Sample Course Syllabus

ENG 445 (400) – Studies in Non-Fiction: Adventure and Survival Narratives

Syllabus – Course Information

Instructor: John Larison  Office: 306 Moreland Hall
E-mail: larisojo@onid.orst.edu  Office Hours: By appt.

Texts: See beaverstore.com for updated list of texts.

Course Description:

This course offers a chance to investigate a thriving non-fiction form we’ll call Adventure and Survival Narratives, a form with a unique power to compel readers. Our investigations will focus on the craft and thematic elements that breathe life into the form.

Expect to complete short creative responses to our readings, two formal papers, one narrative of adventure and survival of your own, as well as insightful responses and rebuttals to the posts of your colleagues.

Course Goals:

This class is governed by the need to meet certain university-wide goals. Students will:

1. Recognize literary and artistic forms/styles, techniques, and the cultural/historical contexts in which they evolve.
2. Analyze how literature/the arts reflect, shape, and influence culture.
3. Reflect critically on the characteristics and effects of literary and artistic works.

Assignments:

Blog Entries (30%): To be written and posted within Blackboard’s blog feature.

Every student in the class has a blog. (To find the blogs, click “Tools,” then “Blogs”). Each week, you’ll write a 300-1000 word response to our readings as a blog entry.

Grading of the blog entries will be done on a three-point scale. An entry that earns a 3 will creatively engage the assigned story in an academically rigorous manner, show evidence of being revised and edited, and be submitted on time.

Responding to people’s blogs (10%), either with compliments or questions or rebuttals, will function as your participation efforts during the term.

Written Essays

- Analysis Essay (20%): Submit via the Assignments Page.

Near the middle of the term, you’ll complete a 3-5 page essay that analyzes our first text. A grading rubric for the Analysis Essay can be found on the Assignments page.
- **Creative Essay (15%): Submit via the Discussion Page.**
  Near the sixth week of the term, you’ll complete a 3-5 page creative essay, your own narrative of adventure and survival. It can be based on your own life experiences, or it can be based on the story of someone else’s adventure and survival.

- **Comparison Essay (25%): Submit via the Assignments Page.**
  The final paper for the course, which should be between 5-7 pages, will compare two of our texts. Include a works cited page if you include outside sources; include in-text citations in MLA format where appropriate. A grading rubric will be provided on the Assignments page.

**Course Resources:**

- **The Writing Center** is located in Waldo 123 with sessions evenings and weekends at the Collaborative Learning Center in the Valley Library. Writing assistants can help you at any stage of the writing process: brainstorming and developing ideas, content, organization, planning, citing sources, revising, and so on. To make a 30- or 60-minute appointment, call 737-5640. When you go, take a copy of the assignment directions. You can also submit drafts online for comments, though the response takes longer.

- **Online Tutoring** is also available through Ecampus. More information is available at [http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/student-services/online-tutoring/default.htm](http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/student-services/online-tutoring/default.htm)

**Course Policies:**

All assignments are due at the date and time specified on the Course Schedule. Work turned in after that time will be docked one letter grade for every 24 hour period, unless arrangements are made with the instructor. Late work will receive a grade, but little or no comments from the instructor. In extreme situations, extensions may be given if the student contacts the instructor before the due date.

**Honesty and Civility:**

**Cheating,** in any form, is not tolerated at Oregon State University. Any plagiarism or use of someone else’s writing (including sentences or phrases), information, or ideas without proper attribution and citations – intentional or accidental – may result in an F on the paper or for the term. A written report of Academic Dishonesty may be filed with the Dean’s office for further disciplinary action. Recycling your own work from other classes is also not allowed.

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:**

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and OSU’s office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact SSD immediately at 737-4098.

**Student Evaluation of Teaching:**

We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.

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This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:
Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu  Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu  Tel: 800-667-1465