

University of New Orleans
ScholarWorks@UNO

University of New Orleans Syllabi

Fall 2015

ENGL 2238

Kim C. McDonald
University of New Orleans

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/syllabi>

This is an older syllabus and should not be used as a substitute for the syllabus for a current semester course.

Recommended Citation

McDonald, Kim C., "ENGL 2238" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 451.
<https://scholarworks.uno.edu/syllabi/451>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of New Orleans Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UNO. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uno.edu.

English 2238-002
Kim C. McDonald

Reading Fiction
Office: LA 371

MWF 12:00-12:50
Phone: 280-6473

LA 320
Email: kmcdonal@uno.edu

Office Hours:

Mon and Wed: 11:00 – 11:30 AM; 2:00 –4:00 PM
Fri: 11:00 – 11:30 AM; 2:00 –2:30 PM
Other times by appointment

Prerequisites: Completion of English 1158 at UNO (or equivalent transfer credit from another institution) with a grade of C or better, or a qualifying score on the AP, ACT, or SAT exam (see me if you have questions about your prerequisite credit).

Required Texts:

Anthology: *Forty Short Stories*. 4th ed. Ed. Beverly Lawn. ISBN: 978-1-4576-0475-1
Novels: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Signet Classics, 2000 ISBN: 978-0-4515-3224-4
Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*, Vintage (Random House), 978-1-4000-3342-3

You are required to bring the texts being discussed to class. Failure to do so will lower your final grade. If you buy e-books or use electronic texts, you must be able to bring the texts to class for discussions; however, NO electronic texts are allowed during exams or quizzes, even when hard copies are allowed (however, I often do not allow books in exams, so this may be a moot point).

Goals: The purpose of this course is to help you to better understand and more fully enjoy fiction, to become more aware of its relevance and importance in our lives, and to strengthen your ability to express your interpretation and evaluation of literary works more effectively in discussion and writing.

Student Learning Objectives: After successfully completing this course, students should be able to

- Read with more critical awareness
- Apply the appropriate literary terms for discussing and analyzing fiction
- Identify the elements of these two genres of fiction (short story and novel)
- Apply the knowledge gained (of literary terms and elements, and the specific works discussed) to all reading in order to more fully comprehend the complexity and meaning in texts
- Develop familiarity with determining and explaining the meaning of a work of fiction to other readers
- Compose written analyses of works of fiction
- Evaluate the relevance of literary works to everyday life

Class meetings: The majority of class time will be spent discussing and analyzing the works we are reading; therefore, it is required that you have not only *read* all assigned material before the class in which it will be discussed, but that you have taken the time to think about it and react to it as well. You are expected to come to class ready to be tested on and to discuss all material assigned up to that point.

To do well in the course, you will need to attend class, complete all reading assigned (on schedule), and take time before class to think about what you have read so you are ready to discuss or write about the reading assigned. Much of our class work will be in the form of discussion, and from time to time you may be asked to work in groups to analyze and present material to your classmates, to explicate a passage, or even to develop a piece of writing or presentation. Failure to be prepared to do this work or resistance to participating fully will lower your grade.

Assignments listed on the syllabus are tentative, and changes or additions to assignments will be announced in class. You are responsible for assignments given in your absence, so I strongly suggest you get to know some of your classmates and how to contact them in case you must miss a class; you will need to find out what you missed and get information on any changes to reading or other work due for the next class meeting. Absence from class is not an excuse for not having the work assigned in class completed, and you must be prepared for discussion, quizzes, or other work, or you will lose points on work for which there is no other way to earn credit.

I will NOT always update changes to assignments on Moodle—while I often do so, the only way to guarantee you have all the information on assigned work is to be in class and take notes.

Quizzes and Other In-class Work: There will be frequent (probably every regular class day) quizzes; there may also be a few short in-class writings on assigned readings. These will be unannounced, usually given at the beginning of the class period. As stated above, **there will be no method for making up credit, regardless of the reason quiz/writing was missed.** Questions on quizzes may simply test whether you have read the required material or they may (as will most other writing/work completed in class) require that you have carefully considered and analyzed the work you have read. So be sure to take time to consider the meaning of the work and the ways in which the author conveys this meaning to readers so that you will be prepared for class discussion and other work.

Group/Individual Project/Presentation: We will likely have at least one group project and presentation, and I may have you complete other individual or group presentations. You will have some class time to work on these, but you will also need to arrange for some out-of-class time to prepare for the presentation of the material to the class.

