

## **Standard Syllabus Elements**

**Course:** ENGL200—Intro to Lit: Weird Fiction (Sections D, E, F)

Semester: Spring 2023

Time: ONLINE—Fully Asynchronous

**Prerequisite:** ACAF 102 or ENGL 112 equivalent.

**Materials:** The Weird: A Compendium of Strange and Dark Stories, ed. Ann and Jeff VanderMeer. New York: TOR Books, 2011.

Other materials available via Canvas

**Professor:** Dr. Kevin Andrew Spicer  
Associate Professor

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### **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:**

#### **Course Description:**

ENGL 200 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

#### **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 in written discussion (and potentially in oral discussion).

#### **Course Requirements:**

**Students will be expected to:**

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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 is available on Canvas).

### Course Schedule/Outline:

Week	Day/Date	Reading Assignment	Assignment
1	Monday, January 09	Read Michael Moorcock’s “Foreweird” (in <i>WC</i> ) and the “Introduction,” by the VanderMeers ( <i>WC</i> ).	Week 0 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
	Wednesday, January 11	Choose one of the following readings that will give us some theoretical terms and terminology to use going forward: 1.) “Section I: Introduction” of H. P. Lovecraft’s essay, “Supernatural Horror in Literature” available <a href="#">here</a> and his “Notes on Writing Weird Fiction” <a href="#">here</a> ; 2.) Sigmund Freud’s essay, “The Uncanny” available <a href="#">here</a> and Chapter 2, “Psychoanalytic Criticism,” in Lois Tyson’s <i>Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide</i> available <a href="#">here</a> ; 3.) Mark Fisher’s <i>The Weird and the Eerie</i> <a href="#">here</a> .	
	Friday, January 13	Choose another one of the texts listed above for Wednesday and have a quick read-through.	
	Sunday, January 15		
2	Monday, January 16	Read Kubin, Blackwood, Saki, James, & Dunsany ( <i>WC</i> , pp. 1-70)—for those interested in a graphic novel version of Saki’s story, see Laura Neato’s seven-page version <a href="#">here</a> .	Week 1 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
	Wednesday, January 18	Meyrink, Heym, & Ewers (pp. 71-89)	
	Friday, January 20	Tagore, Ugolini, & Merritt (pp. 90-109)	
	Sunday, January 22		
3	Monday, January 23	Akutagawa, Stevens, & Kafka (pp. 110-147)	Week 2 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
	Wednesday, January 25	Grabinski, Arnold, & Lovecraft (pp. 148-182)—if you’re interested in the epigraph to Lovecraft’s story, the full version is available <a href="#">here</a> .	
	Friday, January 27	Irwin, Ray, & Ray (pp. 183-222)	
	Sunday, January 29		
4	Monday, January 30	Smith, Sakutaro, & Walpole (pp. 223-247)	Week 3 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
	Wednesday, February 01	Schulz, Johnson & Leiber (pp. 248-276)	
	Friday, February 03	Carrington, Wollheim, & Bradbury (pp. 277-289)	

## **Standard Syllabus Elements**

Sunday, February 05		Week 4 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
5 Monday, February 06	Sansom, Borges, & Bhely-Quenum (pp. 290-310)	
Wednesday, February 08	Jackson, St. Clair, & Bloch (pp. 311-332)—for those who liked Shirley Jackson’s “The Summer People,” feel free to have a read of what many readers/experts consider to be her best story, “The Lottery” <a href="#">here</a> .	
Friday, February 10	Tutuola, Bixby, & Monterroso (pp. 333-351)	
Sunday, February 12		Week 5 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
6 Monday, February 13	Cortazar, Sansom, & Beaumont (pp. 352-367)	
Wednesday, February 15	Peake, Buzzati, & Bernanos (pp. 368-405)—if you loved the Buzzati, don’t hesitate to read his “The Falling Girl” available <a href="#">here</a> .	
Friday, February 17	Rodoreda, Seignolle, & Wilson (pp. 406-422)	
Sunday, February 19		Week 6 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
7 Monday, February 20	du Maurier, Aickman, & Etchison (pp. 423-473)	
Wednesday, February 22	Tiptree, Jr., Basso, & Kincaid (pp. 474-520)	
Friday, February 24	Martin, Leman, Campbell (pp. 521-559)	
Sunday, February 26		Week 7 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
8 Monday, February 27	Shea, William Gibson/John Shirley, & Harrison (pp. 560-599)	
Wednesday, March 01	Russ, Harrison, & Mitra (pp. 600-622)	
Friday, March 03	Wilson, Butler, & Barker (pp. 623-656)	
Sunday, March 05		Week 8 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
9 Monday, March 06	FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL WORKSHOP WEEK—No assigned reading this week.	
Wednesday, March 08	FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL WORKSHOP WEEK—No assigned reading this week.	
Friday,	FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL WORKSHOP WEEK—No	

