

English 110-085
Purnell Hall 331
T/Th 3:30-4:45pm
Spring 2012

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Office hours: T/Th 12:45-1:45pm
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The Afterlives of Characters



In the world of fiction, certain characters outlive or outpace the works from which they originate, moving across different centuries, continents, genres and media. This semester we'll explore the whys and wherefores of fictional characters who live on in sequels, spinoffs, translations, parodies, remakes and adaptations long after their initial appearance on screen or in print. Our interests lie not only in *why* particular characters endure in the ways that they do, but also in *who* or *what* makes a character a character—in the cultural mores, moments or movements that give rise to characters as such. As a class, we'll wonder what authors tell us about characters, what characters tell us about authors, what characters tell us about other characters, and what characters ultimately tell us about ourselves as readers and writers.

Film + TV

Buffy the Vampire Slayer, "Buffy vs. Dracula" [DVD 10762]

Casino Royale [DVD 3358]

Sherlock, "A Study in Pink" [DVD 9267]

Books

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet* [ISBN 9780199554775]

Ian Fleming, *Casino Royale* [ISBN 9780142002025]

Joseph Harris, *Rewriting: How to do Things with Texts* [ISBN 9780874216424]

Alan Moore, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Volume One* [ISBN 9781563898587]

Luigi Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author and Other Plays* [ISBN 9780140189223]

Bram Stoker, *Dracula* [ISBN 9780393970128]

All other reading/viewing materials will be posted under "Resources" on Sakai.

Course Goals

Critical Reading

- Read source texts critically, revealing awareness of purpose, audience, tone, multiple voices, argumentative techniques, and rhetorical devices,
- Demonstrate understanding of a text's rhetorical contexts,
- Analyze and synthesize varied texts as a means to further their own writing skills.

Writing Process

- Demonstrate the ability to write in a variety of genres such as summary, response, report, argument, and critical analysis,
- Find and assess sources, synthesizing research with their own ideas,
- Engage in writing as a recursive process that includes idea discovery, structural and developmental revision, and editing a final copy.

Rhetorical Knowledge

- Write with a strong understanding of and focus on purpose,
- Write in ways that respond to the needs of different audiences,
- Adopt voice, tone, and level of formality appropriate to situation and purpose,
- Understand how genres shape reading and writing.

Knowledge of Conventions

- Be aware of the rhetorical differences among and stylistic conventions of common citation formats.

Course Policies

Attendance

Your success in English 110 depends largely upon your effort to attend class regularly. You may miss three classes—excused or unexcused—without it affecting your grade, but with each subsequent absence, your participation grade will drop by a full letter (i.e. a B becomes a C).

Preparedness

Please come to class on time and prepared to discuss the materials for that day. You should arrive with all of the primary and secondary materials for the day's discussion in hand.

Decorum

Please show respect for your fellow classmates and me by refraining from talking out of turn, texting, using your cell phone or surfing the Internet during class time. Such behavior will negatively affect your participation grade.

Late Work

Both you and your assignments should be showing up on time. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates listed below. For every day an assignment is late (including weekends), your grade on that assignment will drop by a full letter (i.e. a B becomes a C).

Formatting

All major assignments should be formatted according to MLA style: written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one-inch margins, with a heading in the upper-left-hand corner of the first page and your last name and the page number in the upper-right-hand corner of each subsequent page. Unless otherwise noted, you should submit all assignments to me electronically via Sakai. Please submit your assignments in .doc or .docx format; otherwise I may not be able to open the file.

Academic Integrity

Any work that you submit at any stage of the writing process—draft, thesis and outline, bibliography, etc., through final version—must be your own; in addition, any words, ideas, or data that you borrow from other people and include in your work must be properly documented. Failure to do either of these things is plagiarism. The University of Delaware protects the rights of all students by insisting that individual students act with integrity. Accordingly, the University severely penalizes plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.

Emergency Absences

If serious illnesses, family emergencies, or other crises occur during the term, one of the key things you must do is to contact the Assistant Dean of your College as soon as possible. This office can assist you in notifying faculty and in validating for your teachers what has happened. Such validation will be necessary for you to make up missed classwork and assignments.

Course Evaluation

A final expectation of the course is for you to complete the online student evaluation. This survey will be available for you to complete during the last two weeks of the semester. Apart from being an expectation of the course, your evaluation provides valuable information to me and to the Department.

Resources

Writing Fellows

This semester, you will have the additional advantage of Writing Fellows to aid you in the writing process outside of the classroom. Writing Fellows are students specially trained to read and respond to their peers' work; the Writing Fellows for this section of English 110 are Veronica DeAngelo (deangelo@udel.edu) and Andrea Fendt (afendt@udel.edu). You will be required to meet with the Writing Fellows at various points this semester to discuss your works in progress.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center in 016 Memorial provides free one-on-one instruction to students who have writing assignments in this or any course. You may make an appointment by visiting the Center's website: www.english.udel.edu/wc. (The telephone number is 831.1168.)

