ST FRANCIS

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

500 Wilcox Street
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Course:	**ENGL-200A: Introduction to Literature: Weird Fiction** (CRN 30299) Semester: Summer, 2021 (Module 1) Time & Location: Online
Materials:	*The Weird: A Compendium of Strange and Dark Stories*, ed. Ann and Jeff VanderMeer. New York: TOR Books, 2011. Other materials available on Canvas.
Professor:	**Dr. Kevin Andrew Spicer** Associate Professor Chair, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages Office: Tower Hall, S-306 Office Hours: By appt. Email: kspicer@stfrancis.edu

USF Mission Statement:
As a Catholic university rooted in the liberal arts, we are a welcoming community of learners challenged by Franciscan values and charism, engaged in a continuous pursuit of knowledge, faith, wisdom, and justice, and ever mindful of a tradition that emphasizes reverence for creation, compassion, and peacemaking. We strive for academic excellence in all programs, preparing women and men to contribute to the world through service and leadership.

College Mission Statement:
Embracing excellence in its diverse disciplines of study, the College of Arts and Sciences serves as the home, shepherd, and guardian of Franciscan liberal arts values for the University. It serves to inspire in its students a love of learning through continual investigation, nurturing of curiosity, exploration, discovery, and sharing that leads to the passionate life as a servant leader. The College provides a rich environment of inspiration, learning, and service to prepare its students to build their future through programs and opportunities that represent the values of our Catholic/Franciscan University mission.

Course Description:
Provides students with an extensive exploration of fiction, poetry, drama and/or film, and sometimes the literary essay. The components of these genres are examined in order that students will be knowledgeable and critical readers. (IAI Course #: H3 900)

Philosophical Perspective & Inquiry:
In this section of Introduction to Literature, we are going to be attempting a rather exhaustive engagement with a genre of literature that is quite difficult (if not impossible) to categorize: "Weird" Fiction. We will begin pretty close to the beginning of this genre of literature that manages to

1

straddle or bleed into (depending on one's preferred metaphor) a number of different kinds of literature: horror, "supernatural horror," "sci-fi," a "strange kind of fantasy literature," "mystery," "scary stories," or just plain "strange" works. This course will cover all the giants of the genre and students will experience a number of the "big names" of the genre: H. P. Lovecraft, Franz Kafka, Jorge Luis Borges, Neil Gaiman, Thomas Ligotti, China Miéville, (even) Stephen King, and many more. Towards the end of the semester we will read a couple examples of stories from what has recently come to be called the "New Weird" movement. We will also hopefully have some time at the end to try our hand with a couple of films that could easily fit into the "Weird" genre. By the end of the course, students will have encountered a rather large sample of different kinds of "weird" works such that they can begin to come to some understanding of how one might talk about something that is so incredibly difficult to categorize.

Course Objectives/Outcomes:
By the end of this course the student will be able to:
1.) demonstrate an awareness of the scope of this genre of literature called "Weird" fiction
2.) learn to closely read and analyze texts from a number of different time periods, countries, authors, etc. in ways that clearly go beyond merely summarizing or paraphrasing the works under discussion;
3.) engage in cogent and reasoned argumentation about the texts both in writing and in oral discussion.

General Education Outcome:
This course has one major General Education Outcome (HCW-3) that we will work toward achieving. The "Literary Inquiry" outcomes reads: students will learn to "relate to, enjoy, analyze, discuss, and write about imaginative literature—including poetry, fiction, and drama or film—within such contexts as formalist, historicist, and reader-response theory."[1]

Course Requirements:
Students will be expected to:
1.) Read the assigned texts;
2.) Complete weekly discussion board assignments;
3.) Produce a "Proposal for Final Project" (see Canvas);
4.) Complete the Final Project (more information will be available on Canvas).

Course Schedule/Outline:
See "Weird Fiction Scheduling" section below.

Methods of Evaluation:
1.) Weekly Discussion Board assignments;
2.) Proposal for Final Project (see Canvas);
3.) Final Project.

Grading Scale: Standard USF Grading Scale for CAS.

Course Evaluations/Surveys
Information gleaned from course evaluations is an important part of maintaining quality and continuous improvement in courses. The University's expects students to thoughtfully participate in this anonymous evaluation process.