Papers: You will produce both in-class and out of class writing for the course: one (or possibly two) formal essays of approximately 750-1000 words each and other shorter assignments or in-class essays on exams. Formal writing will be assessed on content (clear thesis, analysis of the works, support and explanation of the analysis by citing of specific examples and passages from the works), form (organization, clarity of expression), grammar, and if required, incorporation of sources and MLA citation. Any paper that does not meet the general requirements for passing English 1158 will receive an F.

Exams: There will be one exam (over two class periods) during the semester and one during the final exam period. The formats may vary, but the majority of questions on all the exams will be in short written response or long essay response format. Works you are asked to analyze may include the works we have read, articles or criticism related to those texts or authors we have read or discussed, or materials in any other media we have covered (movies, online material, etc.). Make up exams will only be allowed in extreme cases, and because this requires I create a second set of questions, make up exams are more difficult than the original.

Attendance: Don't miss class. While University policy allows up to five absences in a MWF classes before the absences affect your FINAL grade for the course ANY absence has negative effects, as you miss not only discussion, but quizzes, in-class writing, or other work for which you can't earn back any missed credit. Also, note that these "allowed" absences are to be saved for emergencies—the first five classes missed, regardless of the reasons you were not able to attend, are your only excused absences—all absences after that point, regardless of the reasons, are UNEXCUSED and will affect your final grade. After five absences (or tardies, etc. equivalent to five absences), each additional absence (regardless of the reasons for ANY of the absences) will result in lowering your **final grade** by ½ a letter grade, so two additional absences would lower the final grade by a full letter.

If you arrive after class begins, you must speak to me immediately after class that day and be sure I have marked you present on the roster, or it will count as an absence. Also, three instances of arriving late (but within the first 20 minutes of class), leaving early, or coming and going during class (including while we are doing group work or when I have given you time to read, write, etc.) will count as the equivalent of an absence (you should be able to sit for 50 minutes without having to leave). Arriving more than 20 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early is counted as being absent, not tardy (but you should still come to class—you'll still benefit from discussion, get credit for quizzes or other work, etc.). Also, if I have to tell you more than once during the semester not to use a phone or to stop some other distracting activity, each time this occurs will count as an absence.

While you should make every effort to have the assigned reading (or any other work) completed before class, don't skip class because you don't have an assignment completed. If you do, you not only accrue an absence, but you also miss any work we are doing that day and any changes or additions to assignments for the next class (but don't read the assignment during class or try to participate if you haven't read the assignment).

When an absence is unavoidable on a day when an assignment is due, you can submit the work that is due that day on Moodle (if it is a formal assignment) or by e-mail (if it is not), but to avoid the late penalty, it must be posted or arrive in my inbox at least ½ hour before class begins, and I must be able to open the document (so be sure it is sent as a Word document or an .rtf).

Deadlines: Work not submitted at the beginning of class on the day it is due is considered late. DO NOT complete late work during class and then hand it in unless you are instructed to do so—credit will be DEDUCTED if you do work assigned for class while we are discussing or working on other material. Grades for formal assignments that are submitted after class begins but before midnight of the day they are due will be lowered ½ a letter grade; a full letter grade will be subtracted for each additional day the assignment is late. If you are having difficulty with a writing assignment, COME TO SEE ME DURING OFFICE HOURS well before the day the assignment is due—I can almost always help with this and seeing me is likely to keep you from getting a penalty for late submission.

Weighting of Final Grades (tentative):

Quizzes, informal writing, other short assignments	20%
In-class essay	10%
Out of class essay	15%
Exam (during semester)	25%
Final Exam	30%

I may make some adjustment to this weighting if it becomes evident this is not an effective reflection of the time and work you are putting in to the different types of assignments.

NOTE: Failure to complete ANY requirement for the course (assigned writing, the group project, an exam, etc.) or any act of plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero for the assignment. ANY zero will cause you to fail the course, regardless of the weighting of the assignment (everyone must participate in the group projects, write the essay, and take both exams to pass the course).

Moodle: Every UNO student has a UNO email account and access to Moodle. Any assignments or correspondence will be posted on Moodle or go to your UNO email account. You are responsible for checking both frequently.

Writing Center: Be sure to take advantage of the Writing Center, which is located in LA 334. They offer free tutoring by appointment and workshops on specific writing issues (a schedule should be available after the first week of classes).

Standard University Statement on Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online through the UNO Webpage.

