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Fall 8-15-2023

ENG 4742-001 Studies in Genre

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Beebe, Randall, "ENG 4742-001 Studies in Genre" (2023). *Fall 2023*. 58.

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English 4742

Studies in Genre

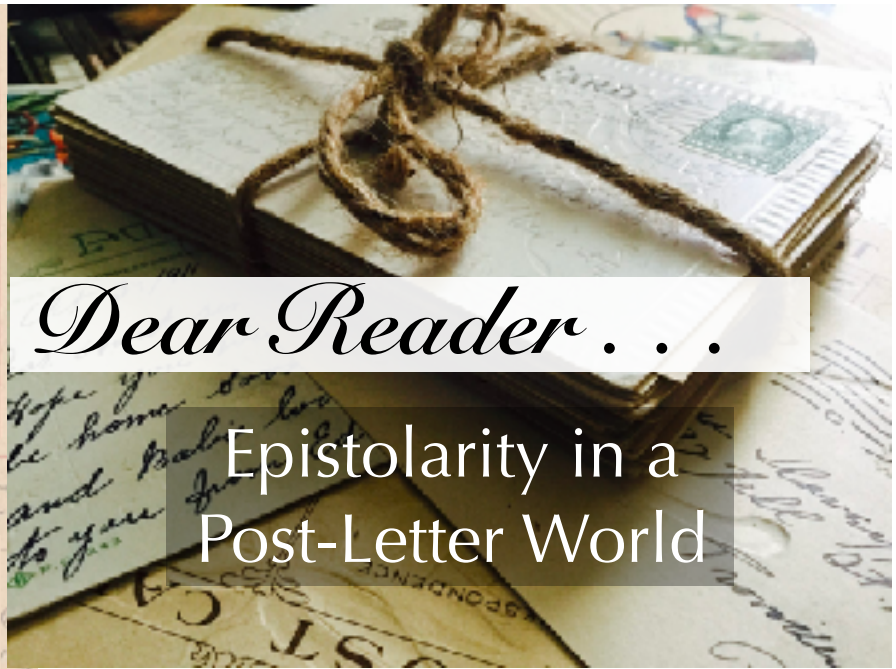
M,W,F 1-1:50 pm

CH 3170

Fall 2023

Prof. R. Beebe
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Office Hours: M,W,F 10-11
T 9-11



Dear Reader . . .

Epistolarity in a Post-Letter World

Course Description

epistolary (i pis' tl er ē) adj. 1. of or associated with letters or letter writing. 2. of, pertaining to, or consisting of letters: an epistolary novel

Epistolarity is a literary technique that involves letters in some way—stories told through a series of letters between characters or told through diaries, journal entries, or letters folded into traditional narratives. Even though the traditional snail-mail letter is in some ways a historical relic in our digital age, epistolarity has been undergoing what literary scholars have termed a “re-birth” in its 21st incarnations of texting and social media — or “e-epistolarity” as one scholar has named it.

In this course, we will explore epistolarity in its many shapes in literary history: from classical sources (such as Ovid's *Heroides*) to contemporary fiction (such as Chbosky's *Perks of Being a Wallflower*) and contemporary nonfiction (such as Coates's *Between the World and Me*). Through this reading, we will discuss the unique features of epistolarity—the demands it makes on the reader, how it purports to offer a more intimate view of character and subjectivity, and how epistolarity performs as both the distance and bridge between two points.

Texts

Chbosky, **Perks of Being a Wallflower** (1999)

Coates, **Between the World and Me** (2015)

Dunn, **Ella, Minnow, Pea** (2001)

Ozeki, **A Tale for the Time Being** (2013)

Other Readings (via D2L)

Requirements

Project 1	10%
Project 2	10%
Project 3	10%
Project 4	15%
Project 5	15%
Final Exam	10%
Short paper, in-class work	30%

Writing Projects & Response Papers

You will be completing short response papers on almost a daily basis. These responses will be through a variety of forms — in-class group work, D2L discussion posts, short papers — all of which are intended to guide discussions.

Response papers will be graded on 1 to 3 scale — 3 complete and on time; 2 on time but hasn't fully engaged the question; 1 complete but late.

For the major writing assignments, you will receive an assignment sheet, outlining in detail the scope and expectations for the project.

