SYLLABUS

I. General Information

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Literature I
COURSE NUMBER: English 3221
PRE-REQUISITE: English 3101-3102
PROFESSOR:
OFFICE:
OFFICE HOURS:

TEXTBOOK:
**Merriam’s Dictionary of the English Language (or equivalent)
***Films based on authors or literature studied in class.

II. Course Description:

As an introduction to the main literary genres, this course covers reading, analysis, and discussion of short fiction and essays. It emphasizes the experience of literature, the interpretation through critical perspectives as well as the evaluation of the aesthetic merits of each piece.

This course is obligatory for the Humanities Program. It is also an alternative for students of second year English who are more proficient in the language and/or enjoy the reading of literary texts. It may also be taken as an elective course to improve reading skills in English in any other specialization. Extensive reading is a requirement--not an option--in this course.

III. Objectives

A. General Objective:
B. To familiarize students with the writing process and the works of a considerable number of authors and genres.
C. Specific Objectives:
   1. To analyze short fiction as well as non-fiction narratives written by renown authors.
   2. To evaluate and respond in oral and written form to the readings.
3. To discern among the different types of essay.
4. To recognize the elements of style, structure, voice, and thought process in the writing of essays.
5. To discern among the different types of short fiction.
6. To recognize the main elements of fiction such as plot, character, setting, point of view, diction and theme.
7. To recognize irony and symbols in the narratives.
8. To do library and Internet research on works and authors.
9. To watch and respond to films based on literary pieces or the lives of authors.
10. To enjoy the experience of literature.

IV. Course content and time distribution

I. Introduction and Critical Perspectives 9 hrs.
   3 hours
   Critical Theory (chap 36, pp. 1885-1926 old Ed; chap33, pp.2156-2193 new Ed) Test No. 1

II. The Essay (Chapters 29, 30, 31, 32) 12 hrs.
   Reading Essays (1711-34)
   Types of Essays (1735-37)
   Elements of the Essay (1738-61)
   Literary Non-fiction (260-303 New edition)
   Test No. 2

III. Fiction 12 hrs.
   Reading Stories (27-42)
   Types of Short Fiction (43-48)
   Elements of Fiction (49-110)
   Writing about Fiction (111-129)
   Fiction Writers in context (Chapter 5- 130-259)
   Test No. 3

IV. Envisioning Narrative 9 hrs.
   Visual Stories - Chapter 7 (304-318)
   A Collection of Contemporary Fiction (319-371)
   A Selection of World Fiction (372-414)
Test No. 4 (Final)

Instructional strategies:

Reading aloud portions of assigned works to improve pronunciation.

Oral discussion of essays and stories: It is a requisite for all students to come prepared to engage in the class discussion.

Note-taking as a step to improve writing skills.

Use of Media Technology such as Overhead Projector, Instructional Videos and Films in relation to the material studied.

Research in library and Internet for the completion of oral and written assignments. Authors may be assigned as part of the course to know more about their biographies.

Evaluation criteria
The evaluation will be distributed as follows:

- 70% of the grade will be based on tests
- 20% of the grade will be based on oral and written presentations
- 10% of the grade will be based on attendance and participation

V. Grading system:
Grades are based on the official curve of the University of Puerto Rico

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 – 90%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>89 – 80%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>79 – 70%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>69 – 60%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 – 0 %</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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VI. Student’s responsibilities:

1. Attendance to this course is compulsory. After two absences, each additional absence will lower the student’s punctuation by 5 points. Three times tardy will be equivalent to one absence (-5 points.)

2. The students must purchase the required copies of the material for each portion of the course and bring them to class. This syllabus contains the assigned materials for each portion of the course-hours. Reading of essays and stories before class is required.

3. Cell phones will be turned off during class without exception.

4. Going out of the classroom once the class starts is forbidden except in case of sickness or emergency.

5. There will be no interruptions from friends or family visiting during classes. Infants and restless children are not allowed in class.
6. Make-up tests are at the professor’s discretion. One test cannot be counted as two since the material examined is different and not cumulative. **You will have only one week to take the missed test unless you bring a medical excuse. No more than one make-up test will be considered for any one student.**

7. All individuals will be treated with respect.

NOTICE: Students with special needs (Law 51, Rehabilitation, etc.) should inform the professors at the beginning of the semester to make any necessary arrangements.

**VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bedford’s / St. Martin’s. Boston, 2006. (pp. 1-8; 190-191; 237-238; 290-292; 341-342; 392-394; 462-472; 1531-1610)

Bedford / St Martin’s. Boston, 2005. (pp. 49-53; 1363-1398; 1479-1500)