



## Hunan University

### ENG 24: Literature and Writing

**Professor:** To be announced  
**Total contact hours:** 54 hours  
**Credit:** 4

#### *Course Description*

This course is design for colleges or universities to familiarize their students with the theories, techniques, points of view and strategies concerning to literature appreciation and fiction interpretation. During this course, you will often be asked to do readings and writing exercises intended to help you develop your facility with style and syntax—that is, with the way sentences are put together to create different meanings and effects. These exercise will also help you develop a deeper awareness of the conventions of edited written English and the reasons why it can be useful to flow or challenge them.

Students are expected to apply the concepts taught in lectures into their writings. In other words, you will need to read them more than once in order to grapple with their complexity, moreover, you should be prepared for a course that will require sustained effort, no mater what your previous record as writer and reader.

#### *Required Material*

Textbook: *Characters And Viewpoint*  
 Author: Orson Scott Card  
 Publisher: Writers Digest Books

#### **Reference Readings:**

Unaccustomed Earth (by Jhumpa Lahiri)

#### *Grading*

- Assignments 30%
- Report 15%
- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 35%

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	



## ***Course Schedule***

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 hours and 15 minutes in length.  
Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Introduction of the course and course expectations for students

Class 2:

Introduction of Part I - Inventing Characters

1. What Is A Character?

Class 3:

2. What Makes A Good Fictional Character?

Class 4:

3. Where Do Characters Come From?

Assignment 1

Class 5:

4. Making Decisions

Class 6:

Introduction of Part II - Constructing Characters

5. What Kind of Story Are You Telling?

Class 7:

6. The Hierarchy

Class 8:

7. How To Raise The Emotional Stakes?

Class 9:

7. How To Raise The Emotional Stakes? (Cont.)

Report

Class 10:

8. What Should We Feel About The Character?

Class 11:

8. What Should We Feel About The Character? (Cont.)

Class 12:

9. The Hero and The Common Man



Class 13:

10. The Comic Character: Controlled Disbelief

Class 14:

11. The Serious Character: Make Us Believe

Midterm

Class 15:

12. Transformations

Class 16::

12. Transformations (Cont.)

Class 17:

Introduction of Part III: Performing Characters

13. Voices

Class 18:

14. Presentation VS. Representation

Assignment 2

Class 19:

15. Dramatic VS. Narrative

Class 20:

16. First-Person Narrative

Class 21:

17. Third Person

Class 22:

18. A Private Population Explosion

Class 23:

Overall review

Class 24:

Final Exam

### ***Attending Policy***

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third



of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

### ***Policy on “Late Withdrawals”***

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved ONLY in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Hunan University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

### ***General Expectations:***

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

### ***Special Needs or Assistance***

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.