

Literature and Psychology
COLI 211B Section 03
Spring 2008
Tuesday/Thursday 10:05-11:30 a.m.
SW 309

Instructor: Shelly Jansen
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Office Hours: TBA

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(when e-mailing, please put "COLI 211B" in the subject line)

Course Description:

This course will focus on representations of issues such as sexuality, civilization, transformations, identity, and violence in both literature and psychology. We will also engage specifically with Freudian psychology and analyze how our lives and literature correspond and conflict with these concepts. Through close textual readings we will analyze literature's nuances and structures, and attempt to create our own unique theses about them. Using these observations of the texts, students will develop key critical and scholarly skills to craft an analytical essay with a clear thesis, focus, and structure.

Required Texts:

Symposium by Plato
Medea and Other Plays by Euripides
Metamorphosis by Kafka
The Shape of Things by Neil LaBute
Civilization and Its Discontents by Freud
Waiting for the Barbarians by J.M. Coetzee

Blackboard/Handouts:

Additional short stories, poems, and essays TBD – available on Blackboard

Course Requirements:

Attendance – All students are expected to attend AND participate in classroom discussion. Participation and attendance will be major factors in your final grade. Students are expected to fully engage with and challenge the texts as well as their peers. You will be allowed **2** absences throughout the semester without consequence. Additional absences will lower your **final grade** half of a letter grade per additional class missed (e.g. if you miss 3 days of class and would have had an A, you will receive an A- for your final grade). If you know you are going to be late or absent from class, please discuss with me either via email or after class.

Essays - This course fulfills the Composition requirement and thus will be a writing intensive class. Students will be required to write two short essays, each 4-5 pages in length, and

one final 6-7 page paper. In addition, students will write three short (1-2 page) response papers. These response papers will either be in-class exercises or will be homework to be incorporated into in-class group work to facilitate classroom discussion. There will be no mid-term or final exams. After handing in the short essays, I will then hand them back to you for revision. Rewrites will be due **1 week** after you receive my revisions. Your grade for that assignment will be an average of the original draft and the final rewritten version. Late papers will be marked a ½ grade lower for each day they are late.

All papers must be typed, double-spaced pages in 12 point Times New Roman font with one inch margins. Essays should be free of any spelling and grammar errors. In addition, remember to cite any works that you reference using the MLA format, which can be found at the Glenn G. Bartle website: <http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/search/citing.html>. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will be punished. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will automatically fail that assignment. Please feel free to ask me any questions regarding plagiarism and academic honesty or see the University’s Student Handbook for more information.

Grading:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D	Less than 70

Attendance & Participation – 100 points
 3 In-class writings (1-2 pages each) – 25 points each
 Paper 1 (4 pages + rewrite) – 100 points
 Paper 2 (4 pages + rewrite) – 100 points
 Paper 3 (6-7 pages) – 125 points

Total = 500 points

Tentative Schedule (Instructor reserves the right to make changes at any time during the semester.)

Week One:

1/29 T Introduction to course “Any Human” and “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”
 1/31 R “The Red Sweater” by Fae Ng (BB) “A Painful Case” by James Joyce (BB)

Week Two:

2/5 T “Stone” by C.K. Williams (BB); “Ape House, Berlin Zoo” by Henri Cole (BB);
 “The Bear” by Galway Kinnell
 2/7 R “Auction of the Ruby Slippers” by Salman Rushdie (BB); “Cancer” by Shelley
 Jackson (last day before add/drop)

Week Three:

2/12 T “How to Talk to a Hunter” by Pam Houston (BB) and “Drinking Coffee
 Elsewhere” by ZZ Packer (BB)
 2/14 R

Week Four:

2/19 T Plato’s Symposium

2/21 R Plato's Symposium **In-Class Writing Assignment**

Week Five:

2/26 T "Surveillance" by Courtney Angela Brkic (BB) "blow-up" by Julio Cortazar (BB)

2/28 R "Bartleby, the Scrivener" by Herman Melville

Week Six:

3/4 T In Class Grading Rubric Exercise

3/6 R D.H. Lawrence's "The Woman Who Rode Away" (BB) **Short Paper 1 Due**

Week Seven:

3/11 T Alcestis by Euripides

3/13 R Medea by Euripides

Week Eight:

3/18 T Finish up Euripides and start Freud's Civilization and Its Discontents

3/20 R Civilization and Its Discontents **In-Class Writing Assignment**

Week Nine:

3/25 T **NO CLASS** – Have a good spring break!

3/27 R **NO CLASS**

Week Ten:

4/1 T Waiting for the Barbarians by J.M. Coetzee

4/3 R Waiting for the Barbarians by J.M. Coetzee

Week Eleven:

4/8 T Waiting for the Barbarians by J.M. Coetzee

4/10 R "The Storyteller" by Walter Benjamin **Short Paper 2 Due**

Week Twelve:

4/15 T Kafka's Metamorphosis (all)

4/17 R Kafka's Metamorphosis (critical essays from Norton text)

Week Thirteen:

4/22 T "The Sandman" by E.T.A Hoffmann

4/24 R "The Uncanny" by Freud

Week Fourteen:

4/29 T The Shape of Things by Neil LaBute

5/1 R The Shape of Things **In-Class Writing Assignment**

Week Fifteen:

5/6 T Film (TBD)

5/8 R Film Last day of class!

Final Paper Due TBA