



JFRC –Fall 2026 –UCLR 100 –Interpreting Literature –Dr. F.DiBiagi

COURSE DESCRIPTION: [WED., SALA ADDIS, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM]

This foundational class will require students to read closely, and analyze carefully, a representative variety of prose, poetry, and drama. It will be a prerequisite for all second-tier literature courses, as designated by each department. [Ours is: Mod.Lang.Lit.]



CLASSWORK-PARTICIPATION:

Attendance is strict (no excused absence). Students are expected to come to every class well prepared & having read textbooks, pay attention, then contribute to the class discussion. Students should be familiar with the Honor Code of University Life, abide by its standards at all times, & expect similar behavior from their peers.

GOALS / OUTCOMES:

–Students will know key literary and critical terms, and explore a variety of core critical approaches to the analysis and interpretation of literature. –Students will get exposed to texts, novels, fiction, poems, ideas, movements, criticism, in order to: **a)**Acquire the pleasure of reading meaningful writings; **b)**Appreciate literature as a tool to make a point or establish personal identity; **c)**Reflect on how culture and history are connected, and provide a legacy to our times.

Readings / material:

SEE DAY-BY-DAY SCHEDULE BELOW.

Shakespeare: *Sonnet 18* / A.Rimbaud: *Drunken Ship* / T.S.Eliot: *Gerontion* / E.Montale: *Arsenio* / Thomas Mann: *Death in Venice* / Franz Kafka: *Metamorphosis* / Woody Allen: *Zelig* / L.Pirandello: *The Late Mattia Pascal* / E. A. Poe: *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* / Sibilla Aleramo: *A Woman* / Emilia Pardo Bazán: *The Revolver* / Federico Fellini: *Giulietta of the Spirits* / J-P.Sartre: *The Wall and Erostratus* / S.Beckett: *Waiting for Godot*.

ALL TEXTS (AND OTHER MATERIALS) WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SAKAI. FILMS ARE SCREENED IN CLASS.

AND one extra reading to be selected from these (your choice):

A short story by a classic American writer, to be presented to the class at the end of the semester. (Possible choices include: Nelson Algren, Sherwood Anderson, Ann Beattie, Ambrose Bierce, Stephen Crane, William Faulkner, Francis Scott Fitzgerald, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ernest Hemingway, Sarah Orne Jewett, Bernard Malamud, Herman Melville, Edgar Allan Poe, Katherine Ann Porter, Edith Wharton, etc.)

Grading scale and percentages:

Final grade is actually the result of reading texts, attending classes, studying, and “thinking”. The following **scale** and **percentages** will be used to evaluate the student’s work and performance:

SCALE: **A** = 100-94 **A-** = 93-90 **B+** = 89-87 **B** = 86-84 **B-** 83-80 **C+** = 79-77 **C** = 76-74 **C-** = 73-70 **D+** = 69-67 **D** = 66-63 **D-** = 62-60 **F** = Below 60.

PERCENTAGES: Class participation and oral reports: 20% -Essays: 20% -Midterm: 20% -Final Exam: 20% -Final paper: 20%. **Absences** will damage the final grade.

WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE:

W1/Sep.2: INTRO, definition of Literature – codes/language/genres/themes/reading/literary terms, etc.

W2/Sep.9: POETRY: Shakespeare: *Sonnet 18* /Rimbaud: *Drunken Ship* /Eliot: *Gerontion* /Montale: *Arsenio*

W3/Sep.16: Papal Audience [no class]

W3/Sep.18 [Friday]: NOVELLA: Thomas Mann: *Death in Venice* / Franz Kafka: *Metamorphosis*

W4/Sep.23: FILM/MOCKUMENTARY: Woody Allen: *Zelig*

W5/Sep.30: NOVEL: Luigi Pirandello: *The Late Mattia Pascal*

W6/Oct.7: CRIME STORY: Conan Doyle / Edgar Allan Poe: *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*

October 9-18: FALL BREAK

W7/Oct.21: DUE: Essay 1 (3.pp) / **Midterm Exam** / LITERARY MANIFESTO: Futurism / Dada / etc.

W8/Oct.28: AUTOBIOGRAPHY/FEMINISM: Sibilla Aleramo: *A Woman* / Emilia Pardo Bazán: *The Revolver*

W9/Nov.4: FILM/PSYCHOLOGY: Federico Fellini: *Juliet of the Spirits*

W10/Nov.11: SHORT STORY/EXISTENTIALISM: J-P. Sartre: *The Wall and Erostratus*

W11/Nov.18: DUE: Essay 2 (3.pp) THEATER/ABSURD: Samuel Beckett: *Waiting for Godot*

W12/Nov.25: TAKING NOTES: Italian-American Literat. / students’ oral reports on chosen short-story-writer

November 26-29: THANKSGIVING

W13/Dec.2: students’ oral reports, recap, conclusions, final exam / **Final Essay-Project Due**

Final Exam: December 9, Wednesday (Sala Addis, 9:00–11:00 AM)

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Office: Room B10
Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 PM
Thursdays 12:00-1:00 PM
or by appointment

Absences:

-Attendance at JFRC is mandatory.
-After 1 absence, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class.
-Missing 3 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).