

## Philosophy of Literature

Tuesday, Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> Period, FH A3, College Avenue Campus

Fall 2013

Instructor: Professor Peter Kivy

Office Hours, Tuesday, Thursday, 1:00-2:30 (and by appointment)

### Learning Goals

The course will deal with such questions as the definition of literature, the ontology of literary works, the nature of fiction, the emotional reaction of an audience to fiction, the problem of interpretation, the problem of literary value, and the experience of silent reading. The teaching goal of the course is, needless to say, the mastery of the material as outlined above. But it is hoped as well that the philosophical analysis of literature with which the course concerns itself will have the lasting effect of stimulating students to appreciate, enjoy, and think about the great literary works of the canon in their future lives outside of the academy.

### Conduct of the Course

The course will be taught, as much as is possible, as a discussion class. In order for this to work, you must have the reading assignments completed before class. If you don't, you will not be able to partake in the discussion, and you will not understand what is going on in class. You will be very bored!

There will be two examinations in this class: a mid-term examination, the date of which will be announced in class early in the semester, and a final examination, the date of which is listed in the Rutgers Final Examination Schedule. Both examinations will be essay examinations. Reading assignments will be made in class. The assignments will not be long, in terms of number of pages. But philosophical texts are not easy, so you will have to allow more time for the number of pages assigned to you than you would if you were reading a literary text.

Regular class attendance is required for credit in this course. If, for any reason, you feel you will not be able to fulfill this requirement, do not take this course. I do not allow the use of computers in class.

### Required Texts

Philosophy of Literature: Contemporary and Classic Readings, edited by Eileen John and Dominic McIver Lopes (Blackwell).

Philosophy of Literature, edited by Severin Schroeder (Wiley-Blackwell).

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