

SPOKANE FALLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course Learning Objectives Student Learning Outcomes

Course Title: Studies in the Novel
Prefix and Course Number: ENGL 261

Last Modified: F15

Course Learning Objectives

- I. Conventions of the Novel
 - A. Narrative
 - 1. Plot
 - 2. Subplots
 - 3. Chronology
 - B. Characterization
 - C. Themes, subthemes
 - D. Point of view
 - 1. Reliable and unreliable narrators
 - 2. Authorial presence and intent
- II. Literary Periods
 - A. Romanticism, Transcendentalism
 - 1. Imagination
 - 2. "Noble savage"
 - B. Realism, Naturalism
 - 1. Ethical dilemmas
 - 2. Social Darwinism
 - C. Modernism
 - 1. Fragmented reality
 - 2. Disillusionment
 - 3. Regionalism
 - D. Post-modernism
 - 1. Erasing reality
 - 2. Self-referentiality
- III. Genre Theory
 - A. Action/Adventure/Thriller
 - B. "Memoir"/Autobiographical Novel
 - C. Mystery/Detective Novel
 - D. Romance
 - E. Speculative Fiction
 - F. Graphic Novel
- IV. Tensions in and around the Contemporary Novel
 - A. The Canon: Implications for marginalized authors
 - 1. Literary vs. popular novels
 - 2. The rise of identity politics: Race, class, and gender
 - B. Hero to Anti-hero
 - C. Correlation or Causation: Do novels reflect cultural change or drive it?
 - D. Novels "in Translation": Via language, medium, popular culture
 - E. Effects of Modality: Verbal, graphic, electronic

F. What is Truth? "Truth" in fiction

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Describe the conventions of the novel as a literary form, as well as elements of longer fiction as plot, sub-plot, symbolism, point of view, setting, tone, and theme; employ these elements appropriately in analyzing novels
2. Identify relevant characteristics of literary periods, and of novel genres, and appropriately reference these characteristics in analyzing individual works
3. Trace patterns of continuity and discontinuity through the history of the novel, or within a particular period or genre as specified by the instructor
4. Describe ways in which novelists have commented on, and influenced, cultural changes; assess cultural work performed by novels
5. Interpret ways in which novels have addressed cultural and philosophical questions on issues such as the nature of identity and the relationship between language and reality
6. Locate, and demonstrate an understanding of, relevant critical or scholarly findings about novels, and use these findings to advance insights about primary texts