

Popular Fiction

ENG 237 (3 credits, 3 hours)

Course Description: Survey of genres and forms of popular fiction, including science fiction, romance, mysteries, comics, westerns, and more. Dynamics of production and reception; genre theory; aesthetics; and/or historical and cultural trends and contexts.

Learning Outcomes By the end of the course students will be expected to:

- Understand the interrelationship of reading, writing, rhetoric, and social action through the study of popular fiction.
- Identify and engage in the relevant conversations, conventions, and meaning-making systems of local and global communities, professions, and academic disciplines through the study of popular fiction.
- Analyze the genres and forms of popular fiction in a variety of cultural, social, and political contexts.
- Situate popular fiction within the traditions and conventions of British, American, and Anglophone literatures.

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

20%	Participation: your in-class participation; your willingness to share your opinions and interpretations
15%	Study Questions
15%	Midterm exam
10%	Genre quiz
20%	Final Project
10%	Creative Project
10%	Attendance

Extra Credit: is encouraged. You can earn up to 5 points of extra credit. Some ideas for extra credit: go to a literary event (virtual is fine), volunteer for *Obscura*...Going to the ACE earns you two points (make appointments early). If I make a mistake on an assignment, a page number on the syllabus, or Blackboard, alert me for extra credit.

Books: (please bring both to class each session). Books are available at the Lehman College Bookstore, at other major bookstores, and on reserve in the library.

1. Jemisin, N.K. *The Fifth Season*. Orbit, 2015.
2. Souljah, Sister. *The Coldest Winter Ever*. Simon and Schuster, 1999.
3. El Shafee, Magdy. *Metro*. Cosmopolitan, 2012.

Course Requirements:

April 2, 2012

- Short-answer midterm take-home exam
- Short-answer genres quiz
- Most days there a question on Blackboard that you need to answer before you come to class. Approx. 100-200 words each. The question will close before class.
- Final Project: you must read a book of popular fiction of your choosing. You can either present the book to the class or write a 2-page paper on it. You are welcome to work in pairs.
- Creative Project: You will write 5 pages of a genre of popular fiction of your choosing.

Note: The midterm, the Final Project and the creative project must be handed in at passing level to pass the class. Completion does not automatically mean passing.

Attendance and Lateness: You must attend each class. If you miss more than 3 classes, your grade will go down one mark, e.g. from a B+ to a B. If you miss 6 classes or more you will fail the course. If you have a prolonged absence, medical or otherwise, I hope you'll take the course again a different semester.

Grading Guidelines:

1. Consistently hands in all work on time and with evident exceptional effort. Incorporates class concepts and peer criticism into work, actively participates in workshops and discussions; often shares exercises.
2. Completes all required work, but not exceptionally; participates, but not actively; absence/lateness; shows evidence of exercise work, revision, effort, etc.
3. Minimal work completed; assignments turned in late; absence/lateness; lack of regular participation; missed assignments; erratic performance in class and/or written work; lack of effort; lack of revision or understanding of class concepts.
4. Bare minimum performance; consistently inferior work; consistent lack of effort.
5. Less than bare minimum effort and performance; no work/inferior work; excessive absences/lateness; plagiarism.

Blackboard: You must have access to Blackboard. Your correct CUNY email address must be associated with your account so I can email you. Please check Lehman email regularly. At www.lehman.edu, click on "Directory" then "BlackBoard" (upper toolbar), set up a CUNY Portal account if needed, then go through the CUNY Portal to "Blackboard Gateway / Blackboard." In this course, you are required to use Blackboard to access course materials and to post weekly assignments. Call the computer help-desk at 718-960-1111 with problems.

Lehman student mail (required): Go to www.lehman.edu/live and login as instructed. "Username" is Firstname.Lastname@lc.cuny.edu. "Password" is upper case INITIALS of your FIRST and LAST names (FL) followed by your DOB (YYYYMMDD)--for example, "FL19901018". Once in, you can change your default password and (if desired) set up automatic forwarding to a private email account. You are required to check your email account daily for course messages.

Accommodating Disabilities: Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all

students. Students with disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services. For more information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services, Shuster Hall, Room 238, phone number, 718-960-8441. Please speak with me about accommodating your documented disabilities.

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE): The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and the Science Learning Center (SLC) are two of the tutoring centers on campus. The ACE provides appointment-based and drop-in tutoring in the humanities, social sciences, and writing, as well as general writing and academic skills workshops. The SLC provides drop-in tutoring for natural science courses. To obtain more information about the ACE and the SLC, please visit Old Gym, Room 205 or <http://www.lehman.edu/academics/instructional-support-services/humanities-tutoring.php> or call ACE at 718-960-8175, and SLC at 718-960-7707. Regular tutoring hours for fall & spring semesters are: M—T 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Library Tutors are also available in the Library. These tutors offer help with Library resources and computers. *If you visit the ACE, you may earn 2 extra credit points per visit. Bring a copy of the assignment.*

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy: Academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York. Penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion. For detailed information on definitions and examples of Academic Dishonesty, including Cheating, Plagiarism, Obtaining Unfair Advantage and Falsification of Records and Documents, please refer to the student handbook or visit: <http://www.lehman.edu/undergraduate-bulletin/academicintegrity.htm>

All violations are reported to the Department of English and college's Academic Integrity Officer. Course failure is the minimum penalty; suspension and expulsion may also occur.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program receiving federal financial assistance. Sexual harassment, which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX, and is considered a Civil Rights offense. Lehman College encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to a faculty member, counselor, or staff; confidential resources are available through the Lehman Counseling Center at (718) 960-8761.

Course Content: The Department of English assigns coursework and literature that meets the learning objectives of our classes and is considered instructional and worthy of study. At times these works will contain references to sexuality, race, class, violence, language, etc. that some readers might find challenging. Students may have emotional responses to the readings; others might have emotional responses to their peers' understanding of the readings. The English Department values the diversity of its students and faculty and considers that all members of our community are responsible for creating a space that is both intellectually rigorous and respectful. If an assigned work violates a student's sensibilities or ethical code, the student is asked to approach the instructor to discuss potential modifications. Students are also encouraged to seek help from the counseling center. (Old Gym Building, Room 114. Tel: 718-960-8761; E-mail: counseling.center@lehman.cuny.edu) (adapted from Ohio Northern University and Julie Beaulieu of the University of Pittsburgh)

What I assume you already know (if you don't, come see me): 1) How to compile a Works Cited and cite sources with proper MLA formatting, 2) How to introduce, attribute, and correctly punctuate quotes, 3) How to paraphrase and use sources without plagiarizing. The book *A Writer's Reference* by Diana Hacker is an excellent resource for all of the above, as well as for general grammar questions. Owl Purdue is also a good source. The accompanying site is also good for brushing up or practice in areas where you may need work or review. If you have had any ESL/EAL/ELL issues in your previous classes, I suggest working through as many practice quizzes below as you can.

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/writersref6e/Player/Pages/Main.aspx>

DAY BY DAY SYLLABUS

Week 1:

Read 1-100 in *The Fifth Season*

Read article on fantasy

Week 2:

Read: Katchadourian, Raffi. "N.K. Jemisin's Dream Worlds." *The New Yorker*. 20 Jan. 2020.

Read 101-200 in *The Fifth Season*

Answer study question on Blackboard

Week 3

Finish *The Fifth Season*

Answer study question on Blackboard

Week 4:

Read 1-100 *The Coldest Winter Ever*

Read: Dunn, Stephanie. "A Hip Hop, Afro-Feminist Aesthetic of Love: Sister Souljah's 'The Coldest Winter Ever.'" *The Langston Hughes Review*, vol. 21, 2007, pp. 39–53. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/26434675. Accessed 30 Sept. 2020.

Answer study question on Blackboard

Week 5:

Read 100-200 *The Coldest Winter Ever*

Answer study question on Blackboard

Week 6:

Finish *The Coldest Winter Ever*

Answer study question on Blackboard

Week 7:

Review for midterm

Take home midterm

Week 8:

Read 1-50 *Metro*

Answer study question on Blackboard

Week 9:

Finish *Metro*

Read: Baetens, Jan and Hugo Frey, eds. *The Graphic Novel: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Answer study question on Blackboard

Week 10:

Genres quiz

Discuss Final Project

Week 11:

Choose Final Project Books

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Week 12:

Outline of Final Project

Week 13:

Final Project Presentations

Week 14:

Final Project Presentations (turn in Final Paper if you've chosen that over a presentation)

Final Exam:

Hand in Creative Project