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	March 10	assigned reading this week.	
	Sunday, March 12		<a href="#">Final Project Proposal Due</a>
10	Monday, March 13	Krohn, Kilworth, & Shepard (pp. 657-717)	
	Wednesday, March 15	Ellison, Okri, & Hand (pp. 718-755)	
	Friday, March 17	Oates, Brite, & Ajvaz (pp. 756-776)	
	Sunday, March 19		Week 10 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
11	Monday, March 20	Fowler, Koja, & Murakami (pp. 777-797)	
	Wednesday, March 22	Tuttle, Laidlaw, & Utley (pp. 798-823)	
	Friday, March 24	Simpson, Spencer, Ford (pp. 824-843)	
	Sunday, March 26		Week 11 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
12	Monday, March 27	King, Carter, Padawer (pp. 844-875)	
	Wednesday, March 29	Chapman, Lee, Link (pp. 876-895)	
	Friday, March 31	Kiernan, Chabon, & Mieville (pp. 896-921)	
	Sunday, April 02		Week 12 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
13	Monday, April 03	Cisco, Gaiman, VanderMeer (pp. 922-962)	
	Wednesday, April 05	Ford, Ligotti, Evenson (pp. 963-1005)	
	Friday, April 07	Samuels, Abraham, Lanagan (pp. 1006-1035)	
	Sunday, April 09		Week 13 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
14	Monday, April 10	Wright, Barron, Williams (pp. 1036-1068)	
	Wednesday, April 12	Negarestani, Morrisette, & Duffy (pp. 1069-1099)	
	Friday, April	Jones & Bishop (pp. 1100-1112)	

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14	Sunday, April 16		Week 14 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
15	Monday, April 17	FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #1	
	Wednesday, April 19	FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #1	
	Friday, April 21	FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #1	
	Sunday, April 23		Week 15 Discussion Board Post— <a href="#">Section D</a> , <a href="#">Section E</a> , <a href="#">Section F</a>
16	Monday, April 24	FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #2	
	Wednesday, April 26	FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #2	
	Friday, April 28	FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #2	
	Sunday, April 30		
17	Monday, May 01		
	Wednesday, May 03		
	Friday, May 05		<a href="#">FINAL PROJECTS DUE</a>

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

See “Course Requirements” Section supra.

### **Grading Scale**

### **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**

### **Attendance Policy:**

Provide detail on your attendance policy

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

## **Standard Syllabus Elements**

*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>

Students are expected to be familiar with and follow the various procedures and guidelines regarding USF’s COVID-19 Response, including the USF Preparedness Plan and other materials incorporated in the Saints United resource hub (<https://www.stfrancis.edu/saints-united/>).

### **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.

USF 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 a course, complete course requirements, or benefit from the University’s programs or services, please contact the Office of Disability Services at [815-740-3631](tel:815-740-3631) or [ODS@stfrancis.edu](mailto:ODS@stfrancis.edu) . The Office of Disability Services is in the Academic Resource Center (ARC) and is located on the second floor of the LaVerne and Dorothy Brown Library in room L214. Consultations are welcome, please contact the Office of Disability Services for an appointment.

### **Academic Support Services:**

## Standard Syllabus Elements

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.

### 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](mailto:techsupport@stfrancis.edu)
- Web: <http://techsupport.stfrancis.edu>
- Or visit them on the first floor of Marian Hall

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	Sunday, February 26		Week 7 Discussion

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15	Monday, April 17	FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #1	
	Wednesday, April 19	FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #1	

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Friday, April 21 FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #1

Sunday, April 23

Week 15  
Discussion  
Board Post—  
[Section D](#),  
[Section E](#),  
[Section F](#)

16 Monday, April 24 FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #2

Wednesday, April 26 FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #2

Friday, April 28 FINAL PROJECT WORK WEEK #2

Sunday, April 30

17 Monday, May 01

Wednesday, May 03

Friday, May 05

[FINAL PROJECTS  
DUE](#)