

## ENGL 11200: INTRODUCTION TO THE SHORT STORY WEIRD TALES

Professor: Robert S. Lehman

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Office/Hours: Muller 311/TR 10:45-12:15am

THE NAMELESS DREAD

H.P. Lovecraft



"But remember - that dark world of fungoid gardens  
and windowless cities isn't really terrible.  
It is only to us that it would seem so."

### Course Description

This course will introduce students to the tools of literary analysis as well as provide a survey of short fiction written in the Americas and Europe during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The specific focus of the course will be on two "weird" forms that the nineteenth-century writer Edgar Allan Poe helped to codify: the detective story and the horror story. Readings will include works by Sherwood Anderson, Jorge Luis Borges, Elizabeth Bowen, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Franz Kafka, Flannery O'Connor, Edgar Allan Poe, and others.

### Required Texts (you *must* use only the editions available at the college bookstore):

- Anderson, Sherwood. *Winesburg, Ohio* (Norton Critical Edition)
- Borges, Jorge Luis. *Labyrinths* (New Directions)
- Kafka, Franz. *Kafka's Selected Stories* (Norton Critical Edition)
- Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Selected Writings of Edgar Allan Poe* (Norton Critical Edition)
- Course Packet (available only in 309 Muller Center)

### Course Requirements

You must **attend class** regularly and **participate** in discussion. This means that you also must **bring the reading to class**. Numerous absences or excessive lateness will negatively affect your final grade.

There will be several **reading quizzes** and **in-class writing assignments** to make sure that you are keeping up with the reading.

Each student will be responsible for one **in-class group presentation** on the day's readings.

A five-page **midterm essay** will be due at the beginning of the seventh week of class. It can deal with any of the texts that we will have read up to that point. I will provide a longer description of this essay, including some possible topics, closer to the time when the essay is due.

A **research paper** will be due at the end of class. The topic is open, but it must relate to the themes of the class. Final papers should be roughly ten pages in length. A draft of this paper will be due in the twelfth week of class.

**Peer review** of drafts will be conducted for the papers, and will count towards your participation grade.

**Course Policies:**

All students are expected to **attend all class meetings**. However, you will have a leeway of two absences. After two absences, your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 for each additional class missed (at four absences, a grade of B+ would be dropped to a B, at five absences it would be dropped to a B-, etc.). If you do miss a class, you will not be excused from the work assigned. All work must be in my mailbox by 4:00pm the day it is due or it is late. It is your responsibility to contact me or another student to find out what material was missed and what work was assigned.

All students are also expected to **arrive to class on time**. Every two late arrivals will count as one absence. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will be counted absent.

Students must **bring the day's reading** with them to class. If you do not have the required reading with you, it counts as one half of an absence (the same as lateness).

Students are expected to **complete all assignments** and submit them at the beginning of class on the day assigned and in the appropriate format. Unless otherwise specified, assignments must be typed in black ink on white, unlined, 8.5" x 11" paper, double-spaced with 1" margins on all sides, and **stapled**. No cover sheets. Overall format as well as citations must **conform to MLA specifications**. All papers must be submitted along with rough drafts that show changes. Revisions of papers must include originals with instructor's comments. Work that does not comply with these requirements will not be accepted. Students are responsible for keeping backup copies of all work they hand in.

**Late papers will be penalized** as follows: loss of one letter grade for each weekday (not class day) late.

Students are expected to **uphold their commitment to the University's Honor Code** stipulating that they have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on any assignment. Unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, all work must be individual. Collusion (working with another student), plagiarism (use of another's ideas, data and/or statements without acknowledgement, or with only minimal acknowledgement), or multiple submissions (submitting the same paper in different courses) will not be tolerated. Evidence of the above will cause the student to receive an automatic 'F' for the course and will lead to the procedures set up by the university for dealing with academic dishonesty.

**Grading:**

You will be graded on achievement, effort, and improvement. The weight of assignments is as follows:

Participation & In-Class Writing	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Papers	40%
Total	100%

The grading scale is as follows (the numbers show the lowest possible percentage for the grade indicated):

		B+	86%	C+	76%	D+	66%
A	96%	B	83%	C	73%	D	63%
A-	93%	B-	80%	C-	70%	D-	60%

**Schedule**

<b>WEEK 1</b>	
Thu, Aug 27	Introductions

<b>WEEK 2</b>	
Tue, Sep 1	Poe, "MS. Found in a Bottle";
Thu, Sep 3	Kleist, "On the Marionette Theater"; Poe, "The Man That Was Used Up"
<b>WEEK 3</b>	
Tue, Sep 8	Hoffman, "The Sandman"
Thu, Sep 10	Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher"
<b>WEEK 4</b>	
Tue, Sep 15	Poe, "The Pit and the Pendulum"; "The Masque of the Red Death"
Thu, Sep 17	Lovecraft, "The Dunwich Horror"
<b>WEEK 5</b>	
Tue, Sep 22	Anderson, <i>Winesburg, Ohio</i>
Thu, Sep 24	Anderson cont.; Wimsatt & Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy"
<b>WEEK 6</b>	
Tue, Sep 29	Anderson cont.; Thesis Workshop
Thu, Oct 1	Anderson cont.; Midterm Essay Writing Workshop – Two Copies of Draft Due in Class
<b>WEEK 7</b>	
Tue, Oct 6	Midterm Essay Due in Class; Poe, "The Man of the Crowd"
Thu, Oct 8	Poe, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"
<b>WEEK 8</b>	
Tue, Oct 13	Poe, "The Purloined Letter"; Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia"
Thu, Oct 15	<b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>WEEK 9</b>	
Tue, Oct 20	Woolf, "The Mark on the Wall"; "The Symbol"
Thu, Oct 22	Bowen, "The Demon Lover"; Blanchot, "The Instant of My Death"
<b>WEEK 10</b>	
Tue, Oct 27	Kafka, "In the Penal Colony"
Thu, Oct 29	Kafka, "Before the Law"; "Jackals and Arabs"
<b>WEEK 11</b>	
Tue, Nov 3	Kafka, "A Report to the Academy"
Thu, Nov 5	Kafka, "The Starving Artist"; "Josephine the Singer or the Mouse People"
<b>WEEK 12</b>	
Tue, Nov 10	Barthes, "The Death of the Author"; Borges, "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote"
Thu, Nov 12	Borges, "The Garden of Forking Paths"; "The Library of Babel"
<b>WEEK 13</b>	
Tue, Nov 17	Borges, "Death and the Compass"
Thu, Nov 19	Borges, "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis, Tertius"
<b>WEEK 14</b>	<b>NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break</b>

<b>WEEK 15</b>	
Tue, Dec 1	O'Connor, "Good Country People"; "Some Aspects of the Grotesque in Southern Fiction"
Thu, Dec 3	Research Paper Writing Workshop – Two Copies of Draft Due in Class
<b>WEEK 16</b>	
Tue, Dec. 8	Saunders, "Civilwarland in Bad Decline"
Thu, Dec. 10	Research Paper Due in Class; Conclusions

Leopards break into the temple and drink to the dregs what is in the sacrificial pitchers; this is repeated over and over again; finally it can be calculated in advance, and it becomes a part of the ceremony.