

HUMANITIES 420: Contemporary Literature, DeVry, Prof. Perkins

Professor: Perkins

E-Mail Address: karey1@charter.net

Office Location: Academics—Faculty Office #15

*NOTE: Put HUMN 420 in subject line of e-mail

Office Hours: One hour before class starts, in the classroom, or by appointment

Website: <http://kareyperkins.com>

See *my website* for all handouts and assignments.

See *eCollege* for threaded discussions.

Course Description: This course builds appreciation and understanding of fictional and imaginative works such as short stories, novels and plays. Reading and analysis highlight techniques of language, structure, and characterization and ideas and values that emerge from them. Literary works are evaluated in relation to both their times and to other art forms.

What we will do in this class: The first half of the class, we will read short stories, take objective quizzes, and give group presentations on four aspects: author, context, theory, elements (see handout). You will be expected to learn literary eras, literary theories, and literary elements. We will take a midterm on the stories. The second half, we will read and discuss poetry. You will write two papers, researched and documented, one on a poem and one on a short story (NOT covered in class), OR you will write one paper on a short story NOT covered in class, and attend a play or poetry reading, writing a summary of that.

TEXT: DiYanni, Robert. *Literature, Approaches to Fiction, Poetry and Drama*.

Assignments/Grading

➤ Final	25%
➤ Midterm	25%
➤ Papers (two papers, 12.5% each)	25%
➤ Daily work (presentations, class participation, quizzes, attendance).....	25%

Midterm: <http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420worksheets.html> Midterm is 40% objective, covering the literary elements and their definitions; 60% essay, on the stories we have covered in class.

Final: <http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420worksheets.html> Final is an objective test on poems covered in class. An excerpt of the poem will be given and you must identify: author, title, literary element, literal meaning or physical event, and theme. Each of these will be worth 2 points; there are ten poem excerpts. All poems on the final will be poems that we covered in class, so it is important that you be present in class for the entire class if you wish to do well on the final

Papers: <http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420litesay.html> Two literary analysis papers (3-4 pages each) will be required – researched, word-processed, APA or MLA format (with a bibliography and in-text citations). These papers must be ANALYSES and not SUMMARIES. They must have a literary analysis thesis statement and follow literary analysis format: that is, use examples from the story to show how the literary element you choose is explicating a theme you see in the story. The **first paper** will be on *short story* NOT covered in class. Your **second paper** will be on a *poem* NOT covered in class – OR – it may be substituted with a summary of a *poetry reading or play* that you attend during this eight week class. Provide evidence by tickets, program and/or pictures of yourself there.

Group presentations: <http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420presentations.html> For the first half of the semester, you will read and present individual stories to the class in groups of three. You will present three stories to the class. Your group presentations should cover:

- (a) *author's bio,*
- (b) *social/historical/cultural context of story*
- (c) *discussion of author's use of literary elements in story,*
- (d) *a critical approach to the story, and*
- (e) *class discussion (ask questions/spark discussion).*

See handout/website for greater elaboration.

Daily work: Daily work includes class attendance and participation, including such activities as: Group presentations on stories, quizzes on stories, literary thesis statement, Dead Poets worksheet. **DAILY WORK CANNOT BE MADE UP.**

Course Guidelines

Attendance: Two absences and you are automatically dropped by the system. Attendance and tardies factor into your daily work grade. If you have to miss a class, **you** are responsible for getting assignments, handouts, etc. from a classmate.

Late Work: Work is reduced 10% for each day after the due date that it is turned in. After one week has passed since the due date, work will not be accepted.

Academic Integrity: As a student, you are expected to read, understand, and follow the procedures and rules of conduct as stated in the *DeVry/Atlanta Institute of Technology Student Handbook*. You are expected to adhere to the Student Academic Integrity Policy. Plagiarism is covered in the handbook, and includes improper paraphrasing, copying, and/or lack of proper documentation of sources. Keep in mind that all writing submitted to me must be written by you for this class. Any time you borrow an idea or passage from an outside source (newspaper, book, TV show, friend, relative, etc.) without giving that source credit (quotations or citations), you have plagiarized. If you let a fellow student borrow from your work or copy your essay then you are guilty of plagiarism, too. Please see the handbook for DeVry's policies.

Learning Needs: If you have a diagnosed handicap or learning disability or if you feel you need special assistance, please notify your instructor and Robin Andrews in Student Services. This diagnosis must be official documentation from your high school or your physician stating the nature of your condition and anything this institution should provide. This will be done discreetly. However, in order for you to receive accommodations, you must let us know how we may help you.

