FYRS: Adventure Narratives

Instr. Tara Gellene
teg5@nyu.edu
MW 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Room: 501 1 Washington Place
Office: 431 1 Washington Place
Office Hours: Wednesday 11-Noon

Course Description

In adventure narratives, men and women typically seek out, or are thrust into, unfamiliar spaces where they confront elemental forces. Some adventurers traverse dramatic natural environments while others explore spaces of dramatic cultural difference. We will explore how and why these spaces are represented as staging grounds for conflicts with principles of gender, power, and moral life. In your writing and research you will develop arguments about how narratives of adventure reflect fundamental aspects of the cultural imagination.

Course Objectives

The First-Year Research Seminar is designed to build on the writing skills and strategies you learned in your First-Year Writing Seminar. Like your FYWS, this course will emphasize the writing process—brainstorming, drafting, incorporating feedback, and peer review—as well as prioritize written expression and argument. Your engagement with that process will be crucial to your success in this class and as a writer in general.

So how is the First-Year Research Seminar different from the First-Year Writing Seminar? In addition to further developing your writing skills, this class will develop your research skills. Research, like writing, is a rich and recursive process. In this course you will learn how to generate and refine research projects, find and vet different kinds of sources, and mobilize sources in various ways in your writing, while developing a broad understanding of our class themes through critical reading.

Required Texts

The required texts are available from Shakespeare & Company at Broadway & West 4th. They are:

- *The Four Voyages* by Christopher Columbus (Penguin 1976).
- *She* by H. Rider Haggard, (Oxford University Press, 1998.).
- *Civilization and Its Discontents* by Sigmund Freud (TBD)
Additional readings and handouts for the course will be made available through our NYU Classes. These readings should be printed and brought to class, or if you have an electronic pdf reader (e.g. ipad, kindle, nexus), you may use that in class, but please bookmark key passages that you may want to discuss in advance.

Please familiarize yourself with *The Owl*: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/). It is an excellent reference for grammar, citation, and more.

**Course Requirements**

- Essays: 65%
- Collaborative Research Project 20%
- Homework and Participation 15%

**Essays:** Three essay assignments are required; specific assignments will be distributed in advance. Two essays will build on the analytic skills you practiced last semester and ask you to begin analyzing sources. The third will be a self-designed research paper. These assignments will undergo revision and rewriting with the assistance of peer review, instructor feedback, and your own further thinking. All essays will adhere to MLA format for research papers, including documentation. There will be penalties for late essays. See the “Grades” section below for more information about late work.

**The Collaborative Research Project:** Throughout the semester you will develop a wiki page with various resources related to one of the semester’s assigned texts. This project will receive a group grade.

**Homework and Participation:** Homework in this class will involve will include the rough drafts you produce of your essay assignments, and the preparatory reading and writing you do for class. Specific assignments will be detailed on the weekly schedule. Since this is a seminar class, it’s crucial that you contribute to class discussion. To do that you’ll need to have your assigned readings, homework, drafts, etc, in the classroom. Please get into the habit of bringing these things to class.

**Other things that can affect your grade:** Your course grade will be calculated using the percentages described above with the following exceptions: excessive absence, missing work, and submitting plagiarized work.

- **Missing Work:** Students must submit all three essays and complete the collaborative research project in order to pass the class.
- **Late Work:** Late Drafts will not receive comments from the instructor and will count against your homework grade. They may also affect your participation grade if you are unable to participate in class, because you do not
have a draft with you. Late Final Drafts will be penalized 1/3 grade for every class day they are late. To clarify, any time after the deadline counts as the next class day, even if you submit your late essay before the next class actually meets.

- Absences: If you miss more than 5 class meetings you can not pass the course. More than 3 absences will negatively impact your grade. Excuses are not necessary or accepted.

- Violating Academic Integrity: It is important to uphold the conventions of Academic Integrity as defined by Gallatin. Please review Gallatin’s statement on Academic Integrity:
  http://gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/integrity.html

NYUClasses: Students are expected to check Classes at least twice a week to keep up with homework assignments. All written assignments and drafts should be submitted through Classes.

  Please note: if you find that you are confused about how to post assignments on NYUClasses, please see me within the first week of classes so I can show you how it works. I will not accept assignments by email; you must post assignments correctly on NYUClasses to receive credit.

