

**English 244 The Novel****IS THERE CLOSURE TO CLOSURE  
On a ROAD?**

The knowledge imposes a pattern, and falsifies,  
For the pattern is new in every moment  
And every moment is a new and shocking  
Valuation of all we have been.

(T.S. Eliot, "East Coker," Four Quartets)

**Tues/Thurs 12.30-1.45 Colgate 126**

**Dr. Ewa Chruściel**

**Office: Colgate 227**

**Office Phone: 526 3645**

**Office Hours** Wed/Fri 12-12.45 pm, Thursday 2– 2.45 *and by appointment*

**Course Description:**

This course is dedicated to the exploration of the genre of the novel with the overarching theme of the road and closure. We will analyze the metaphor of the road and see how this metaphor has been conceptualized in the listed novels. We will discuss a basic conceptual metaphor: "life is a journey" and we will examine how this metaphor has been expanded in the given literary texts. Has it been conceptualized as a linear, circular, or non-linear trajectory? Is there a sense of ending, cessation or conclusion in these road trajectories as presented in the novels under discussion? What kind of ending is it? Is it a happy ending? Is it an apocalyptic ending? Is it an open-ended closure? We will investigate the concept of closure and discuss what is an open and closed text and how various writers complicate this binary. We will examine the relationship between closure, epiphany and apocalypse in the listed novels.

Will have a few shorter and some longer written assignments. I will ask you to keep a journal in which you will write several responses to our readings. We will have two longer written assignments that will be a record of the discoveries you made while reading, discussing and writing about reading. I will also encourage you to perform in this class: present works you like, read aloud from your journal entries and papers.

Finally, we will have one field trip to the exhibition of Jack Kerouac's On the Road scroll manuscript at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum, Lowell National Historical Park.

### **Course Objectives**

1. To introduce the characteristic features of the novel.
2. To understand and enjoy the contemporary novel.
3. To discuss the issues of closure and non-closure and examine how the binary between the two is collapsed.
4. To discuss the notion of epiphany and its relation to closure.
5. To familiarize students with academic discourse and literary criticism as well as narrative theory.

### **Course Outcomes:**

By the end of this course students will

1. grasp the genre of the novel in detail and identify specific types of novel and narrative techniques.
2. become familiar with such aesthetic issues and tropes as epiphany, closure, etc.
3. become critical thinkers in the area of literature and literary studies.
4. engage in conversation with the voices of the critics and be able to employ them in their papers.

### **Required Texts:**

On the Road Kerouac

Wise Blood Flannery O'Connor

Power and the Glory Graham Greene

The Road Cormac McCarthy

Never Let me Go Kazuo Ishiguro

Saturday Ian McEwan

Too loud a Solitude Bohumil Hrabal

The Sense of an Ending Frank Kermode

### **Suggested Readings:**

Paul Maltby. The Visionary Moment: A Postmodern Critique

Lakoff and Johnson. Metaphors We Live By.

Jeremy Hawthorne. Studying the Novel

H. Porter Abbot. The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative

**Grading Standards:**

**40%** - attendance, participation, in-class presentations, written responses, journals

**20%** presentation; **7%** pop quiz or quiz, **13%** journals and short papers

**60%** papers

**20%** a mid term paper; take-home or in-class exam

**40%** a final paper.

**Note that the failure to submit required written assignments or carry on a presentation results in failing the course!**

**Journals** will be evaluated with pluses. If your response is satisfying you get one plus. If it's good, you get two pluses. If it's very good – three. You get more than 3 pluses, if your journal is outstanding! **Each journal must be typed**

**25 pluses – A**

**18-14 pluses – B**

**10-13 pluses – C**

**Grading Standards**

**F** indicates unacceptable performance. Little if any understanding of basic facts has been demonstrated and requirements clearly have not been fulfilled. No college credit is given for this grade.

**C- and D grades** indicate performance that is barely acceptable. Very little critical thinking, reflection, or application of knowledge has been demonstrated. Writing and communication skills often are inadequate. Some requirements may not have been fulfilled, and very little knowledge of facts and principles has been demonstrated. These are the lowest grades for which academic credit is given. A cumulative GPA at this level will place the student on academic probation and may eventually result in suspension.