Terminal Course Objectives

1. Define literature and explain its purposes and value to both individuals and cultures.
2. Relate the history, development, and characteristics of the four major literary genres: poetry, drama, the novel, and the short story.
3. Define and illustrate the basic elements of literature: theme, plot, character, tone, atmosphere, setting, conflict, point of view, structure, figurative language, irony, style.
4. Analyze and evaluate individual works according to their basic literary elements.
5. Describe and apply several of the following critical approaches to literature: biographical, historical, psychological, formalist, structuralist, Marxist, post-structuralist.
6. Explain the importance of archetypal images and motifs in literature.
7. Analyze the relationship between the literature and critical thought of an era and contemporaneous movements in politics, economics, religion, and philosophy.
8. Describe the characteristics of major literary movements and eras (e.g., neo-classicism, romanticism, realism, naturalism, modernism, and post-modernism) and apply them to specific texts.
9. Characterize the general relationship between literature and other arts.
10. Assess the place of English literature within the context of Western literature and world literature.
11. Describe representative contributions of women and minority writers to English, Canadian, and American literature.
12. Evaluate the significance of selected critical works.

COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE

Note: Schedule and syllabus subject to change per individual class needs
Read ALL assigned stories and chapters/readings before you come to class.

Week One

Introduction to Class

Introduction to Literary Elements/ Literary Theories/Critical Approaches/Eras

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420litelem.html>

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420littheories.html>

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420literas.html>

Read and discuss "A Unicorn in the Garden" by James Thurber

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/unicorn.pdf>

Group story presentation assignments

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420presentations.html>

HOMEWORK

Discuss and prepare for next week's presentations

Rent and Watch "Dead Poet's Society"

Do DPS Worksheet (Due Week 3)

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420dps.html>

Reach Chapters 1 through 4 – OMIT STORIES (unless individually assigned)

Read Chapter 30 and 31

Read handouts

Read and prepare to present your assigned story next week:

Feminist Criticism (see index of your text for page numbers)

- Kate Chopin, *Story of an Hour*
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Yellow Wallpaper*
- Faulkner, *A Rose for Emily*
- Katherine Anne Porter, *The Jilting of Granny Weatherall*
- Susan Glaspell, *Jury of her Peers* <http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/ajuryofherpeers.pdf>

Week Two

QUIZ on ALL assigned stories last week

Short Story Presentation

Present Stories

Sign up for next story presentation

HOMEWORK

Read and prepare to present your assigned story next week:

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420presentations.html>

Culture & Connections(see index of your text for page numbers)

- Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find*
- James Baldwin, *Sonny's Blues*
- Ralph Ellison, *Battle Royal*
- Alice Walker, *Everyday Use*,
- Ernest Hemingway, *Hills Like White Elephants*
- William Faulkner, *Barn Burning*

Week Three

QUIZ on ALL assigned stories last week

DPS Worksheet due

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420dps.html>

Discuss DPS & literary elements

Short Story Presentations; Sign up for next story presentation

HOMEWORK

Read and prepare to present your assigned story next week:

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420presentations.html>

Initiation and Contemporary Society/Capitalism/Postmodernism (see index for page number):

- *A & P* - John Updike
- *Things They Carried* - Tim O'Brien
- *Cathedral* - Raymond Carver
- *Araby* - James Joyce
- *Blue Winds Dancing* - Tom Whitecloud <http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/bluewindsdancing.pdf>

Week Four

QUIZ on ALL assigned stories last week

Short Story Presentations

Review for Midterm

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420worksheets.html>

HOMEWORK

Study for Midterm

Week Five

MIDTERM

How to Write a Literary Analysis

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420litessay.html>

HOMEWORK

Read Chapters 4, 30, and 31

Write Literary Analysis Thesis, Outline, Rough Draft

Bring Literary Analysis Outline & Rough Draft to class next week

Week Six

Peer/Group Review Literary Analysis Thesis, Outline, Rough Draft

Poetry Discussions

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420poems.html>

HOMEWORK

Write Literary Analysis Final Draft

Week Seven

Paper I Due: Literary Analysis of a Short Story

Poetry Discussions

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420poems.html>

Review for Final

HOMEWORK

Study for Final

<http://kareyperkins.com/classes/420/420worksheets.html>

Week Eight

FINAL

Paper II: Poem Analysis or Summary of Poetry Reading/Play