English 594 - Contemporary Literature Seminar (aka Graduate Forms of Fiction) - Spring 2016

TR 3:35-4:50

Instructor: Beth Lordan, Faner 2284, 253-6849, lordan@siu.edu
Office hours: TR 10-12, 2-3, and by appointment

Required Texts:

Novels: *The Falling Boy*, Long
        *Miss Lonelyhearts*, West
        *Housekeeping*, Robinson
        *As I Lay Dying*, Faulkner
        *Ironweed*, Kennedy
        *Sula*, Morrison
        *Waiting for the Barbarians*, Coetzee
        *To the Lighthouse*, Woolf

Short Stories:
        “The Things They Carried” - O’Brien
        “Sonny’s Blues” - Baldwin
        “A&P” - Updike
        “The Wizard of West Orange” - Millhauser
        “Cousins” - Oates
        “Incarnations of Burned Children” - Wallace
        “Love of a Good Woman” - Munro
        “Enough” - McDermott
        *O. Henry Prize Stories 2015*: choices to be made

Forbidden Texts: Any secondary sources, critical studies of these works, Cliff Notes, annotated editions, etc.

The purpose of this course is to learn to read as writers. Scant attention will be given to other critical, biographical, political, and historical issues in or of the fiction we’ll read, important though they are. A great deal of attention will be given to formal features (point of view, narrative structure, imagistic pattern, diction, punctuation, typography, sentence structures, paragraph structures, etc.) of the fiction we read, in an effort to identify, become familiar with, and begin using the primary tools of the craft of fiction. Writing requirements: twenty-three short (1-2 pages) analyses, twenty-three short (1-2 pages) emulations; one final essay (10 pages) incorporating analysis and emulation. Other requirements: Readings (above), attendance, participation.

N.B.: Although this is a course designed for fiction writers, poets and scholars are also very welcome. The quality of your fiction will not in any way affect your grade.