WRTG 3020 Very Recent Fiction: Hot Off the Press
Judith Lavinsky  Fall 2004
Guidelines

Attendance: This course is organized as a workshop. Your attendance and participation are absolutely necessary. Because the writing workshop offers a priceless opportunity to develop the critical skills all writers rely upon, I cannot in good conscience close my eyes to student absences. POOR ATTENDANCE (i.e., more than three absences during the term) WILL BE PENALIZED. I am not interested in reasons for absences. I'm willing to believe that you act in good faith, but I expect you to show the same good faith to the class. If you fail at this responsibility, prepare for the consequences—a lower grade or an F. I plan to begin most class periods with a brief sentence drill which will give you credit for attending and will also reinforce style and grammar issues.

Mechanics: Type your work. For workshop sessions bring copies for each class member plus one for me. Prepare for workshop by reading classmates' papers. Write brief comments on the papers and return them to their authors when we finish discussion. You will find these comments helpful when you receive them. Return the favor to your classmates. At various points during the semester I will collect your write-ups of class papers in order to give you credit for your efforts. No effort, no credit, lower course grade.

Course Content: You will write three full-length papers (four to five pages) each of which will receive class comment as you work on it. Expect to revise extensively. I may also assign brief summary papers which will not receive workshop attention. In addition, expect to write brief critiques of classmates’ work in progress which I will collect frequently, usually without advance notice.

Readings: Our principal texts, other than student papers, will be recently published fiction including two novels: *Disgrace*, by J.M. Coetzee and *Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer. In addition, I’ve ordered literary magazines, *Fiction* and *Divide*, which will be the basis of a short paper. You will need a good dictionary and a writer's handbook. I’ve ordered Diana Hacker’s *A Pocket Style Manual*, but you may use a different one if you already have it.

Office Hours: MWF 1:15-2:15 and by appointment. My office is in Temporary Building #1 Room 110. Call me at 492-5429. My mailbox is in TB #1, first floor hallway. E-mail: Judith.Lavinsky@Colorado.edu.

Conferences: You are cordially required to drop in during office hours (or at a mutually convenient appointment time) at least once this term. I’m keeping track. Be sure to come before I have to invite you. I will probably schedule formal conferences on full length drafts of papers at least once this semester.

Other Considerations: Writing Program instructors make every effort to accommodate students with disabilities. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Reach DS at 303-492-8671, Willard 322.

Honor Code: Please review the university Honor Code (http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/). I fully support the university’s efforts to encourage students to practice the highest level of academic ethics.

Warning: I will not give a letter grade to a paper unless I’ve seen it in progress during the workshop sessions. A plagiarized paper will receive an F, the student who submits it may receive an F in the course, and the case may be turned over to the Dean for further action.
Guidelines: WRTG 1150 FIRST YEAR WRITING Judith Lavinsky Fall 2004

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Course Content: I’ve divided the semester into three units: The first emphasizes personal writing, your own and that of professionals. During this unit, expect to write a personal essay, summaries of professional writers, and a major paper that talks back to one of the writers whose work you’ve summarized. The second unit focuses on developing research skills. After completing library tutorials and a brief seminar, you’ll write a proposal for further research and a review of the materials your research discovers. The last unit will focus thematically on oppression and liberation, using Supreme court decisions, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," and a variety of essays and letters relating to the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education. Again expect to write summaries and to respond to authors in a sophisticated final paper. Your writing in progress will receive the attention of your classmates and me during writers’ workshop sessions, and I will frequently collect your written comments on your classmates’ manuscripts, usually without prior notice. These write ups will figure in your final grade along with the more formal assignments. We will also meet at least once this term for a private tutorial on your work in progress.

Readings: Our principal text will be student papers submitted as work in progress. Please buy a copy of the Program for Writing and Rhetoric’s Knowing Words, with the PIN card for Longman’s MyCompLab on line access. Other readings will be available on line or as free handouts. You will need a good dictionary and a writer’s handbook. I’ve ordered Diana Hacker’s A Pocket Style Manual for my upper division classes (WRTG 3020 Sections 003 and 010). Please buy a copy—you probably won’t be depriving some 3020 student of a much desired book. For you, it’s required.

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