



## Nanchang University ENG 24: Literature and Writing

**Credit:** 4

### ***Contact Hours***

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session (3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

### ***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. 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.

### ***Course Learning Outcomes***

After completing the course, students will:

- 1) develop a deeper awareness of the conventions of edited written English and the reasons why it can be useful to flow or challenge them;
- 2) apply the concepts taught in lectures into their writings;
- 3) appreciate the designated and self-selected written works and organize their minds and opinions well through their own writing.

### ***Textbook Information***

Textbook: *Characters And Viewpoint*

Author: Orson Scott Card

Publisher: Writers Digest Books



## Reference Readings

Unaccustomed Earth (by Jhumpa Lahiri)

## Grading

- Participation 10%
- Assignments 20%
- 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	

## Assignment

**Format:** Your writing should be written in a 12 point font and double spaced.  
Late assignment would NOT be accepted.

## Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

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  
What Is A Character?

Class 3:

What Makes A Good Fictional Character?

Class 4:

Where Do Characters Come From?; Assignment 1

Class 5:

Making Decisions



Class 6:

Introduction of Part II - Constructing Characters  
What Kind of Story Are You Telling?

Class 7:

The Hierarchy

Class 8:

How To Raise The Emotional Stakes?

Class 9:

How To Raise The Emotional Stakes? (Cont.); Report

Class 10:

What Should We Feel About The Character?

Class 11:

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

Class 12:

The Hero and The Common Man

Class 13:

The Comic Character: Controlled Disbelief

Class 14:

The Serious Character: Make Us Believe; Midterm

Class 15:

Transformations

Class 16::

Transformations (Cont.)

Class 17:

Introduction of Part III: Performing Characters  
Voices

Class 18:

Presentation VS. Representation; Assignment 2

Class 19:

Dramatic VS. Narrative



Class 20:

First-Person Narrative

Class 21:

Third Person

Class 22:

A Private Population Explosion

Class 23:

Overall review

Class 24:

Paper: Topic given

### ***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***

Nanchang 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.