**C and C+** indicate adequate performance. Critical thinking, reflection and application of knowledge have been demonstrated at a competent level. Writing and communication skills also are at a competent level. Requirements of the course have been fulfilled and an understanding of facts and principles has been demonstrated.

**B grades** indicate good performance. A substantial amount of critical thinking, reflection, and application of knowledge has been demonstrated. Writing and communication skills are well developed. Requirements have been fulfilled, and a substantial knowledge of facts and principles has been demonstrated, though clearly not to an "A" level.

**A grades** indicate exceptional performance. A high degree of critical thinking, reflection, application of knowledge, and creativity has been demonstrated. Writing and communication skills are highly developed. Requirements have been fulfilled, and extensive knowledge of facts and principles has been demonstrated.

The grading standards for final papers have been outlined separately and can be found in Course Documents on Blackboard under "Final Papers Grading Standards."

## Numeric Equivalencies

A+ .....	100	C+ .....	2.3 .....	78	
A+/A .....	98	C+/C .....	2.15.....	76.5	
A .....	4.0.....	95	C .....	2.0 .....	75
A/A- .....	3.85.....	93.5	C/C- .....	1.85.....	73.5
A- .....	3.7.....	92	C- .....	1.7 .....	72
A-/B+ .....	3.45.....	90	C-/D+ .....	1.45.....	70
B+ .....	3.3.....	88	D+ .....	1.3 .....	68
B+/B.....	3.15.....	86.5	D+/D.....	1.15.....	66.5
B.....	3.0.....	85	D .....	1.0 .....	65
B/B-.....	2.85.....	83.5	D/D-.....	0.85.....	63.5
B- .....	2.7.....	82	D-.....	0.7 .....	62
B-/C+ .....	2.45.....	80	F.....	0.0 .....	0

--from the *2005-2006 Colby-Sawyer College Catalogue*, pages 168-16

**Writing Guidelines:**

1. All papers must be typewritten and double-spaced on a computer or word processor.
2. Margins will be of standard size: 1 ¼” from the top and bottom of the page and 1” from the left and right margins. Times New Roman size 12 font will be used.
3. Pages should be numbered in the upper, right margin.
4. In the upper, left-hand corner of the 1<sup>st</sup> page write:

Your name:  
 English 245  
 Dr. Ewa Chrusciel  
 Assignment #  
 Due date

## **ATTENDANCE**

Your success in this course relies heavily on regular participation in class activities. Missing classes will affect your performance and, consequently, your grade. In-class work will involve DISCUSSIONS, PRESENTATIONS, WRITTEN RESPONSES, JOURNAL ENTRIES etc., which are extremely difficult to make up for outside of the class environment. In exceptional cases, when missing class is inevitable, you are responsible for contacting me at least 24 hours in advance and making every possible effort to make up for the class promptly. If you have missed more than **2 classes**, I have a right to lower your grade or assign you additional work. If you happen to miss any class due to some illness or other serious circumstances, I expect you to contact me and your peers in order to catch up with whatever we were working on. I will keep your attendance record. Not only do I require from you to be in the class, but also to have your homework assignments with you and on time. I will not respond to late assignments unless they are justified. If you happen to be late with your paper, you will be responsible for scheduling a conference meeting with me in order to fulfill this requirement. You will lead the discussion at these conferences which basically means that you should come prepared to discuss what you feel are the strengths and weaknesses of whatever assignment you are assigned to work on and how you see the paper developing, as well as what ideas you have for further revision. After the meeting, you will send me a brief memo describing what was discussed. I will sign off on that and then you will have fulfilled the requirement. I strongly encourage you to stay on schedule to facilitate your progress throughout the semester.

### **Technology in Class:**

It is important that enroll in this course Blackboard site. I will provide you with the quick Start Guide and the Tip Sheets. The password to enroll is: **road**

### **Disabilities Policy**

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability should contact Academic Development Center (3714)

### **Writing Assistance**

Free writing assistance is available from Academic Development Center (3714)  
I would advise you to make use of such invaluable assistance.

