**SYLLABUS for English 2031**

Institution and Year:

LSU Alexandria

Fall 2020

Course Title and Number:   
Introduction to the Novel, ENGL 2031; CENLA: Introduction to Fiction 2303

### **Contact Information:**

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### **Course Description:**

A study of the novel as a unique literary form and an exploration of its historical, cultural, and critical development.

### **Course Goals:**

This course is a general introduction to the qualities of the novel, including its major themes and types. Students will understand the influence of the time and society in which novels are written and will be encouraged to apply theoretical analysis to the work they read. Students will explore basic literary techniques, and ethical, psychological, social, and philosophical value in these novels, developing insight in how literature gives us a window into both the experiences of others and wider appreciation for the human condition. Students will strengthen skills of critical thought beyond engagement with literature to wider interactions with an increasingly complicated world.

**Course Objectives**

at the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the novel as a unique and evolving art form
2. Describe how novels reflect the values and concerns of writers and the societies in which they live
3. Apply certain literary terms used for analyzing novels
4. Identify themes, strategies, and issues relevant to the works being studied,
5. Express understanding of the relationship between literature and the historical/cultural contexts in which it was written
6. Recognize the various points of view, including the voices of gender and ethnicity and culture
7. Apply the principles of literary criticism to essays about the assigned novels.

### **Course Materials:**

The following essay is required reading: Chapters One (“Literature is Invention”) and Two (“True Stories”) of the book *The Novel* by Michael Schmidt <http://ezproxy2.lsua.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=781588&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

The following short novels are required: *The Ballad of the Sad Café* by Carson McCullers (<https://repositorio.ufsc.br/bitstream/handle/123456789/163729/The%20Ballad%20of%20the%20Sad%20Caf%C3%A9%20-%20Carson%20McCullers.pdf?sequence=1>)*, Sonny’s Blues* by James Baldwin (<https://uwm.edu/cultures-communities/wp-content/uploads/sites/219/2018/01/SonnysBlues.Baldwin.pdf>), *The Secret Sharer* by Joseph Conrad ([https://louis.oercommons.org/courses/the-secret-sharer](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flouis.oercommons.org%2Fcourses%2Fthe-secret-sharer&data=02%7C01%7Cgjones%40lsua.edu%7Ce54da51e303b414bc61708d82e6e8aa0%7Cc0fd14f1585c463fa3fffe07d288c8eb%7C0%7C0%7C637310400828867973&sdata=Rjm%2Bj5YASYMK%2F41S%2BKgvnZ68YysadiCH4PI7g6Qt4m4%3D&reserved=0) ), *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka ( [https://louis.oercommons.org/courses/metamorphosis-2](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flouis.oercommons.org%2Fcourses%2Fmetamorphosis-2&data=02%7C01%7Cgjones%40lsua.edu%7Ce54da51e303b414bc61708d82e6e8aa0%7Cc0fd14f1585c463fa3fffe07d288c8eb%7C0%7C0%7C637310400828877964&sdata=B83tdUDWA27i8qc8xnSteOot643b24GAabTw5TF7Sd4%3D&reserved=0) ), and *No One Writes to the Colonel* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (<https://archive.org/details/131923050126688465NoOneWritesToTheColonelPdf> )

### **Course Schedule:**

| **Week** | **Topics and Concepts**  List and describe as necessary the topics and concepts covered in each weekly unit. | **Corresponding Course Materials**  Where relevant, indicate if the resource is a chapter(s) or section(s) of a larger resource. |
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| 1 | Apply certain literary terms used for analyzing novels and demonstrate an understanding of the novel as a unique and evolving art form. | “Literature is Invention” and “True Stories”  Video: “The History of the Novel” posted by Stanford University, April 12, 2016  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M49C-K1W_oo> |
| 2 | Examine how novels reflect the values and concerns of writers and the societies in which they live, and identify themes, strategies, and issues relevant to the work being studied. We will also recognize the various points of view, including gender and ethnic and cultural of novels. | *The Ballad of the Sad Café* By Carson McCullers  The movie trailer for the 1991 movie *Ballad of the Sad Café*, posted by Claire Caple on 1.24.2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oX7NNT3asUI> |
| 3 | Express an understanding of the relationship between literature and the historical/cultural contexts in which it was written, and recognize the various points of view, including the voice of gender and ethnicity and culture | *Sonny’s Blues* by James Baldwin  Here is a quick look at a small jazz club in Greenwich Village in NYC. Posted by Poupa Claudio on 01-06-2013 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKHint3BRxU> |
| 4 | Articulate an understanding of the relationship between literature and the historical/cultural contexts in which it was written and show that we recognize the various points of view, including the voices of gender and ethnicity and culture. | *No One Writes to the Colonel* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  Enjoy the Spanish-language movie trailer about Marquez’s short novel, *No One Writes to the Colonel*. It was posted on July 20, 2012, by Comunidad Filmin, S.L.  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HXtbHmDqoI> |
| 5 | Describe how novels reflect the values and concerns of writers and the societies in which they live. We will also identify themes, strategies, and issues relevant to the works being studied, and finally we will recognize the various points of view, including the voices of gender and ethnicity and culture. | *The Metamorphosis* (*The Transformation* or *The Change*) by Franz Kafka  Franz Kafka’s stories helped create a new word (you’ll learn it in the video)—this video should also help understand more about the novella. It is a TED-Ed talk created by journalist Noah Tavlin, posted on June 20, 2016.  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkPR4Rcf4ww&list=PL_x4xqt44i4M2eJaKXLhA5-l4enDz8b6A&index=152> |
| 6 | Discuss the relationship between literature and the historical/cultural contexts in which it was written, and recognize the various points of view, including the voices of gender and ethnicity and culture. Finally, identify themes, strategies, and issues relevant to the story. | *The Secret Sharer* by Joseph Conrad  This is a video trailer of the movie based on Conrad’s novel, *The Secret Sharer*. It offers an interesting twist to the original story! It was posted by the film company Secret Sharer on May 28, 2014:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcUJfRA9wYs> |
| 7 | This week, we will apply the principles of literary criticism to essays about assigned novels. | Prepare to write your final essay/exam  Good advice can be found here:  <https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/aboutwriting/> |
| 8 |  |  |