

Carleton University

Department of English Language and Literature

Fall 2014

ENGL 2900A ~ Literature of the Self

(Pre-requisite(s): second-year standing)

Professor: R. Hoey, PhD

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Course Description:

In his 1999 Massey Lecture, Robert Fulford stated that "...stories endure because they satisfy our universal quest to know ourselves. ..."

(Note the excerpt, "The Need for Narrative" in *Short Fiction & Critical Contexts. A Compact Reader*. Toronto: OUP, 2010. 390-394).

This course provides the participants with an ideal *introductory* opportunity to begin an inter-disciplinary exploration between the study of literature and the social sciences particularly psychology and sociology. For example, selected core concepts provided by C. Jung and A. Maslow will be used to frame a literary examination of a range of primarily short fiction. By exploring concepts and methods whereby selected fiction writers present their characters, students will hopefully acquire knowledge and insight into the complexities of portraying the self especially as it is affected by age, gender, social and institutional contexts.

Course Objectives:

- ~ to know prime components of the conventional prose narrative;
- ~ to know core tenets of selected theories of the self;
- ~ to examine the writer's depiction of the self for literary purpose(s);
- ~ to develop further one's research, reading, oral, and writing skills;
- ~ to explore the potential relevance of historical, critical and theoretical materials;
- ~ to appreciate the expression of self especially in the contexts of unconscious and conscious determinants.

Required Texts:

Available from Haven Books (43 Seneca St. corner of Sunnyside St.) 613-730-9888.
Donoghue, Emma. *Room*. Toronto: HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 978-0-316-09833-5

Henderson, Eric & Geoff Hancock. Eds. *Short Fiction and Critical Contexts. A Compact Reader*. Toronto: OUP, 2010. Print ISBN 987-0-19-542993-0

OPTIONAL: Jung, C.G. *The Undiscovered Self*. New York: Mentor. Penguin, 1957.

EVALUATION:

1. Reading Responses (Min. of 2 and max. of 4**)	40%
2. On-going attendance, quizzes, and participation	15%
3. Mid-term assessment (October 21, 2014)	15%
4. Final examination (December 2014)	30%

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 \*\*Specific details will be distributed and discussed at our initial class. Each reading response will be based on the stories and resources in the Henderson and Hancock text.

**Please note:**

- ~ Each student **MUST** submit **ALL** assignments and write the final examination in order to complete the course. Please do not schedule any travelling or work commitments until after the examination.
- ~ Each student is required to hand in a print copy of an assignment on the due class date. Please keep electronic copies of your work in case a further copy is needed.
- ~ Late assignments can be submitted via the drop box in the English Department, 18<sup>th</sup> floor of Dunton Tower. **NEVER SLIDE AN ASSIGNMENT UNDER ANY OFFICE DOOR.** The late penalty is the standard 10% per diem.
- ~ There are many support opportunities to assist each student to have academic success. Please contact the professor with any concern and not on the eve of a due assignment.
- ~ “Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty’s Dean. Grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have approved by the Dean.” (FASS Teaching Regulations).
- ~ **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the direct and indirect act of implying that the work, thoughts, and approaches of another person, persons, and/or collective are your own. This is a serious ‘instructional offense’ so please check Carleton’s Calendar for specific criteria and policies. Always acknowledge your sources whether the information is used directly or **paraphrased**. (Prof. Hoey’s Rule: When in doubt, Document!). You are advised to keep your class and research notes as well as any draft work readily accessible. Please word process all work and note that the English Department ascribes to the MLA style format and practices.

**Accommodations:**

Students requiring academic accommodations are encourage to contact the Paul Menton Centre (x6608). The student must meet with a co-ordinator to complete a letter of accommodation and to discuss the situation(s) with the instructor at least two weeks prior to any course evaluation. Note the policies and deadlines as posted on the PMC site:

[pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) and <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

Any questions and confirmations about a religious event or practice can be checked by contacting the Equity Services Office and/or <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>  
Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Equity Services to make arrangements: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>.

### Topic and Reading 'Agenda'

| Wk. | Class # | Tuesday's Session                                                              | Class # | Thursday's Session        |
|-----|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| 1.  |         | Sept. 2 – Orientation                                                          | 1.      | Sept. 4 Introductions.... |
| 2.  |         | 2. Sept. 9 – “Y” and Literature                                                | 3.      | Sept. 11- “The Runaway”   |
| 3.  |         | 4. Sept. 16 Set 1                                                              | 5.      | Sept. 18 – Set 1          |
| 4.  |         | 6. Sept. 23 Set 2                                                              | 7.      | Sept. 25 – Set 2          |
| 6.  |         | 10. Oct. 7 Set 4                                                               | 11.     | Oct. 9 Set 4              |
| 7.  |         | 12. Oct. 13 Set 5                                                              | 13.     | Oct. 16 Set 5             |
| 8.  |         | 14. Oct. 21 – Mid-term (in class)                                              | 15.     | Oct. 23 – MBL + Rev. 1-5  |
| 9.  |         | READING WEEK – Oct. 23-29 + Writer’s Festival – Oct. 23-29 <sup>th</sup> ..... |         |                           |
| 10. |         | 16. Nov. 4 Room - 1                                                            | 17.     | Nov. 6 Room - 2           |
| 11. |         | 18. Nov. 11 Room – 3                                                           | 19.     | Nov. 13 Set 6             |
| 12. |         | 20. Nov. 18 Set 6                                                              | 21.     | Nov. 29 Set 6 - 7         |
| 13. |         | 22. Nov. 25 Set. 7                                                             | 23.     | Nov. 27 Set. 7            |
| 14. |         | 24. Dec. 2 Set. 8                                                              | 25.     | Dec. 4 Set 8              |
|     |         |                                                                                |         | Final Class - Synthesis   |

**Notes:** Final day of classes is Mon. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Examinations: Dec. 10-21, 2014

| <u>“Reading Sets” .....</u> |                                                                                                 | <u>Part II: “Documents &amp; Dialogues”</u>                    |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ 1.                      | S. Ross, “The Runaway”<br>E. Poe, “The Masque of the Red”<br>C. Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”  | p. 389 ...; p. 390...; p. p392...;<br>p. 395 ...<br>p. 423 ... |
| ___ 2.                      | S. Crane, “A Mystery of Heroism”<br>P. Johnson, “The Derelict”<br>M. Callaghan, “A Predicament” | p. 444 ...<br>p. 431 ...                                       |
| ___ 3.                      | M. Laurence, “The Loons”<br>J. Joyce, “A Painful Case”<br>F. Kafka, “A Report to an Academy”    | p. 403...<br>p. 417 ...                                        |
| ___ 4.                      | M. Gallant, “Between Zero and One”<br>A. Carter, “The Company of Wolves”                        | p. 435 ...<br>p. 425 ...                                       |

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- \_\_\_ 5. M. Atwood, "Happy Endings" p. 470 ...  
B. Mukherjee, "The Lady from Lucknow" p. 456 .... 449
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- \_\_\_ 6. K. Mansfield, "The Stranger" p. 439 ...  
E. Hemingway, "The Capital of the World" p. 438 ...
- \_\_\_ 7. A. Munro, "Pictures of the Ice" p. 453 ...  
R. Carver, "Feathers" p. 432 ...
- \_\_\_ 8. S. Mootoo, "Out on Main Street" p. 458 ...  
G. Hollingshead, "The People of the Sudan" p. 412...