WRTG 3020 Very Recent Fiction: Hot Off the Press  Judith Lavinsky  Spring 2005
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. These brief critiques will count in your final grade.

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 two magazines, The New Yorker (Dec. 20 & 27th, double issue) and McSweeney’s, 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: MW 1:45-2:45 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 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.