MLA format.

2. **Reading Assignments**: In this class, the assigned readings will form the basis of our literary discussion, analysis, and writing. With this in mind, then, you will be assigned some reading material for every class: material from the texts; stories brought in from outside sources; and the work of you and your fellow students. **You are required to read thoroughly and be prepared to discuss each of these readings before you come to class.**

3. **Projects**: In addition to the two papers, each student will be required to complete a project in which the student relates the importance of the short story to the American experience in the media, arts, politics, culture, etc. This project will be completed as a group.

4. **Blogs**: We’ll be using group and class blogs as a forum for discussion in this course. For success in this area, it is imperative that students both post the assigned discussion topics and comment on their classmates blogs.

5. **Class preparation/participation**: English 252 is by nature a **participatory** course. Literary analysis depends on a solid communication between engaged participants in the classroom. It is essential, then, that you come to class **prepared**, which involves the following:
   a. **Be punctual.** Entering late is distracting to the entire class.
   b. **Please bring your work** – texts, journals, reviews, dictionary, pens or pencils, flash drives, and blank paper – **to every class.** **Students who do not bring their texts will be asked to leave and will be marked absent (unexcused).**
   c. **Complete all assignments** – particularly your blogs – **on time**, before you come to class. If reading is assigned, be prepared to discuss it or take a quiz on it as soon as you enter class.
   d. **Participate fully in all class activities**: discussions, peer workshops, presentations, etc.

B. Grading Policy
1. Your papers and projects will carry the greatest weight in determining your final grade. In addition, **all essays and the project must be completed in order to achieve a passing grade.**

Assuming you have fulfilled the attendance requirements, then, your final grade will be determined according to the following formula:

- 50% -- 2 Essays
- 20% -- Project
- 20% -- Blogs and discussion questions
- 10% -- Class preparation, participation and group work

2. **Late Work:** It is imperative that students a.) **attend class** and b.) **complete all work on time.** Thus the following policy regarding late work:

Failure to bring an essay to workshop session will be assessed a one-letter grade penalty on final draft. **Late final drafts will not be accepted.**

Late blogs will be reduced by fifty percent.

C. Attendance Policy
Regular attendance is crucial to success in this course. Many of the activities we engage in during class time – the discussions, peer workshops, conferences — can’t be “made up”, with the result that students who miss class may submit weaker papers. In the end, poor attendance almost always results in a disappointing outcome for the student.

That said, there are always circumstances in which you will find yourself unable to attend class. **If you know ahead of time that you will miss a class, let me know in person, leave a message on my phone, or email me.**

Keep in mind, however, that **poor attendance can also directly affect your grade.** Missing one or two classes will most likely not affect your grade. **Students having 3 absences, however, generally receive no better than a B for their final grade. Students with 4 absences generally receive no better than a C for their final grade.** Finally, **students who miss more than four (4) classes generally receive a failing grade and should consider withdrawing.** Please note: There is no distinction among absences. There are no **excused** or **unexcused** absences.

I find latecomers to be distracting; three tardies equals one absence.

IV. Course Procedures

A. Texts and Materials
**Required:**
- *The Art of the Short Story* ed. Dana Gioia and R.S. Gwynn (required)
- *The Short Stories* by Ernest Hemingway (required)
- *A Visit From the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan (required)
B. Other Procedures

1. Classroom Etiquette – It is expected that adult college students will exhibit courtesy, respect, and cooperation during class toward the instructor and toward fellow students. Please remember the sacrifices that others make to attend college, and that everyone is entitled to an orderly and scholarly environment. With this in mind, then, please turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the classroom. Absolutely no texting during class time. Put your cell phones away, out of site. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from class and an absence. I encourage you to bring a drink with a lid to class, but please do not eat in the classroom.

2. Academic Honesty Policy – Academic honesty is expected of all students. Work submitted by students as their own must be their own, and materials taken from any other source must be clearly identified as such. Intentional falsification of source materials, plagiarism, obtaining advance information about exams, and other violations of academic honesty are not acceptable. The usual penalty for academic dishonesty is failure of the course. A student may appeal any action taken under this policy. Please consult the link at MyCCBC:

   CCBC Academic Integrity Policy

3. Extra Assistance/Credit –
   a. Instructor Office Hours: If you are having a problem with an assignment, need some extra help, or simply want to discuss class-related topics, please feel free to schedule an appointment with me for time outside of class. I am available to help. JUST ASK.
   b. The Writing Center: In the Writing Center, located at E338, faculty tutors are available to help you with your writing projects/problems. Walk-in assistance is available, though making an appointment by calling 443-840-1799 is preferable. You may also visit the OWL (online writing lab) at http://student.ccbcmd.edu/owl/. The person on the other end will return your draft to you with suggestions within 48 hours. Visits to the Writing Center in either form will earn extra credit.
   c. Extra Credit: Extra credit will be given for attendance at campus cultural events; information about campus events will be distributed in class.
C. Tentative Schedule

Week 1 – Intros and Edgar Allen Poe
Week 2 – Stephen Crane, Chekhov
Week 3 – Chekhov, Hemingway
Week 4 – Hemingway
Week 5 – Carver/Mason/Gordimer
Week 6 – Paper 1 workshop 3/6
Week 7 – Paper 1 due 3/13 Porter, Jackson, Bowles
Week 8 – Goon Squad
Week 9 – Goon Squad
Week 10 – Spring Break
Week 11 – Paper 2 workshop 4/10, Creative Writing Forum
Week 12 – Paper 2 due 4/17 Hurston/Welty/Oates/Munro/Lessing
Week 13 – Contemporary
Week 14 – Contemporary
Week 15 – Presentations