D2L

EIU uses D2L Brightspace for its learning management system, where all the course material is located.

I use the "News" item in D2L to relay course updates and reminders, and so it's important to check D2L frequently.

Attendance

This course follows closely EIU's official policy on absences, which essentially means that you won't be penalized for excused absences (illness, emergency, participation in an official University activity, etc.). See EIU's IGP #43 for more information.

The semester is long and things happen. You may miss 2 classes for personal reasons without being penalized. Without any documentation or prior arrangements, you cannot make up any work missed. If you miss more than 2 days, your final

Electronic Writing Portfolio

This course is a writing-centered course and, as such, your papers satisfy the requirements for the Electronic Writing Portfolio. EWP guidelines insist that you complete your submission prior to the last day of class. Talk to me if you have any questions about this or consult the EWP website.

Conferences

Individual conferences are crucial to writing courses. I encourage you to meet with me about any writing concerns you have. I'm happy to brainstorm with you, discuss writing strategies, or go over a draft of your writing. We can do this either before or after class or we can easily arrange a conference time on a different day. I'm happy to help. Just ask.

Plagiarism

Since the university is a place of ideas, discussion, and reflection, it views plagiarism—the taking of others' ideas as one's own—very harshly. The penalty for plagiarizing is swift and severe. You will receive an immediate F for the course and notice will be given to the Office of Student Standards.

If you have any questions about plagiarism—however small—please talk to me before you turn in your work.



Grading Policy & Late Work

Each writing project has an evaluation rubric, which we will discuss in class as you revise your initial drafts. In other words, I'll make it clear what writing tasks are essential in each project.

You will submit all formal writing projects to a D2L dropbox. With prior approval, you may turn in late work. However, work submitted after the due date — without prior approval — will be penalized, usually one letter grade for each day that it is late.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

This policy includes plagiarism, where, even if unknowing or accidental, can result in your failing the course and in further action by the university. Please note the English Department's statement on plagiarism. Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/ or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me to clarify.

On the Use of AI

Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course **if instructor permission is obtained in advance**. Unless given permission to use those tools, each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

If permission is granted to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Dall-E 2), they must be properly documented and credited. Text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: "Chat-GPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your prompt."

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center

The Student Success Center- Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

Reading & Activity Schedule

The reading/activity schedule is available on a separate document in D2L.

Course Etiquette

Even though this is an in-person course, it's important to be respectful of others in class discussions, group work, or any online discussion posts. Accordingly, I abide by EIU's policy on acceptable etiquette for online courses, which is as follows:

Eastern Illinois University (EIU) is committed to open, frank, and insightful dialogue in all of its courses. Diversity has many manifestations, including diversity of thought, opinion, and values. We encourage all learners to be respectful of that diversity and to refrain from inappropriate commentary. Should such inappropriate comments occur, the instructor will intervene, removing inappropriate content. The instructor may also recommend university disciplinary action. Learners as well as faculty should be guided by common sense and basic etiquette. The following are good guidelines to follow:

- Never post, transmit, promote, or distribute content that is known to be illegal.
- Never post harassing, threatening, or embarrassing comments. If you disagree with someone, respond to the subject, not the person. Conflicts of ideas are encouraged, while conflicts of feelings are discouraged.
- Never post content that is harmful, abusive; racially or culturally insensitive, or religiously offensive, vulgar; sexually explicit, or otherwise potentially offensive.

Remember you are communicating with real people.

Students and instructors in your course have feelings, lives, jobs, families and a myriad of other issues that you may know little about. Once you have finished writing something, and before you send it, re-read it looking at your words from someone else's perspective. How would they see it? Could it be misinterpreted? Could you rephrase to make it clearer or more on topic?

Write clearly & professionally.

In any course-related communication (emails, chats, discussions), use standard proper English with correct grammar. Using slang, errors in mechanics, and shortcuts maybe difficult for others to understand. Avoid ALL CAPS, bolding and underlining. It could be misinterpreted. Avoid offensive language. Also make sure to sign your name to any post.

Be kind and ethical.

Do not belittle other students or the instructor. You may disagree with what someone says, but focus on the issue, not the person. Behave online as you would in person. Be forgiving of the mistakes of others.

Help others.

If someone asks a question, answer it if you are sure of the correct answer or if you have insight that could be helpful.