COURSE POLICIES

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[1] See the *2018-2020 USF Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog*, p. 73

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus and class schedule as circumstances may warrant during the semester.

Students are expected to follow all policies in the USF Catalog and Student Handbook, both of which can be found in the student portal.

Policies not covered in this document will be handled in accordance with the USF Catalog and/or Student Handbook.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES
The student should use the USF portal as the first resource for guidance and support on items such as student complaints, safety, security and transportation questions, contact information for various USF departments, student support services such as counseling and academic resources. Information on these resources can be found in the "For Students" section of the USF portal.

A complete listing of university policies and procedures can be found in the University of St. Francis Course Catalog and Student Handbook. For the most current version of the catalog, please visit http://stfrancis.edu/academics/university-catalog

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Collaboration is only acceptable when it is explicitly acknowledged. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses. Since a lack of integrity hinders the student's academic development, it cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. Violations include but are not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. See the USF Catalog for further clarification and information on grievance procedures.

Services and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (Americans with Disabilities Act):

The University strives to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA). A student who requires special accommodations or arrangements due to a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services. This contact preferably should occur no later than the first week of classes. Early contact before the semester starts is encouraged to allow sufficient time to provide accommodations. Extra time is needed for some types of accommodations such as sign language interpreters or special text formatting. Should a need arrive after the start of a semester; the student is encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible. Note that accommodations are not retroactive. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

The University of St. Francis is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs, regardless of the course format. If you have a documented disability and need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this course, complete course requirements, or benefit from the University's programs or services, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as soon as possible at 815-740-3204 or Sarah Alag at salag@stfrancis.edu The Office of Disability Services is located on the second floor of the LaVerne and Dorothy Brown Library building room L214. Consultations are also available, please contact ODS for an appointment.

Academic Support Services:
The Academic Resource Center (ARC) located in Room L214 in the Library (815-740-5060) offers various types of academic services. Online and distance learning students can contact ARC for

appropriate resources. ARC serves students who need tutoring in many areas of study including writing and math. Library services include a number of online services and full text databases. Call the Library at 815-740-5041 for additional information. If you need academic-related resources or assistance, please contact the Academic Resource Center.

Notice of Copyright
This course may contain copyrighted materials that are intended to support the learning experiences of students currently enrolled in the course. No student may retain or further disseminate any copyrighted materials, in their entirety or any portion thereof, under penalty of law.

Technology Support
1. The Department of Academic Technology (DAT) administers the learning management system Canvas. If you are experiencing any difficulty using Canvas or need technical assistance, you have several options to receive support, including:
    a. 24x7 Live Canvas Support. If you experience technical difficulties or have a question about Canvas, you can receive support 24 hours a day 7 days a week through the Canvas help menu. From the help menu, select **Chat with Canvas Support** for a "live" text-based click-to-chat session,
    b. select **Report a Problem** to send an email support request, or speak to someone directly by using the toll-free number listed under the Canvas Support Hotline.
NOTE: Responses to Canvas' email-based Report a Problem request system will go to your USF stfrancis.edu email account, NOT your personal email.

2. Online Self-Service Help Resources. A student user guide and other resources for solving issues related to Canvas can be found at http://learnitnow.stfrancis.edu

3. Telephone Support from DAT. You can also phone the Department of Academic Technology for personal help at (815) 740-5080 or (866) 337-1497 (toll-free) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

For any technical support issues that are not related to Canvas, please contact the USF Technology Support Center (TSC). You can reach them via:
● Phone: 1-815-768-TECH (8324)
● Email: techsupport@stfrancis.edu
● Web: http://techsupport.stfrancis.edu
● Or visit them on the first floor of Marian Hall