Further Support

The Writing Center is a great resource for all writers at Gallatin. At the Writing Center, trained consultants offer students free consulting/tutoring on all aspects of the writing process. Make sure to schedule appointments in advance; they will fill up.

Course Schedule

This schedule may change slightly throughout the semester. Be sure to check the course schedule on NYUClasses for up-to-date information. If a class must be canceled due to an emergency, students will be contacted through a Classes announcement. Once again, it is important to frequently check email and NYUClasses.

Week 1

Monday, January 27
In class: Introduction to the Course. Tennyson’s “Ulysses.”
For our next class: Read The Epic of Gilgamesh

Wednesday, January 29
In class: Gilgamesh.
For our next class: Read Introduction to Gilgamesh. Develop Research Questions.
Week 2

Monday, February 3
In class: Gilgamesh. Research Questions. Background Resources & Primary Texts.
For our next class: Read “The First Voyage” in Christopher Columbus The Four Voyages.

Wednesday, February 5
In class: Columbus. Historical Context.
For our next class: Read “The Third Voyage” and “The Fourth Voyage”

Week 3

Monday, February 10
In class: Columbus. Research Questions.
For our next class: Read excerpts from The Worst Journey in the World. Freewrite for Essay 1.

Wednesday, February 12
In class: Analytical Essay Conventions.
For our next class: Complete Draft of Essay 1. May want to begin reading She by Rider Haggard.

Week 4

Monday, February 17
Draft of Essay 1 Due on NYU Classes by 9am.
PRESIDENT’S DAY: NO CLASS

Wednesday, February 19
In class: Writing Workshop (topic TBA).
For our next class: Read She.

Week 5

Monday, February 24
In class: She

Wednesday, February 26
In class: She. Historical Context
For our next class: Read Heart of Darkness.

Week 6

Monday, March 3
Final Draft of Essay 1 Due on NYU Classes by midnight.
In class: Discuss *Heart of Darkness*
For our next class: Read Lit Crit, TBA.

**Wednesday, March 5**
In class: Literary Criticism.
For our next class: Read *Civilization and Its Discontents*.

**Week 7**

**Monday, March 10**
In class: Discuss Freud and On the Road. Lens Moves.
For our next class: Read excerpt from Kant.

**Wednesday, March 12**
In class: Discuss Kant. Lens.
For our next class: Complete Draft of Essay 2. Read *On the Road*.

**Wednesday, March 12 EVENING SCREENING**

**SPRING BREAK March 16-22**

**Week 8**

**Monday, March 24**
*Draft of Essay 2 Due by 9am on NYU Classes*
In class: *On the Road*
For our next class: Read Tuner's Frontier Thesis.

**Wednesday, March 26**
In class: Discuss the Frontier Thesis. *On the Road*.

**Week 9**

**Monday, March 31**
*Collaborative Research Project Status Update Due by 9am on Research Site*
In class: Status Updates

**Wednesday, April 2**
*Final Essay 2 Due by midnight on NYU Classes*
In class: Status Updates. Research Paper prep.
For our next class: Read *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* by Michael Ondaatje.

**Week 10**

**Monday, April 7**
In class: *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*
For our next class: Bring draft of Research topic

**Wednesday, April 9**
In class: Research Topics

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 EVENING SCREENING:** *Beasts of the Southern Wild*

**Week 11**

**Monday, April 14**
*Collaborative Research Project Due by 9am on Research Site.*
In class: Developing the project
For our next class: Work on Research Essay

**Wednesday, April 16**
In class: Topics Workshop
For our next class: Work on Research Essay

**Week 12**

**Monday, April 21**
*Research Topics Due*
In class: Writing Workshop: Structure
For our next class: Work on Research Essay

**Wednesday, April 23**
In class: Style Workshop
For our next class: Revise style

**Week 13**

**Monday, April 28**
*Draft of Research Essay Due in Class*
In class: Sign-posting & Coherence
For our next class: Work on revision of Research Essay

**Wednesday, April 30**
In class: Drawing Conclusions
For our next class: Complete Second Draft of Research Essay

**Week 14**

**Monday, May 5**
In class: Revision Workshop/Peer Review
For our next class: Complete Final Draft of Research Essay
Wednesday, May 7
Course Review

Monday, May 12

*Final Draft of Research Essay Due*