

Missouri Western State University
Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism
English 210-06 – Approaches to Literature
Spring 2007

Instructor: Meredith Katchen
Office Hours: W: 10:00-10:45 and 1:00-3:00
F: 10:00-10:45 and 1:00-2:30
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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will help students to critically encounter, discuss, and write about literary texts.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND MATERIALS

Packet of reading selections

Breakfast at Tiffany's by Truman Capote

The Love Of A Good Woman by Alice Munro

Krik? Krak! by Edwidge Danticat

One spiral notebook, 40 – 70 pages

BASIC COURSE COMPONENTS

1. Quizzes and journal entries: Each class will begin with a quiz or journal entry. Journals should be kept in a thin spiral notebook dedicated to this one course only. Journals and quizzes will be worth 53% of your final grade.
2. Essays: You will be assigned two mid-length essays, each worth 20% of your final grade.
3. Final exam: The final exam will be worth 7% of your final grade.

GRADING

Grades for this course will be based on a 500 point scale. Each student will begin the semester with zero points. At the end of the semester, the points you have earned will be converted to a letter grade according to the following formula: 450+ = A, 400-449 = B, 350 to 399 = C, 300-349 = D, below 300 = F. If for any reason the total of available points does not equal 500, grades will be calculated as a percentage of points earned against the total points available, with 90% earning A, 80% earning B, etc.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes. I will take attendance every day. Absences will not be excused; a student is either “here” or “not here.” If, however, if you can verify that you are representing this institution at a conference, sporting event, or some other authorized activity, I will consider allowing you an opportunity to make up for work missed during your absence. The prospect of missing points for quizzes and journal entries should be enough incentive to maintain excellent attendance. Nevertheless, attendance will be further rewarded and penalized according to the following chart:

0 absent	= +10 points
1	= + 5 points
2	= + 5 points
3	= no change
4	= no change.
5	= penalty of 25 points
6	= penalty of 25 additional points
7	= penalty of 50 additional points
8	= penalty of 50 additional points
9	= penalty of 50 additional points
10+	= F for course

LATENESS

I view lateness as disrespectful to this school, to classmates, and to me. Please do not be late. Quizzes and journal entries missed due to lateness can not be made up. Repeated lateness will disqualify a student from rewards for good attendance.

LATE WORK

I reserve the right to refuse to accept late work, in which case a grade of zero will be entered for that assignment. Late work may also be penalized 25% of its value for each day late. Conversely, I reserve the right to grant deadline extensions to any student who discusses his or her deadline problem with me *before* the assignment is due.

REVISION OF WRITTEN WORK

At this level, revision should be self-directed and should occur prior to submitting an essay. If you have questions or concerns about an essay, I am available for conferences before assignments are due. Still, if you have in mind a particular strategy for revising a paper, I am open to allowing a revision if you discuss it with me first. If I approve your revision plan, make sure to attach the original draft to your revised draft.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY AND DUE PROCESS

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms. Please see the 2006-07 Student Handbook and Calendar on page 21 for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>. If I suspect you have plagiarized, the burden of proof will be on you to recap your writing process and to demonstrate command of your material.

DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Any student who has a special need or disability that may affect his or her performance in this class should contact the MWSU Special Needs Coordinator for assistance. Also, let me know right away so that appropriate arrangements can be made to make sure your needs are met as quickly and completely as possible.

CIVILITY AND COOPERATION

Missouri Western requires all students to help us maintain good conditions for teaching and learning. All students will treat their classmates and teachers with civility and respect, both inside and outside the classroom. Students who violate this policy may, among other penalties, be counted absent and asked to leave. You should review your MWSU student handbook for further information.

CONFERENCES

I am available to help you any way that I can. My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus, but I will gladly try to make an appointment for some other time if necessary.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1	Introductions
Week 2	A White Heron
Week 3	The Fox
Week 4	The Fox
Week 5	The Fox
Week 6	Breakfast at Tiffany's
Week 7	Breakfast at Tiffany's
Week 8	Breakfast at Tiffany's, Essay #1 due
Week 9	spring break
Week 10	Love of a Good Woman
Week 11	Love of a Good Woman
Week 12	Love of a Good Woman
Week 13	Krik? Krak!
Week 14	Krik? Krak!
Week 15	Krik? Krak!, Essay #2 due
Week 16	Final class