WEEK	DAY	READING	ASSIGNMENT
1	Monday, May 17	Laying Some Theoretical Foundations: Read "Section I: Introduction" of H. P. Lovecraft's essay, "Supernatural Horror in Literature" available here (Links	

		to an external site.) and his "Notes on Writing Weird Fiction" here; Michael Moorcock's "Foreweird" (in *WC*) and the "Introduction" by the VanderMeers (*WC*)	
	Tuesday, May 18	Kubin, Blackwood, Saki, James, & Dunsany (pp. 27-70)—for those interested in a graphic novel version of Saki's story, see Laura Neato's seven-page version here (Links to an external site.).	
	Wednesday, May 19	Meyrink, Heym, & Ewers (pp. 71-89)	Week 0 Discussion Board: Introducing Ourselves
	Thursday, May 20	Tagore, Ugolini, & Merritt (pp. 90-109)	
	Friday, May 21	Akutagawa, Stevens, & Kafka (pp. 110-147)	
	Sunday, May 23		Week 1 Discussion Board
2	Monday, May 24	Grabinski, Arnold, & Lovecraft (pp. 148-182)—if you're interested in the epigraph to Lovecraft's story, the full version is available here (Links	

		to an external site.) (pp. 148-182)	
	Tuesday, May 25	Irwin, Ray, & Ray (pp. 183-222)	
	Wednesday, May 26	Smith, Sakutaro, & Walpole (pp. 223-247)	
	Thursday, May 27	Schulz, Johnson & Leiber (pp. 248-276)	
	Friday, May 28	Carrington, Wollheim, & Bradbury (pp. 277-289)	
	Sunday, May 30		Week 2 Discussion Board
3	Monday, May 31	Sansom, Borges, & Bhely-Quenum (pp. 290-310)	
	Tuesday, June 1	Jackson, St. Clair, & Bloch (pp. 311-332)—for those who liked Shirley Jackson's "The Summer People," feel free to have a read of her best story, "The Lottery" here	
	Wednesday, June 2	Tutuola, Bixby, & Monterroso (pp. 333-351)	
	Thursday, June 3	Cortazar, Sansom, & Beaumont (pp. 352-367)	

	Friday, June 4	Peake, Buzzati, & Bernanos (pp. 368-405)—if you loved the Buzzati, don't hesitate to read his "The Falling Girl"	
	Sunday, June 6		Week 3 Discussion Board
4	Monday, June 7	Rodoreda, Seignolle, & Wilson (pp. 406-422)	
	Tuesday, June 8	du Maurier, Aickman, & Etchison (pp. 423-473)	
	Wednesday, June 9	Tiptree, Jr., Basso, & Kincaid (pp. 474-520)	
	Thursday, June 10	Martin, Leman, Campbell (pp. 521-559)	
	Friday, June 11	Shea, William Gibson/John Shirley, & Harrison (pp. 560-599)	
	Sunday, June 13		Final Project Proposal Due
5	Monday, June 14	Russ, Harrison, & Mitra (pp. 600-622)	
	Tuesday, June 15	Wilson, Butler, & Barker (pp. 623-656)	

	Wednesday, June 16	Krohn, Kilworth, & Shepard (pp. 657-717)	
	Thursday, June 17	Ellison, Okri, & Hand (pp. 718-755)	
	Friday, June 18	Oates, Brite, & Ajvaz (pp. 756-776)	
	Sunday, June 20		[Week 5 Discussion Board](#)
6	Monday, June 21	Fowler, Koja, & Murakami (pp. 777-797)	
	Tuesday, June 22	Tuttle, Laidlaw, & Utley (pp. 798-823)	
	Wednesday, June 23	Simpson, Spencer, Ford (pp. 824-843)	
	Thursday, June 24	King, Carter, Padawer (pp. 844-875)	
	Friday, June 25	Chapman, Lee, Link (pp. 876-895)	
	Sunday, June 27		[Week 6 Discussion Board](#)
7	Monday, June 28	Kiernan, Chabon, & Mièville (pp. 896-921)	
	Tuesday, June 29	Cisco, Gaiman, VanderMeer (pp. 922-962)	

	Wednesday, June 30	Ford, Ligotti, Evenson (pp. 963-1005)	
	Thursday, July 1	Wright, Barron, Williams (pp. 1036-1068)	
	Friday, July 2	Negarestani, Morrissette, & Duffy, Jones, & Bishop (pp. 1069-1112)	
	Sunday, July 4		Week 7 Discussion Board
8	Monday, July 5	Final Project Workshop Week—no assigned reading.	
	Tuesday, July 6		
	Wednesday, July 7		Optional (Extra Credit) Week 8 Discussion Board Post
	Thursday, July 8		
	Friday, July 9		Final Project Due