

Art of Fiction
ENGL 273G
Spring 2017
Professor Finnell

Due Dates: April 10, 12, or 14- Project Proposal Meeting

Wednesday **April 19th** through Friday **May 5th** - Presentations

Format:

For your Final Project Presentations you will choose a topic of particular interest to you and present it to the class. These presentations shall be *no less than 5 minutes and no more than 10 minutes*. They should be focused and narrow in scope. I *must* approve the topic for your assignment; the deadline for this approval is *in your conference with me*. YOU MUST TURN IN A ONE PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT PROPOSAL with a sense of how you are going to approach the presentation.

- You may (and are encouraged to) use audiovisual aids, posters and charts, etc.
- You will prepare a handout to be distributed to the class, i.e., one for **EACH** member of the class (and me). This should contain some information pertaining to your presentation which will help your audience in their understanding and enjoyment of your presentation. *This is NOT an outline of your presentation, or merely a copy of a poem (e.g.) you are addressing.*
- A written report of at least 3 (full) pages **must be passed in with this presentation**. It will address your approach and research, and how you decided to focus the information for your presentation.
- Your topics may cover areas of study and periods of time and authors who we have covered, *but cannot address works we have discussed.*
- Although power point presentations can be effective, do not use one if you will be using it to read from for your entire presentation. Think of it as a *visual aid only*.

Some suggested ideas include:

- The introduction of a poet, short story writer, novelist or dramatist that includes a **brief** overview of his or her background and professional accomplishments and **focuses on an analysis** of a work or work(s) that have not been assigned or discussed in class. (This is not just a biography; it must focus on a work.) Think about plot, narrative, setting, etc.
- A discussion of the role and impact of **symbolism** and **imagery** in fiction or a poem. You can compare or contrast the use in more than one story or poem.
- A presentation and discussion explaining how **setting** may create **mood** and help to define a **character** in a short story.
- Choose a short story and discuss how a scene (or more) from it could be staged (a brief explanation of the short story would introduce this.)

- An overview of the **political implications of poetry and fiction** and the role of the poet in society. This is similar to the focus we acknowledged in *The Woman Warrior* and “A Decade” how the Chinese cultural revolution played a role within the stories.
- The development of your own **compare and contrast** exercise, placing two authors or two works **in conversation/juxtaposition** with one another. These could be short stories or poems; or a comparison between a short story and a poem.
- Make a diorama which would show the setting of a work- poem, short story, or novel. For your presentation, explain your design *thoroughly*.
- Use artworks which relate to works of a certain period that we have studied and discuss its relation to a novel, short story, or poem.

Please remember that these are simply ideas to assist you in choosing a topic. I encourage you to be as creative as possible but to **narrow your scope and focus**.

This project is worth 20% of your final grade, and is broken down thusly:

10% topic submitted on time- written and turned in by your conference

30% research- depth of information & critical approach to both your topic and method of presentation

20% written report turned in on the day of your presentation

20% handout, content and appropriateness- including ENOUGH for the entire class

15% your attendance at the presentations of your classmates

5% if you smile (at least once) while you are presenting

Also affecting your grade: staying within the 5-10 minute range; preparedness on the day of your presentation- arriving on time with all of your materials; having whatever technology you are using ready; presenting yourself in an effective manner.

YOU MAY NOT CHANGE YOUR TOPIC WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM ME