ENG 123: Intro to Fiction

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

**Meetings: M/W/F 8:00-8:50 a.m. in Dey Hall 204**

**Instructor: James Cobb**

**E-mail: jsc2106@email.unc.edu**

**Office: Dey Hall 339**

**Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. or by appointment**

**Required Materials.** Most of the required readings will be provided as documents uploaded to Sakai. The only books that you are required to purchase are listed below:

* *Three Novels*, Samuel Beckett
* *Mumbo Jumbo*, Ishmael Reed
* *Beloved*, Toni Morrison
* *The Sellout*, Paul Beatty
* *At Swim-Two-Birds*, Flann O’Brien (I have not ordered this novel through the bookstore, but it can easily be found on Amazon.com or through other booksellers)

\*Other supplemental materials may be provided by the instructor via Sakai or on e-reserve in the library.

**Assignments.** There are four written assignments in this course:

**One** five-page essay due Sept. 29

**One** revision of that five-page essay due Oct. 27 (we will spend class on Fri. Oct. 13 workshopping the first essay)

**One** ten-page essay

**One** final examination at the official scheduled time (Fri, Dec. 8, 8 am)

All essays are to be submitted either through Sakai or by e-mail by the start of class on the day they are due.

Essay 1: 15%

Revision of Essay 1: 15%

Essay 2: 30%

Final exam: 20%

Attendance + Participation: 20%

Although grades will usually be determined according to the above rubric, I will also take into account improvement over the course of the semester, and I may weigh later assignments more heavily if your performance improves (but not if it doesn't).

Your two essays will ask you to analyze a work of literature we have studied in the course. A list of prompts will be provided to you three weeks before each essay is due. The following criteria will be used to grade your essays:

Sophistication of argument

Precision, detail, and accuracy

Clarity, correctness, and effectiveness of style

Sensible organization and structure, including effective introduction and conclusion

Originality

In order that you may develop your ability to write according to the above criteria you will revise your first essay. I will return your paper with a grade and notes and then the class will spend a Friday class period workshopping papers.

The final exam will be a series of short answer questions and essays. I will further discuss the amount of questions and essays and details of the exam as the end of the semester nears.

Every week two students will be responsible for leading discussion. The students appointed to lead discussion must come to class ready to present questions and themes that will sustain the class’ discussion of the work we have been reading that week over the entire period. Leading discussion is another essential part of your participation grade and a clear lack of preparation will result in the reduction of your participation grade by one letter grade (A- to B-).

You are expected to have read the work assigned for each week and if it becomes clear that students are not doing the required reading I reserve the right to give quizzes.

**Attendance.** The structure of the class is divided into lectures (M/W) and class discussion. You are expected to attend both and anything more than two absences will directly affect your participation grade. Tardiness is also unacceptable and being tardy 3 times in excess of 10 minutes will count as an absence.

Use of phones or facebook/social media in class will count as an absence.

**Late Assignments.** For written assignments due in sections, students will be penalized one grade per day (up to 24 hours: A to A-, up to 48 hours, A to B+, and so on). If you are ill or injured and cannot complete an assignment by the due date, contact me as soon as possible. I reserve the right to waive the late penalty for compelling reasons.

**Make-up examinations and incompletes.** No make-up examinations (midterm or final) will be offered except in cases where a student is able to supply an official petition via the Dean of Students or Campus Health. Taking an incomplete in the course is strongly discouraged and will only be allowed in cases of severe illness or injury.

**Formatting and Submission Requirements**

All assignments must be formatted according to MLA style. If you have questions about what this entails please visit: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

**Plagiarism.** If I suspect you of plagiarizing all or part of a paper, even unintentionally, I am required to report the offense to the Honor Court. If you are running into trouble with a paper, come and speak with me instead of risking plagiarism and Honor Court proceedings.

**Consulting Me.** If you have any questions about anything in the syllabus, class, materials or chat about life feel free to come to office hours, email me or set up an appointment. I will try to respond to emails as quickly as possible but expect at least 24 hours before a response (it will rarely take me that long to respond but do not wait until the last minute to ask me a question).

**Students with Disabilities:**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ensures that no qualified person shall by reason of a disability be denied access to, participation in, or the benefits of, any program or activity operated by the University. In compliance with UNC policy and federal law, qualified students with disabilities are eligible to receive “reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to education opportunities, programs, and activities” (http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/faculty-policies.html). If you anticipate such accommodations, please notify me as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Additionally, you may seek out student support services at the Department of Disability Services (DDS) (http://disabilityservices.unc.edu/) and through the Learning Center (<http://learningcenter.unc.edu/>).

**Non-Discrimination Policy.** This university does not discriminate against its students or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. The University’s policy states that sexual orientation be treated in this same manner. In this class we will strive to maintain an open atmosphere with shared respect for all differences.

**Final Exam.** 8:00 a.m. December 8, 2017

**Class Schedule.** On the schedule below you are expected to have completed the readings by Monday of the week assigned, i.e. Chapters 1-32 of *Mumbo Jumbo* should be completed by Monday, Oct. 23. There is no class on the days highlighted in red. And we will spend the last day of class Dec. 6, revising for the exam.

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|  | Monday | Wednesday | Friday | Works to read | Notes | Assignments |
| week 1 | Aug 21 | Aug 23 | Aug 25 | Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave |  |  |
| week 2 | Aug 28 | Aug 30 | Sep 1 | Dubliners | The Sisters, A Little Cloud, The Boarding House, A Painful Case, Ivy Day in the Committee Room, The Dead, Grace, |  |
| week 3 | Sep 4 | Sep 6 | Sep 8 | The Turn of the Screw |  |  |
| week 4 | Sep 11 | Sep 13 | Sep 15 | Virginia Woolf | Kew Gardens, A Room of One's Own |  |
| week 5 | Sep 18 | Sep 20 | Sep 22 | Black Skin, White Masks | Selections |  |
| week 6 | Sep 25 | Sep 27 | Sep 29 | lost in the funhouse | Night-Sea Journey, Ambrose His Mark, Water-Mesage, Lost in the funhouse, Title, Life-Story, Menelaiad | Essay 1 due, Friday Sep 29 |
| week 7 | Oct 2 | Oct 4 | Oct 6 | At Swim-Two-Birds | Selections |  |
| week 8 | Oct 9 | Oct 11 | Oct 13 | Molloy | Section 1 | Workshop Day, Friday, Oct. 13 |
| week 9 | Oct 16 | Oct 18 | Oct 20 | Molloy | Section 2 |  |
| week 10 | Oct 23 | Oct 25 | Oct 27 | Mumbo Jumbo | Chapters 1-32 | Revision Due, Fri. Oct. 27 |
| week 11 | Oct 30 | Nov 1 | Nov 3 | Mumbo Jumbo | Chapters 32- End |  |
| week 12 | Nov 6 | Nov 8 | Nov 10 | Beloved | Part 1 |  |
| week 13 | Nov 13 | Nov 15 | Nov 17 | Beloved | Part 2, 3 |  |
| week 14 | Nov 20 | Nov 22 | Nov 24 |  |  |  |
| week 15 | Nov 27 | Nov 29 | Dec 1 | The Sellout |  | Final Paper Due, Fri. Dec. 1 |
| week 16 | Dec 4 | Dec 6 | Dec 8 | The Sellout | **Revision Day Dec. 6**, Dec. 8 Final at 8:00 am |  |