Summer 6-15-2013

ENG 3604E-051: Special Topics In Language and Literature: J. K. Rowling

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English 3604E.051: Special Topics in Language and Literature: J. K. Rowling
Summer 2013

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Texts: J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

May
M 13: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
Tu 14: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
W 15: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
Film: *Prisoner of Azkaban*, time to be determined
Th 16: Discussion: First Three Books as a Unit
F 17: **Paper #1** – Submission by e-mail attachment

M 20: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, chapters 1-20
Tu 21: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, chapters 21-37
W 22: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, chapters 1-20
Film: *Goblet of Fire*, time to be determined
Th 23: Discussion: Book and Film
F 24: **Paper #2** – Submission by e-mail attachment

M 27: Memorial Day Holiday
Tu 28: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, chapters 21-38
W 29: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, chapters 1-15
Film: optional, to be determined together
Th 30: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, chapters 16-30

June
M 3: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, chapters 1-19
Tu 4: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, chapters 20-epilogue
Film: *Deathly Hallows*, time to be determined
W 5: Discussion – The Seven Books, Independent Projects
**Independent Project** – Earlier Submission is allowed
Th 6: **Final Examination**

Assignment #1, for the first class: read *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*—even if you’ve read it before; it needs to be fresh in your head—, find out what a “philosopher’s stone” is, and think about why the title was changed to *Sorcerer’s Stone* for the American edition.
Course Description

Our subject is the seven-part *Harry Potter* story. This means reading the books closely, as we examine Rowling’s achievement in various ways: structures, themes, sources and analogues, world view. Perspectives we are likely to bring to bear on the books involve narrative pacing; theories of adolescent development; issues of race, class, and gender; the appeal of myth; Rowling’s life; and the impact of a mass audience. We’ll also consider reading strategies: the values and problems associated with reading aloud, repeat reading, film adaptations, etc. We’ll watch three or four films on Wednesday afternoons/evenings, the times to be determined at the first class session. I expect that our approaches and strategies—and perhaps even the syllabus—will evolve as the course progresses.

Unofficial prerequisite: I’ve read the books many times, listened to Jim Dale’s recordings, watched the movies, and read Rowling’s associated texts. I expect that many people taking the class have done much or all of this too, and that some of you know the books in greater detail than I do. Even so, I plan to spend many hours reading for each class and assume you’ll do the same. If you haven’t read the books before, you can expect to spend a great many (extremely pleasurable) hours keeping up. While the class focus will be on the reading assigned for the day’s session, participants shouldn’t always have to pretend they don’t know what happens later.

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course Grade: A= 91-100; B= 82-90.99; C= 73-81.99; D= 65-72.99; F= below 65

**Assignments.** You’ll complete two short analytic papers and an independent project. Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it. Handouts will describe the assignments more fully.

**Exams.** There will be picky quizzes most days. A final exam will encourage you to rethink, organize, and articulate your understanding of the books.

**Participation.** This isn’t a lecture class. I expect you to show up for each session and contribute sensibly to the classroom discussion. It’s hard to participate if you’re not here.

**Fun.** Have it. That’s why we’re here.

Course/University Policies

**Typing.** Type your papers. Double-space the lines and use one-inch margins on all sides.

**Honor Policy.** Education depends on honesty. Don’t cheat.

**Plagiarism.** If you use other people’s words or ideas, cite your sources and indicate when you’ve quoted. Otherwise you’re cheating. If in doubt, ask me.

**Students with Disabilities.** "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible."