

Philosophical Issues in Literature, Fall 2012

Professor: Samir Chopra
Office: 3307 Boylan Hall
Mailbox: 3308 Boylan Hall
Email: schopra@brooklyn.cuny.edu (best way to get in touch)
Phone: 718.951.5324 (worst way to get in touch)
Class: Monday/Wednesday: 11 AM – 12:15 PM (232 NE)
Office hours: Wednesday: 10- 11 AM (or by appointment)

Please read this syllabus carefully. It contains answers to questions you will raise during the semester.

Course Requirements

Attendance, participation, quizzes: 30% of final grade; mid-term: 35% of final grade; final exam: 35% of final grade.

Attendance

Failure to attend class will mean a reduction in your classroom activity grade; you must attend all classes and participate actively. Absence from a class means you will not profit from class discussion. Nothing you say in class will cause your grade to be lowered. Asking questions about the readings will aid your understanding of the material, and help me as well.

Please be on time; late arrivals are very disruptive and disrespectful. I will take attendance at the beginning of class; if you are late, you will be marked absent.

Textbook:

Peter Singer and Renata Singer. *The Moral of the Story: An Anthology of Ethics Through Literature*, Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

Readings:

For each reading, read the associated Issues section at the back of the book (starting page 565).

8/27: Introduction

8/29: Intro (3-6), Ellison, Lett & Carey, Baldwin (7-25),

9/5: Wolfe, Eliot, Miller, Shakespeare (26-49)

9/10: Intro (51-54), Gilman, Dickens, Kanon (57-80)

9/12: Sophocles, Shakespeare (83-88); Zitkala-Sa, Bierce, Munro (91-109)

9/19: Intro (111-115), Austen, Seth, Shakespeare, Maupassant (116-144)

9/24: Contd.

10/1: Elliot, Tolstoy, Shaw, Cleland, Defoe (145-170)

10/3: Intro (171-174); Binchy, Clark, Jennings, Shakespeare, Bontemps (175-207)

10/10: Contd.

10/15: Intro (211-214); Gaskell, Seaver, Ozeki, Ibsen, Snow (215-246)

10/17: Contd.

10/22: Intro (247-250), Euripides, Brooks, McEwan (251-275)

10/24: Hornby, Oates (276-290)

10/29: Midterm Exam

10/31: Intro (291-293); Trollope, Anonymous, (294-321)

11/5: Contd.

11/7: Intro (323-327), Stowe, Bennett, Shakespeare (328-351)

11/5: Contd. & Ibsen (352-360)

11/7: Intro (361-363); Tolstoy, Barker, Owen, Shakespeare (364-385)

11/12: Tennyson, Yizhar, Fowles (386-399)

11/14: Intro (401-404); Stewart, Adams, Adams, Cooper (405-425)

11/19: Contd.

11/21: Intro (427-429); Aeschylus, Genesis, Dostoyevsky (430-437)

11/26: Intro (439-441); Shelley, Capek, (443-457)

11/28: Intro (461-464); Johnson, Defoe, Twain, Greene (465-479)

12/3: Contd. & Borowski (480-492)

12/5: Intro (493-4960); Le Guin, Dostoyevsky, Ishiguro, Trollope (497-523)

12/10: Lee, Shakespeare, Elliot, (524-546)

12/12: Intro (547-549); Defoe, James, Huxley, James (550-564)