Critical Reading and Writing—Short Fiction

Required Texts:
Diana Hacker, *A Writer’s Reference*
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
Michael Cunningham, *The Hours*
A good, hard-cover dictionary
Stories on eres

Course Goals:
This course seeks to develop your skills as a reader, writer, and oral presenter. You will study the effects of language through a close critical reading of fiction and will use your increased sensitivity to language to practice writing effective essays. In three “writers workshops” we will review classmates’ essays. By giving constructive feedback to your peers, you will develop as an editor of your own work. Finally, you will work with a small group of classmates to make a focused presentation on one story to the class.

Reading and Assignment schedule (due on the date listed).  R = Report:

1/21 W  Course Introduction
1/23 F  Why Read?: Dark, “In the Gloaming”

1/26 M  How to Read: Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”
1/28 W  What Happens?: Carver, “Fat,” R
1/30 F  Structure: K. Boyle, “The Astronomer’s Wife”

2/2 M  Structure: Joyce, “Araby”; Essay 1 assignment handed out
2/4 W  Peter Elbow, “Freewriting” (eres); Thesis Statements, Hacker, C2a
2/6 F  Where?: Jones, “Marie”

2/11 W  Paragraphs, Hacker, C4
2/13 F  **Essay 1 due in class**; Peer Review session

2/16 M  Narration: Robison, “Pretty Ice,” R; **Revised Essay 1 due in class**
2/20 F  Introductions/conclusions, Hacker  C2c
2/23 M  How Told?: Hemingway, “Killers,” R; Essay 2 assignment handed out
2/25 W  Why Tell?: Chesnutt, “Po’ Sandy”
2/27 F  Putting it all Together: Jones, “Lost in the City” R

3/1 M  Essay 2 due in class; Peer Review Session
3/2 T  Edward Jones reading, 7 p.m., Hogan Ballroom
3/5 F  Revised Essay 2 due in class

SPRING VACATION

3/15 M  Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway; 3-28
3/17 W  Mrs. Dalloway; 29-53
3/19 F  Mrs. Dalloway, 54-80

3/22 M  Mrs. Dalloway, 81-105; Essay 3 assignment handed out
3/24 W  Mrs. Dalloway, 106-30
3/26 F  Mrs. Dalloway, 131-55

3/29 M  Mrs. Dalloway, 156-94
3/31 W  Cunningham, “The White Angel” R
4/2 F  Cunningham, cont’d.

4/5 M  Essay 3 due in class, peer review session
4/7 W  Revised Essay 3 due in class

EASTER BREAK

4/14 W  Cunningham, The Hours, 3-48
4/16 F  The Hours, 49-87

4/19 M  The Hours, 89-121
4/21 W  The Hours, 123-62
4/23 F  Punctuation: Hacker, P1-P7; Lewis Thomas, “Notes on Punctuation” (hand-out)

4/26 M  The Hours, 163-203
4/28 W  The Hours, 205-26
   Film Screening, The Hours
4/30 F  The Hours; Film Response due in class.

5/3 M  Essay 4 due in class; peer review session

Study Break Begins

Essay 4 revised, due date TBA
Grading: Essay 1 = 15%; Essay 2 = 20%; Essay 3 = 20%; Final Essay = 25%; Class Presentation = 10%; Participation = 10%

Class Policies:
• Be prepared for a few changes to the syllabus as we see how the course evolves.
• Analyzing Text Exercises and Peer Review responses: I can accept these only in class on the day they are due. If you miss a class when I collect these, you will receive a zero for that particular assignment. I will however drop one of these grades before determining your final grades for that work.
• Plagiarism: Plagiarism means presenting other people’s ideas or words as your own. If you summarize, paraphrase, or use language from another source you must provide the proper citation. If you do not quote the exact words, you must recast the sentences entirely in your own words; you may not even follow the original pattern or syntax of the sentence. We will go over this in class but you are responsible for making sure you fully understand and abide by this code of academic honesty. Any essay caught plagiarizing any amount of material will receive an F.
• Late papers: If you do not bring your essay to class on the day it is due, you will need to get a note from your Class Dean to explain why it is late. If you do not come to class on the day your essay is due, then your essay will be counted late. If you do come to class but don’t have your essay then you will have until 4 p.m. of that day to get it to me and it will not be counted late. Late essays are penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day they are late, including weekends. So Friday’s A- is Monday’s B-.