Instructor: Dr. Michael Boecherer

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**Required Texts:**

1. *Oleanna* by David Mamet. Published by Dramatist’s Play Services
2. *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. Published by Dramatist’s Play Services
5. *Sun Also Rises* by Hemingway. Scribner

**Course Description:**

Introduction to the imaginative works of literature: the short story, novel, poem, and drama. Close and analytical study of this literature introduces students to major literary themes and forms. Continues training in effective prose writing and requires students to demonstrate maturity in thought and style. Recommended for those who plan to continue their studies at a four year institution.

Final grades will be determined in the following manner:

- Formal Papers: 50%
- Weekly Journals: 20%
- Participation: 30%

**Formal Papers:**
This category consists of two (2) essays, five (5) pages long. Essay assignments will be handed out early and must conform to MLA standards (i.e., usage of in-paper citation when quoting). *Papers must be handed in on time*. I will not accept papers that are more than a week late.

All essays must be typed, double spaced, and have 12 point font. Essays should include a proper heading comprising your name, my name, the name of the course, and the date that the paper is due.

You may revise your first major assignment for a higher grade. *I will not take emailed papers.*

**Weekly Journals:**

Students are expected to hand in ten (10) journals, one (1) page long. Journals must be typed and must re-act to the literature we are covering in class. Summary is not the same as a reaction. Your journal must argue something. Journal topics are open. However, if you are looking for a topic to write about, some questions you could answer in your journals are:
1. What themes do you notice in the readings being covered?
2. What is the argument of a particular short story? Do the characters play a part in the story’s argument?
3. What confused you about the readings? Is the author purposely trying to confuse you?

**I will not take emailed journals. Journals are due at the end of each week.** I will not accept journals if they are more than 3 days late. Points will be taken off for late work.

**Participation:**

*Participation is big and can mean the difference between an “A” and a “C” if you are not careful.*

Participation is based on how often you choose to comment on the materials being covered. If you cannot verbalize an argument, it will be even tougher to write about one! As that is the case, share your ideas! Coming to class is not enough. You need to get involved; discussion is one way to do this.

Participation is also based on attendance. Students are allowed two (2) excused absences. Missing three (3) classes could severely alter your grade. Missing four (4) classes results in automatic failure.

Should you need to miss a class, let me know ahead of time. This is a good rule to follow for any class. Also – be sure to come to class on time! Coming to class late also impacts your participation grade.

**Texting in class is not participation. It is disrespectful. I want your full attention. Texting is detrimental to your participation grade. Don’t do it.**

Finally, participation is also based on whether or not you choose to hand assignments in. It is also based on assignment timeliness.

This syllabus is a binding contract between student and instructor. If you disagree with any aspect of this outline, drop the course immediately.

**Weekly Schedule – Students are responsible for the reading on the dates assigned**

Aug. 31st: First Class / Introductory Material
Sept. 2nd: Poetry

Sept. 7th: Poetry
Sept. 9th: No Class – religious holiday

Sept. 14th: Poetry
Sept. 16th: Poetry

Sept. 21st: No Class – All College Day
Sept. 23rd: Othello, Act I

Sept. 28th: Othello, Acts II and III
Sept. 30th: Othello, Acts IV and V
Feb. 24th: Streetcar

Mar. 1st: Oleanna
Mar. 3rd: Oleanna

Mar. 8th: Oleanna
Mar. 10th: The Short Story

Mar. 15th: The Short Story
Mar. 17th: The Short Story

Mar. 22nd: The Short Story
Mar. 24th: TBA

Mar. 29th: No Class – Spring Break
Mar. 31st: No Class – Spring Break

Apr. 5th: Woman Warrior, Chapter I
Apr. 7th: Woman Warrior, Chapter II

Apr. 12th: Woman Warrior, Chapter III
Apr. 14th: Woman Warrior, Chapter IV

Apr. 19th: Woman Warrior, Chapter V
Apr. 21st: Short Story

Apr. 26th: Short Story
Apr. 28th: Short Story

May 3rd: Short Story
May 5th: Poetry

May 10th: Poetry
May 12th: Poetry

May 17th: TBA
May 19th: Final Class