

Fall 2015

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY  
Department of English**

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(I don't use Mix)

Office hours-Tuesday  
4-5:30 and by appointment

**English 132-Short Story & Novel**

This course is an introduction to reading, understanding, and analyzing long and short fiction from diverse voices. Students will acquire a broad understanding of the art of fiction by exploring the elements of fiction such as plot, character, narrative voice, structure, and pattern in order to understand how and what a text means. We will consider the relationship between form and content, structure, and meaning. We will also use class, race, gender, nationality, sexuality, and identity as categories of analysis.

Student participation is essential to the development of competency in analyzing these literacy works, thus students are expected to be prepared for class by completing the reading prior to class discussion, and further to participate in class orally. **Reading is a must in this class!**

**CLASS PROCEDURES**

1. **Attendance is very necessary!** If you cannot attend class for some reason, you are responsible for finding out from a classmate what you have missed, and what the assignment is for the next class meeting. **Please do not call or email me to ask for assignments you've missed.** You are expected to be prepared to participate fully in the class discussion on the day you return to class, and hand in any assignment that is due. **Quizzes cannot be made up. After two unexcused absences you will lose a point each time you are absent. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!**

2. **Please turn off and put away your cell phones during class.**

3. **Class Participation** will be an important portion of your grade, not that it will be equivalent in value to all of the written exams. I will assume that each of you would have read the assignment, and I will, therefore, feel free to call on you. Each class period, you will bring to in writing (**typed**) two questions/comments to help prompt class discussion of the reading or one full paragraph must be on that day's assignment. I will take up the questions from time to time.

4. To further prepare yourself for class discussion, **mark what you read by underlining or highlighting passages, or by writing the page and paragraph number down** so that you can easily refer to materials. Consider material that strikes you as important or interesting, or part of the text that you simply don't understand. This is always time to raise questions!

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

		<b>Grading Rubric</b>	
Class Participation	20%		
Two Quizzes <b>(unannounced)</b>	20%	100-90=A	69-60=D
Midterm Examination	25%	89-80=B	59-below=F
Final Examination	35%	79-70=C	

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

#### **Books**

*Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat

*Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison

*Citizen* by Claudia Rankine

*Ghana Must Go* by Talye Selasi

#### **Films** (provided by professor)

*Finding Forrest*

*Dinner With Friends*

*We Don't Live Here Anymore*

*Winter's Bone*

### **CLAS SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

#### **Week of:**

**Aug 18<sup>th</sup>** Introduction-Review of Syllabus-Discussion and Expectations  
**Assignment:** Continue *Dinner With Friends*

- Aug 25th** Complete film and class discussion about the film  
**Assignment:** *Song of Solomon*
- Sept 1st** Continue *Song of Solomon*
- Sept 7th** Labor Day Recess
- Sept 8th** Complete: *Song of Solomon*  
**Assignment:** *Winter's Bone*
- Sept 9th** **Reading: Mark Brazaitis & Faith Shearin-Robinson Reading Room  
7:30-9:00 pm**
- Sept 15th** Complete film and start class discussion  
**Assignment:** *Ghana Must Go*
- Sept 22nd** Start discussion of novel discussion  
**Assignment:** *Claire of the Sea Light*
- Sept 22nd** **Yom Kippur (Day of Special Concern)**
- Sept 29th** Continue *Claire of the Sea Light*  
**Assignment:** *We Don't Live Here Anymore*
- Oct 6th** **Mid Term Examination**
- Oct 7th** **Allison Bass Reading-130 Colson-7:30-9:00 pm**
- Oct 13th** **Fall Recess**
- Oct 14th** **Semi Annual Pizza Party-130 Colson Hall-11:30-1:00 pm**
- Oct 15-20th** **Professor Smith-Turin Literary Festival**
- Oct 15th** *We Don't Live Here Anymore*
- Oct 15th** **Susan Straight Reading-Robinson Reading Room-7:30-9:00 pm**
- Oct 20th** Continue film  
**Assignment:** Continue *Claire of the Sea Light*
- Oct 27th** Continue *Claire of the Sea Light*
- Nov 3rd** **Election Day (no class)**
- Nov 5th** Discussion *Claire of the Sea Light*

**Assignment:** *Citizen*

- Nov 10<sup>th</sup>**      Discussion *Citizen*
- Nov 16<sup>th</sup>**      **Kevin Oderman & Sarah Einstein Reading-Robinson Reading Room-7:30-9:00 pm**
- Nov 17<sup>th</sup>**      Complete film discussion
- Nov 24<sup>th</sup>**      **Thanksgiving Recess**
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**        Last Day of Class
- Dec 10-16<sup>th</sup>** **Final Exam Week**

**HONOR CODE**

Any work that you submit must be your own. In addition, any words, ideas, or data that you use from another source (individual, website, and published text) must be properly documented. It is your responsibility to learn the rules and conventions of citing sources in your academic work. If you have questions about academic citation, consult with me during office hours or raise your issue in class. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. Clear cases will result in an **F** for the course and appropriate academic sanctions. Please see the WVU Undergraduate Catalog section on Academic Integrity/Dishonesty for a full explanations and procedures.

**LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

WVU is committed to social justice. I support that commitment and will work to create a positive learning environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. I welcome suggestions for further such an environment. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran's status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. If you are an individual in a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me, and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services at 304-293-6700.