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Fall 9-1-2000

### ENLT 120.01: Introduction to Critical Interpretation

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*The University of Montana*

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ENLT 120 Section 1

Introduction to Critical Interpretation

MWF 1-2

LA 308

Professor Mark Ratledge

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Office hours: 2-3 MWF

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Class web page: <http://www.umt.edu/english/classweb/enlt120.1/>

ENLT 120 is designed to develop interpretive reading and writing skills. In the course of our readings we will examine important elements of fiction, poetry, and drama in order to better understand what they offer, how they are constructed, and why they appeal to readers. Required texts: *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature*, 5th Edition (Meyer); *Cannery Row*, by John Steinbeck; *So Long, See You Tomorrow*, by William Maxwell.

Attendance: Class discussion is essential to the appreciation and interpretation of literature. In order to participate, keep up with the readings and bring your texts to class. You are expected to attend every class and contribute questions, comments and ideas. Any student who has four or more absences (for any reason) risks failing. Students who know they will be absent in order to participate in University sponsored activities must talk to me in advance. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for all work, including your journal.

Computers: All class writing must be computer printed - no dot-matrix print outs or hand written rough draft or final papers. If you use a computer in a lab, keep your files on a floppy and regularly make a backup copy. If you have a home or dorm computer, make regular backups. Losing a computer file or disk is not an excuse for a late paper.

Folders: All of your class work goes into your folder: paper rough and final drafts, paper research, your journal, and any additional assignments. I will see this folder at mid-term and during finals week.

Papers: Late papers will lose a letter grade for each class day they are late. If you must turn in a late paper, talk to me ahead of time. All rough drafts, research and final drafts go in your folder.

Research: Print or photocopy all research materials for your papers and keep all in your folder.

Journal: For each class write at least 150 words (don't be afraid to write more; be sure to date each entry) of your reactions to the class reading or discussion. If there is no reading assignment, write about the paper you are working on. Or, write about something outside of class but relevant to our class. Bring your journal to class each day. I prefer a computer printed journal, but because of the nature of journal writing, it can be hand written.

Grading: Although I don't give letter grades on individual papers, I will correct and comment on them. You will get a tentative final class grade (A through F) at mid-term during an office conference. This grade will give you an indication of your level of work and an idea of what you need to accomplish the second half of the semester. Papers make up 50% of your final grade; journal, 30%; class participation, 20%. All requirements (all assigned papers and drafts, a complete journal, attendance and class participation) must be met to get credit for the class.

Plagiarism: Don't be unfair to yourself regarding your college learning experience. Do your own work. You are guilty of plagiarism if you use someone else's words or ideas without using quotation marks and proper documentation. Plagiarism results in a failing grade for the class.

## ENLT 120.1 Class Schedule

(Subject to change)

### September 6-9 Intro and assessment

11 - Kate Chopin story

13 - A Comparison of Two Stories (Bedford Compact Reader p. 18-39)

15 - Writing About Fiction (BCR p. 40-59)

22, 25 - Plot (BCR p. 60-93)

27 - Character (BCR p. 94-109)

29 - Setting (BCR p. 137-153)

September 29 - O'Brien, "How to Tell a True War Story" (BCR p. 459-468)

### October 2 - Point of View (BCR P. 154-158)

4 - Critical Strategies for Reading (BCR p. 1483-1522)

6 - Begin "Cannery Row" (Introduction to page 59), and Symbolism (BCR p. 193-195)

9 - "Cannery Row" (p. 60-120) and Style, Tone, and Irony (BCR p. 234-238)

11 - "Cannery Row" (p. 121-end )

13 - Paper workshop; bring typed draft to class

16- Final draft of papers due; read paper excerpts in class

18, 20 - No classes - **Conference week (folders due)**

23 - Reading Poetry (BCR p. 531-557)

25, 27 - Word Choice, Word Order, and Tone (BCR p.570-579)

27, 30 - Images (BCR p. 600-607)

### November 1 - Figures of Speech (BCR p. 617-625)

3, 6 - Symbol, Allegory, and Irony (BCR p.635-644)

8 - Sounds (BCR p. 662-674) and Patterns of Rhythm (BCR p. 687-694)

10 - No class

13 - Poetic Forms and Open Forms (BCR p. 706-745)

15 - Research topics due: talk about topics in class

17 - Bring research materials to class with paper outline workshop

20 - No class today, but begin reading "So Long, See You Tomorrow," Chapters 1-3

22-24 - No class

27 - "So Long, See You Tomorrow," Chapters 1-3

29 - "So Long, See You Tomorrow," Chapters 3-7

### December 1 - Research paper workshop (finish "So Long, See You Tomorrow" on your own)

4, 6 - Reading Drama (BCN p. 941-973)

8 - Glass Menagerie (BCN p. 1256-1313)

11 - Glass Menagerie (BCN p. 1256-1313)

13, 15 - Watch film version of "Glass Menagerie"

18 - **Folders due** with final draft of research paper

18 through 22 (finals week)- Conferences (voluntary)

**Final Exam** - Thursday, December 21, 1-3 pm.