Disabilities and Special Needs

If you need special assistance and/or classroom accommodations because of a disability, please let me know as soon as possible. To register and request accommodations, you will need to contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Office (413 Academy St., Room 165; 302.831.4643, TDD 302.831.4563) for physical or emotional disabilities or the Academic Enrichment Center (148-150 South College Ave.; 302.831.2805) for learning disabilities/ADHD.

Assignments

Class Participation

Class participation includes not only your active involvement in class discussions but also your satisfactory completion of rough drafts and peer reviews. You will be graded on the quality (not the quantity) of your contributions.

Blog Posts

Throughout the semester, I'll ask that you react or respond to certain readings and assignments in blog form on Sakai. I'll assess your blog cumulatively at the end of the semester.



Characterization Essay (due Tuesday, February 28)

After we come to terms with a few different authors' theoretical approaches to character, you'll explore the ways in which Luigi Pirandello theorizes characterization in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. [800-1000 words]

Canonicity Essay (due Thursday, March 22)

In this slightly longer essay, you'll analyze the canonization of a major franchise character through a focused case study of that character in a particular text/medium. [1000-1200 words]

Annotated Bibliography (due Thursday, April 19)

Once you've settled on an idea for a final project, you'll write an annotated bibliography with a critical preface in which you explain the major questions and concerns guiding your research. [1000-1200 words]

Research Essay (due Tuesday, May 15)

Following your annotated bibliography, you'll enter into an academic conversation about a topic of your choosing (relevant to the focus of the class) in a longer research paper. [2400-2600 words]

Grading

Class participation	10%
Blog posts	10%
Characterization essay	20%
Canonicity essay	20%
Annotated bibliography	20%
Research essay	20%

A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	Below 60

The University of Delaware stipulates that you must earn at least a C- in order to pass this course.

Schedule

Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

Date	Reading/Writing Due
T February 7	OED definition of “character” [Sakai]
1 Characterizing Characters	
Th February 9	Blog post #1 Harris, <i>Rewriting</i> , “Introduction” + “Coming to Terms” Excerpts from Aristotle’s <i>Poetics</i> [Sakai]
T February 14	Woolf, “Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown” [Sakai]
Th February 16	Blog post #2 Forster, <i>Aspects of the Novel</i> , “People” + “People (Continued)” [Sakai]
T February 21	Pirandello, <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>
Th February 23	Rough draft characterization paper
T February 28	Final draft characterization paper Harris, <i>Rewriting</i> , “Forwarding” + “Countering”
2 Canonizing Characters	
Th March 1	Blog post #3 Conan Doyle, <i>A Study in Scarlet</i> , Part 1
T March 6	Conan Doyle, <i>A Study in Scarlet</i> , Part 2 Screening: “A Study in Pink” [5:00pm in the Morris Library Film and Video Collection Department Viewing Room]
Th March 8	Blog post #4 “A Study in Pink”; Leitch, “The Hero with a Hundred Faces” [Sakai]
T March 13	Fleming, <i>Casino Royale</i> Screening: <i>Casino Royale</i> [5:00pm in the Morris Library Film and Video Collection Department Viewing Room]
Th March 15	<i>Casino Royale</i>
T March 20	Rough draft canonicity paper
Th March 22	Final draft canonicity paper Cursive, “Dorothy at Forty” [Sakai] Harris, <i>Rewriting</i> , “Taking an Approach”
T March 27	No class; spring break
Th March 29	No class; spring break

3 Controlling Characters

T April 3	Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>
Th April 5	Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> Skal, “‘His Hour Upon the Stage’: Theatrical Adaptations of Dracula” [Norton] Auerbach, “Vampires in the Light” [Norton]
M April 9	Screening: “Buffy vs. Dracula” [5:00pm in the Morris Library Film and Video Collection Department Viewing Room]
T April 10	“Buffy vs. Dracula”
Th April 12	Meet in the library, Room 116A
T April 17	Moore, <i>The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Volume One</i>
Th April 19	Annotated bibliography Excerpts from Moore, <i>The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Black Dossier</i> [Sakai]
T April 24	Thomas, “What Is Fanfiction and Why Are People Saying Such Nice Things About It?” [Sakai] Carol, “Ae Fond Kiss,” Chapter 1 [Sakai]
Th April 26	Blog post #5 Schwabach, <i>Fan Fiction and Copyright</i> , “The First Question: Are the Underlying Works or Characters Protected?” [Sakai]
T May 1	Excerpts from Deuber-Mankowsky, <i>Lara Croft: Cyber Heroine</i> [Sakai]
Th May 3	First draft research paper
M May 7	Second draft research paper
T May 8	No class; individual conferences
Th May 10	No class; individual conferences
T May 15	Final draft research paper Lana Del Rey, “Video Games” [Sakai] Lana Del Rey, “Video Games (Live on SNL)” [Sakai] Sasha Frere-Jones, “Screen Shot” [Sakai]