MY Statement on Academic Integrity: I take academic dishonesty VERY seriously. It is your responsibility to let me know if you don't understand MLA citation/documentation and to let me know BEFORE you submit an essay if you aren't sure whether or not you have cited all sources as required. Except in instances where students don't know a source must be cited (and I'm going to provide information covering this, so it is your responsibility to be sure you understand), I believe that most plagiarism results from students becoming stressed or panicked about an assignment. If you find yourself short on time or for any other reason contemplating any form of academic dishonesty—paraphrasing sources without documenting them, getting someone else to help write your essay, buying an essay, or resorting to any other form of academic dishonesty, DON'T DO IT. Come to see me—we can discuss the options, and suffering the penalties of a late paper or even receiving an F or a zero for not completing a project will be less severe than the result of submitting work that is plagiarized, no matter how little of it is someone else's work. Committing plagiarism can not only earn you an F in a course—it can get you expelled from the university.

Also, all writing you submit should be completed specifically for this course unless you get written permission from me. Otherwise, submitting writing, even your own, that was completed for another purpose or that you are writing for use in two different courses is considered academic dishonesty. This doesn't mean you won't be able to work from writing you already have or choose a topic that relates to study or even writing for another class, as long as you discuss this with me IN ADVANCE. I actually ENCOURAGE this kind of connection, but we need to work together to determine how the connections could provide a valuable way for you to accomplish the goals of this course (or both courses). But in ALL cases, if you are incorporating writing produced (or being produced) for another course as any part of your project, or

working on the same topic for two courses, you must inform me in advance and get approval from me in writing (and you must inform your other instructor as well, if the work is in progress for that class).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance (please feel free to ask me if you need information or help concerning getting accommodations or determining if you should contact the ODS, which is located in UC 248).

Cell Phones: Please leave all cell phones outside the classroom or make sure neither I nor the other students will in any way be made aware you have one. This means turning the phone off or setting it so that it does not ring OR vibrate. You are expected to act as though you have no phone for the entire time you are in the class. If you will have difficulty doing this, leave your phone in your car. If you have a true emergency situation, please alert me of the situation before class time, set the phone so it will not ring, and exit and re-enter quietly if you need to answer or leave campus.

Coming Late, Leaving Early, or Coming and Going: None of these are acceptable. As mature college students, you need to exhibit your responsibility by being on time, by not scheduling other appointments or obligations that will require you to leave early or arrive late, and by being able to remain in the room for the entire class without needing to get a drink, go to the restroom, etc. I understand that, on rare occasions, you may need to do one of these, but that should indeed be once or twice during a semester, and it should be done as quietly as possible. NO ONE on campus should schedule meetings with you during class times—if they do, you should inform them one of your instructors has indicated this will count as an absence (even if it is only for part of the class). Be considerate and respectful of your classmates and of me by avoiding these unnecessary interruptions of class. DON'T leave class when I have given to you to write or to work collaboratively or in groups; doing so will automatically count as an absence (rather than as 1/3 of one). If I didn't feel the work were important, I wouldn't use class time for doing it.

A Note on These Policies: Rules aren't much fun, but you need to know what is expected. I understand that life happens, so being late one day or coming in late with an assignment because there was an accident, the bridge was closed while you were on your way to class, or your dog ate your homework (well, maybe not that, but the others), probably won't earn the harshest penalties I've outlined. I'm much more concerned about recurring issues. If you are late because the traffic is heavy, but it happens frequently, then you need to leave earlier. If you have an instructor who keeps you in class late, you could let him or her know that you have a class in another building, or better yet, since this isn't your responsibility, give me the information and without revealing your identity, I will ask to have the faculty member reminded that classes have a scheduled end time for this very reason.

A finally, a TIP (not only for my class, but for all your classes): Assume you must attend class and complete the work for your classes just as you are required to show up for and perform what is required for a serious, professional job, because the same kind of behavior that would cost you your job will cause you to fail a course.

Tentative First Weeks Reading Assignments (this is subject to change)

W 8/19 Intro to course
 F 8/21 Terms and concepts

 M 8/24 Terms and "Story of an Hour"/Chopin
 W 8/26 "Cask of Amontillado"/Poe
 F 8/28 "The Darling"/Chekov (posted on Moodle)

 M 8/31 "Lady with the Dog"/Chekov
 W 9/2 *Frankenstein*/Shelley
 F 9/4 *Frankenstein*/Shelley

Tentative Dates for Major Assignments (these are subject to change)

F 9/11 In-class Essay

 W 10/7 Midterm Exam Part I
 F 10/9 Midterm Exam Part II

 F 10/30 Out-of-class Essay

 W 12/9 Final Exam 12:30-2:30