

ENG 234: Coming of Age Narratives (Summer 2013)

Dr. Patrick C. Fleming

Class meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30-8:40, Orlando 215

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Office Hours: by appointment

Required texts (available at bookstore; all other readings are on Blackboard):

- Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Penguin)
- E. B. White, *Charlotte's Web*
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Signet Classics Edition)
- Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

Course Goals: By the end of the semester you will be able to:

Read closely, paying attention to syntax, tone, form, and authorial style.

Discuss literature, listening closely to other interpretations and evaluating based on shared criteria. In particular, you should be able to differentiate interpretation from opinion and understand how a reasonable, intelligent person might have a differing interpretation.

Write clearly and persuasively, conveying your ideas to your reader and supporting your points with evidence.

Assignments:

Participation and Quizzes (15%): This being a discussion-based course, attendance is required (see below) and you are expected to participate actively. A prerequisite for participation is that you have the text with you: if it's assigned from Blackboard, PRINT IT OUT. Reading quizzes will assess your comprehension of the reading.

Three short papers (35%): You will receive specific instructions for each one. Your best paper will count 15%; others, 10% each.

Two medium-length papers (20% each): In these papers you will develop an argument about one of the works we've read, supporting your argument with textual evidence.

A Final Self-Assessment (10%): You'll turn this in with the last paper.

Writing consultant: For all written assignments you are invited – even encouraged – to consult with me, or with a tutor at the writing center. Stephanie Sang (tsang@rollins.edu) has helped students from my previous courses and is available this summer.

Course Policies

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS: This is a discussion class, and attendance is required. Because our meetings are few, only one absence is permitted (if you are late to a class, that counts as half an absence). Further absences will affect your *course grade*:

Miss one class: no penalty

Miss two classes: mark down 1/3 of a letter grade (4%)

Miss three classes: mark down a full letter grade (10%)

Miss four classes: mark down 2 letter grades (20%)

Missing more than four classes will fail the course.

LATE WORK: I expect all work to be turned in on time. With the exception of the final assignment (due by email), papers are due in hard copy at the beginning of class.

Late penalties apply:

By midnight the night due: mark down 1/3 of a letter grade (4%)

By 5:30 the next day: mark down a full letter grade (10%)

Within 48 hours: mark down 2 letter grades (20%)

After 48 hours: submit within the week for 1/2 credit.

LAPTOPS AND CELLPHONES: Turn off your cellphone before coming to class. During discussion I will ask you to close your laptops. On some days (marked below) I ask you to bring a laptop for workshopping and in-class writing; I will tell you when you need it.

The Honor Pledge and Reaffirmation

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. The student commitment to uphold the values of honor - honesty, trust, respect, fairness, and responsibility - particularly manifests itself in two public aspects of student life. First, as part of the admission process to the College, students agree to commit themselves to the Honor Code. Then, as part of the matriculation process during Orientation, students sign a more detailed pledge to uphold the Honor Code and to conduct themselves honorably in all their activities, both academic and social, as a Rollins student. A student signature on the following pledge is a binding commitment by the student that lasts for his or her entire tenure at Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others. This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to the paper, quiz, test, lab report, etc., the handwritten signed statement:

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

Students with Disabilities

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability on this campus and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodations in order to participate in your classes, please make timely arrangements by disclosing this disability in writing to the Disability Services Office at (box 2613) - Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL, 32789. Appointments can be scheduled by calling [407-646-2354](tel:407-646-2354) or email: gridgey@rollins.edu.

Last Date to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty – First Six Week Term: June 7, Second Six Week Term: July 19, Twelve Week Term: July 5 (or the Monday following the mid-point class meeting for intensive courses). Students should contact the Holt School Office if there are questions regarding withdrawal deadlines, policies, or procedures.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Monday May 20 – Course Introduction

Wednesday May 22 – Romanticism I: Childhood and Nature

- PAPER DUE IN CLASS
- Read this syllabus carefully, and readings in handout

Monday, May 27 – NO CLASS (Memorial Day)

Wednesday, May 29 – The American *Bildungsroman*

- Read all of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Here is how I suggest breaking up the reading (estimating 30-40 pages per hour)
 - Thursday night (5/23), read chapters 1-9 (pages 1-61; 2 hours)
 - Over the long weekend, read chapters 10-30 (pages 62-222; about 5 hours, which you can divide up over the weekend)
 - Monday or Tuesday night, finish the novel (223-307; 2.5 hours)

Monday, June 3 – Race and American Literature

- PAPER DUE IN CLASS
- Readings on Blackboard (and bring *Huck Finn* with you):
 - Smiley, “Say It Ain’t So, Huck”
 - Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, “The School Days of an Indian Girl”
 - W. E. B. DuBois, from *Souls of Black Folk*

Wednesday, June 5 – The Victorian Verse Novel

- Read selection from Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh* (on Blackboard)

- Choose a text for the 5-page paper, and bring it with you. Also bring your laptop and the previous two papers (with my comments on them)

Monday, June 10 – Modernism

- PAPER DUE IN CLASS
- Read *Charlotte's Web* (try to read it in a single sitting)

Wednesday, June 12 – Modernism, continued

- Read selection from James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (on Blackboard)

Monday, June 17 – Romanticism II: the child as monster

- Read all of *Frankenstein*. Here is how I suggest breaking up the reading (estimating 30-40 pages per hour)
 - Thursday night, read the author's introduction and preface, and through chapter 4 (pages xxi-xxviii and 1-42; 1.5 hours)
 - Saturday morning, read chapters 5-10 (pages 42-83; 1 hour); Saturday afternoon, read chapters 11-16 (pages 84-124; 1 hour)
 - Sunday morning, read chapters 17-23 (pages 124-178; 1.5 hours); Sunday afternoon, finish the novel (pages 179-198; 45 minutes)

Wednesday, June 19 – *Slumdog Millionaire*

- PAPER DUE IN CLASS
- No homework other than the paper; will watch film in class. You also may wish to begin thinking about your final paper.

Monday, June 24 – The 21st Century (Popular) Novel

- Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (try to read the novel in one sitting. It's not a difficult read, but it's longer than *Charlotte's Web*)

Wednesday, June 26 – Writing a Real Life

- Read Larissa Macfarquhar, "The Tragedy of Aaron Swartz" (on Blackboard)
- Due in class: outline of final paper. Bring your laptop and all previous papers from this class (with my comments on them)

FINAL ASSIGNMENT (paper and self-assessment) due Sunday June 30th by midnight. Turn it in by email.

NOTE: because I need to submit final grades quickly, absolutely no late work will be accepted for this paper.