### **Classroom Behavior**

I am excited to be working with all of you this semester, and I want our classroom environment to be one of acceptance and friendship. To facilitate that, I will expect you to use appropriate, unbiased language and to respect the views and opinions of one another. It also means that I expect you to do your own work and not plagiarize. If you are unsure what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult Blair Handbook (pp 364-368).

I really do look forward to the coming semester and to getting to know each of you. If you ever have any difficulties or questions at any time during the semester, please feel free to stop by my office and chat.

### ***A Final Note***

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus.

**Course Schedule:****Week 1****Sep 11**

Introduction to the course

*Assignment:*

Enroll in Blackboard and read syllabus again

Discussion: novel and narrative techniques

Journal entry 1

**Sep 14**

A metaphor of road

*Assignment:*

Start reading On the Road

Journal entry 2

**Week 2****Sep 18****closure and epiphany**

*Assignment:*

Kermode

Finish On the Road

Journal # 3

**Sept 20**

Kermode

Kerouac

*Assignment:*

Journal entry# 4

**Week 3****Sep 25****Kerouac**

*Assignment:*

**1. Start Wise Blood**

2. Kermode

**Sept 27**

***Kerouac***

**Journal**

**Week 4****Oct 2**

*Assignment:*

Journal #5

***Finish Wise Blood***

**Oct 4**

Field Trip

**Week 5**

Oct 9

Hand in the papers on Kerouac

**Wise Blood**

*Assignment:*

Journal #6

***Oct 11*** **Wise Blood** movie

*Assignment:*

Start: Power and the Glory

Jornal#7

Read O'Connor's essay "Some Aspects of Southern Fiction"

Kermode (chapter 2)

**Week 6**

***Oct 16***

**Wise Blood**

*(kairos, apocalypse, grotesque, violence)*

**Assignment:**

**Finish: Power and the Glory**

***Oct 18***

**Power and the Glory** Presentation 1 (Lyn Williams)

Presentation 2 (Lauren Campiglio)

*Assignment:*

Journal # 8

**Week 7**

***Oct 23***

No Class

Start reading **The Road**

***Oct 25***

**Power and the Glory**

**Presentation 3 (Ryan Martin)**

*Assignment:*

Journal entry# 9

**Week 8**

***Oct 30***

**The Road**

Presentation 4 (Katie Drouin)

Presentation 5 (Margaret O'Connell)

**Nov 1**

**The Road**

**Week 9**

**Nov 6**

**Never Let Me Go**

Presentation 6 (Margaret McCarthy)

Presentation 7 (David Hunter)

**Nov 8**

Movie: **Island**

*Assignment:*

**4-pages paper on The Road with relation to any other movie or the concepts we have been discussing (due Nov 15)**

**Week 10**

***Nov 13***

**Never Let me Go**

Presentation 8 (Jamie Messier)

*Assignment:*

**Finish: Saturday**

***Nov 15***

Hand in Papers

**Saturday**

Presentation 9 (Mallary Kelton)

Assignment: Journal

***Week 11***

**Nov 20**

**Saturday**

Presentation 10 (John Bosse)

Presentation 11 (Casey Scarry)

Presentation 12 (TBA)

Assignment:

1. Journal
2. Finish **Too Loud a Solitude**

**Nov 22 Thanksgiving**

**Week 12**

***Nov 27***

**Too Loud a Solitude**

Presentation 13 (Edward Hanscom)

**Nov 29**

**Too Loud a Solitude**

Presentation: 14 (Nick Lawrence)

Presentation: 15 (Ewelina)

**Week 13**

**Nov 30**

**Presentation 15 & 16 (TBA)**

Kermode

**Dec 4**

Kermode  
Discussion of final projects

*Dec 6*

**Individual Conferences**

*Week 14*

**Dec 11**

**Individual Conferences**

*Dec 13*

Final papers due

*I reserve the right to modify this syllabus to the benefit of students.*