

ENGL/PHIL 89
Contemporary Social Problems in Short Stories,
the Social Sciences & the Press
Fall 2019
Mo-We 4:40-5:55 in Peabody 216



<http://streetscapemag.com/where-art-and-science-come-together/>

Instructors

Luc Bovens (lbovens@unc.edu)

Office Hours: **Mo 12:30-1:30 and We 1:30-2:30 in Caldwell 108B.**

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Office Hours: **Tuesdays 9:30-12:00pm (or by appointment), Greenlaw Hall 324**

Course Description: We will read short stories from around the globe that address a range of social and political problems. We will touch on topics that are prominent in the news today such as parenting, social mobility, race and sexual politics, foreign aid and corruption, implicit bias in hiring, Millennials and burnout and deaths of despair.

First, we read a short story that addresses a social or political issue. Second, we explore a recent and prominent study in the social sciences that addresses the issue.

Our goal will be to explore the different ways in which literature and social science construct issues of broad social and political relevance, the opportunities and limits of these constructions and what might be gained by using each to understand and respond to these issues.

Learning Objectives

You will learn how to

1. analyze short stories from different social and cultural backgrounds;
2. approach and understand research in multiple social sciences;
3. conduct research using a variety of sources and databases;
4. present research in writing and in a conference-style setting;
5. craft arguments in a cross-disciplinary setting using appropriate evidence.

Grades

Participation: attendance, peer review, short assignments, reflection papers, quizzes etc. (4-6 pages)	35%
Essay 1 + Revision (twice 3-4 pages)	15%
Annotated Bibliography (2-3 pages)	10%
Final Project Proposal (2 pages)	10%
Final Project + Revision (twice 4-6 pages)	15%
Presentation	15%

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. In a discussion-centered course like this one, your presence is crucial to your own learning experience and to that of your classmates. A missed discussion is almost impossible to reconstruct after the fact, making it difficult for you to catch up on the missed course material you'll need in order to succeed on course assignments. If you miss a class, you will receive a participation grade of zero for that day and are responsible for arranging to have a classmate take detailed notes on the session you miss. Late arrival to class will also reduce your participation grade. Please note, however: **we would rather that you come to class late than not at all**, as attending class gives you access to class discussion and lecture material that is crucial to success in the course and impossible to fully recreate after class has ended.

Excused Absences: If you have a legitimate reason for not being able to attend class and clear it with us in advance, or an emergency absolutely prevents you from attending class on a given day and you can provide written documentation of the event, your absence will be excused and you will be able to use the notes you get from your classmate to replace the day's zero grade.

Unexcused Absences will impact your final grade as follows (in addition to a zero on that day's quiz).

- More than two unexcused absence will drop your overall class participation grade at the end of the term by one letter (i.e. an A becomes a B);
- More than three unexcused absence will drop your overall class participation grade to an F;
- More than four unexcused absences will normally result in a failing grade for the course.

Email Protocol

When writing email to your teachers, please use:

1. Proper salutation (e.g. Dear Professor/Dr./Mr./Ms. Johnson, Dear Robert, ...)
2. Proper form of leave-taking (e.g. Sincerely,/ Best,/ Regards, ...)

3. Sign your full name
 4. Proofread your email for spelling and grammatical errors
- For more info: [Link](#) and [Link](#)

Non-Discrimination Policy

This university does not discriminate against its students or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. The University's policy states that sexual orientation be treated in this same manner. In this class we will strive to maintain an open atmosphere with shared respect for all differences.

Writing Center

The UNC Writing Center, located in SASB North and in Greenlaw Hall #221, offers free tutoring services for students. You may visit the Writing Center to ask for help with a specific paper, whether you are concerned with developing ideas and content, organizing your assignment, or working on style issues. To make an appointment, browse the Writing Center's online resources, or send a draft online, please go to writingcenter.unc.edu. To make best use of your time there, please bring a copy of your assignment sheet and your draft with you. The Writing Center will not proofread papers or talk with you about grades.

Accessibility Resources

UNC-Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health struggles, chronic medical conditions, temporary disability, or pregnancy complications, all of which can impair student success. See the ARS website for contact and registration information: <https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/contact-us>”

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.”

The Honor Code

The honor code applies to everything that you—and I—do at this university, including our use of outside sources in our research and writing. Our work in this class will conform to the principles and procedures defined in the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance (<http://instrument.unc.edu/>). The research and writing we do this semester—whether formal or informal—will require careful documentation on your part. The need to cite your sources applies at every stage of your work, including drafts as well as final versions. When in doubt, CITE. If I suspect you of plagiarizing all or part of an assignment, even unintentionally, I am required to report the offense to the Honor Court. If you start to run into trouble with a paper, PLEASE come and speak with me. It is much, much better to take a late penalty on an assignment than to risk Honor Court proceedings. Plagiarized assignments will usually result in student receiving a failing grade for the course.

Schedule

Wk	Mo	We	Assignments
1		Aug 21. Introduction	
2	Aug 26. Tillie Olsen "I Stand Here Ironing"	Aug 28. Parenting (Social Science) Reflection Paper (due Su 11:59 pm)	Reflection Paper (due Su 1 Sep at 11:59 pm)
3	NO CLASS	Sep 4. Toni Cade Bambara "The Lesson"	
4	Sep 9. Social Mobility (Social Science)	Sep 11. Reflection Paper: Literature and Social Science	Reflection Paper on Literature and Social Science (due in class We 11 Sep)
5	Sep 16. Richard Wright "Native Son" (Play)	Sep 18. Alice Walker "Advancing Luna and Ida B. Wells"	Prospectus for Essay 1 (due Su 22 Sep at 11:59 pm)
6	Sep 23. Race and Sexual Politics (Social Science)	Sep 25. Phil Klay "Money as a Weapon System"	Essay 1 (due Su 29 Sep at 11:59 pm)
7	Sep 30. Foreign Aid and Corruption (Social Science)	Oct 2. Tayeb Salih "The Doum Tree of Wad Hamid"	Revision of Essay 1 (due Su Oct 6 at 11:59 pm)
8	Oct 7. Tradition and Modernity (Social Science)	Oct 9. Workshop Final Project Topics	Final Project Topics (due in class on We 9 Oct)
9	Oct 14. Library: Scavenger Hunt	Oct 16. Implicit Bias	Annotated Bibliography (due in class on We 16 Oct)
10	Oct 21. Fatou Diome "Preference Nationale"	Oct 23. Bias in Hiring (Social Science)	Annotated Bibliography (revision) (due on Su 25 Oct at 11:59 am)
11	Oct 28. Final-Project Proposal (draft): Workshop	Oct 30. Heinrich Böll "To Work or not to Work" Final Project Proposal due	Final-Project Proposal (draft) (bring three hardcopies to class on Mo Oct 28) Final-Project Proposal (bring two hardcopies to class on We 30 Oct)
12	Nov 4. Millennials and Burnout (Social Science)	Nov 6. [Opioid Crisis Short Story]	

13	Nov 11. Deaths of Despair (Social Science)	Nov 13. Final Project (draft): Workshop	Bring one hardcopy of Final Project to class on We 13 Nov
14	Nov 18. Presentation Strategies	Nov 20. NO CLASS – Students meet outside of class with Professors to discuss revisions of final project	Bring one hardcopy of double-spaced Final Project to class on Mo 18 Nov
15	Nov 25. Presentation Workshop Final Project Revised due	NO CLASS	
16	Dec 2. Debriefing + Course Evaluation Out of class conferencing	Dec 4. Conference	

Readings

See Sakai