

## ***EH 205 Reading & Assignment Schedule***

Note 1: Reading Responses have been cut so that we can focus on your Fiction writings; but please read and come ready to discuss.

Note 2: I have not marked any of the texts here with trigger warnings, but if you feel that you might sensitive to the contents of a text, you do not have to engage or finish that text. I hope to give you all the opportunity to grow and learn, but I also want you to know that your emotional safety is my priority.

### **Poetry:**

- Tuesday, March 31: Check-In Meeting
- Wednesday, April 1: Submit “Animal/Nature/Place” Poem + Account
- Thursday, April 2: Share “Animal/Nature/Place” Poems & Discuss “Odes & Elegies 2”
- Friday, April 3: Submit “Odes & Elegies #2” Poem + Account

**-Sunday, April 5: Submit Final Poetry Folio to Moodle by 11:59PM**

**\*\*HEADS-UP:** Your “assigned reading” for TH 4/9 includes playing an online “choose your own adventure” game; feel free to start early!\*\*

### **Fiction:**

- Tuesday, April 7: ARCHETYPES & META-FICTION:
  - Atwood, “Happy Endings”; “There Was Once”; and “Unpopular Gals”
  - John Barth, “Frame Tale”
  - Jon Scieszka, *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*

**\*Conferences on Tuesday, April 7 to make final decision on Apprenticeship Project\***

- Wednesday, April 8: Submit Sketch #1 (300 words) + Account
  - select a classic archetypal character or archetypal story; briefly describe this character or story in your own words, then REMIX! Re-write the character-type or story with

your own twists, turns, reversals, or inversions in a “sketch” of about 300 words+. Think of the reversal of narrative in the classic “3 Little Pigs” story, or think of the flipped perspectives in “Unpopular Gals;” or even the break-down of the fairytale in “There Was Once.” How would you retell a classic story? How would you re-do a classic character-type?

-be sure to include an Account

-Thursday, April 9: STRANGER THAN FICTION:

-Carmen Maria Muchado, “Help Me Follow My Sister Into the Land of the Dead”

(Note: the story is told as a kickstarter post)

<http://www.lightspeedmagazine.com/fiction/help-follow-sister-land-dead/>

-Abigail Corfman, *16 Ways to Kill a Vampire at McDonalds*

(Note: this is a choose-your-own adventure game)

<http://abigailcorfman.com/Home/Vampire>

-“Pick Your Fighter”

(Note: these are not fiction pieces, nor do we have names for the original posters. These are real Facebook posts, and yet— they seem to tell their own strange fiction tales...)

<https://history-freak1.tumblr.com/post/181130361959/pick-your-fighter>

-“Sharks are Smooth”

(Note: Yet another instance of some stranger-than-fiction work— what we have here is a hilarious accidental (true) tale that happens when an Internet troll drags out a joke about sharks...)

<https://imgur.com/gallery/ad3je>

-Debbie Vance, “CHOOSE YOUR OWN”

(Note: the first thing you read is “Section A”; at the bottom of “Section A,” you will see links that prompt you to go to “Section B” or “Section C”, etc..)

<https://bwr.ua.edu/choose-your-own/>

**\*Conferences on Thursday, April 9 to make final decision on Apprenticeship Project\***

**\*\*HEADS-UP:** Your “assigned reading” for TU 4/14 is to “binge watch” or “binge read” a fictional text, and your “assigned reading” for TH 4/16 includes optional “recommended” films on Netflix—so! Feel free to start early!\*\*

**-Monday, April 13: Submit Fiction Piece #1 (900 words+) + Account**

-For this fiction piece, write your own meta-fiction, strange fiction, or broken archetype in a piece of at least 900-words. You are welcome to write your own retelling of a children's tale or your own monologue from the mouth of a villain. You're also welcome to write your own weird medium of a story (using Kickstarter or a string of fake tweets or fake facebook posts). You can also write a choose your own adventure like Corfman's *Vampire* or Atwood's "Happy Endings." The goal is to try your hand at creating strange fictions by breaking up conventional elements of fiction.

-be sure to include an Account

**-Tuesday, April 14: FAN FICTION: "SHIP-SHIP" HOORAY**

-“Binge-watch” a TV series, show, movie saga, etc. of your choosing (at least 2 hrs+). If you don't want to watch TV, you can also “binge-read” something or “binge-listen” to something. The goal is to immerse yourself in fiction of some kind, and come ready to talk about the character dynamics.

-Read through “Slash” card PDF on Moodle, and decide on at least 2 “matches” of characters/people you would set up either as lovers or friends or partners-in-crime, etc.— anything goes...

**\*Conferences on Tuesday 4/14 to discuss Fiction\***

**-Wednesday, April 15: Submit Sketch #2 (300 words) + Account**

-For this prompt (300 words+), sketch a quick scenario to “ship” a few characters together. These can be existing characters from a series, etc. Or these can be two characters that you come up with, perhaps even characters based on the archetypes or stories you sketched last week. Ex: If you binge-read *Harry Potter*, which characters would you “ship” and why? What would their relationship be like? Ex: If you binge-watched *Tiger King*, in what world do Joe Exotic and Carol Baskin run away together? How would that story go?... The goal is to try your hand at imagining character dynamics and creating narrative interactions between characters.

-be sure to include an Account

**-Thursday, April 16: FAN FICTION: "IN A WORLD..."**

-John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, selections

(fan-fiction of the Bible from Satan's perspective)

-Carmen Maria Muchado, “Especially Heinous: 272 Views of Law & Order SUV”  
(fan-fiction re-mixes of *Law & Order SVU*)

-<http://theamericanreader.com/especially-heinous-272-views-of-law-order-svu/>

-(Optional): If you have access to streaming services, perhaps check out/watch/watch a few episodes:

- Once Upon a Time* (streaming on Netflix; fan-fiction of fairytale characters)
- Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (streaming on Netflix; re-mixes of the King Arthur)
- Space Jam* (streaming on Netflix; \*sigh, face-palm\* hear me out, this is a fan-fiction tale in which Bugs Bunny and the Looney Tunes team up with Michael Jordan to beat aliens at basketball and save the world.)
- Again, the goal here is to see how stories we all “know” can be stretched, chopped up, continued, and re-imagined...

**\*Conferences on Thursday 4/16 to discuss Fiction\***

**\*\*HEADS-UP:** Your “assigned reading” for TH 4/23 includes playing the *Pandemic 2* video game online; feel free to start early!

-Monday, April 20: Submit Fiction Piece #2 (900 words) + Account

- Create a 900-word+ fiction piece that uses elements of fan-fiction that we discussed. You are more than welcome to write your own fan-fiction where you create your own continuing stories or “ship” your own selected characters in a scene. You are also welcome to write a short piece that brings characters or stories “into our world.” There is goal here to write your own short tale that that uses the archetypal characters or plots that you’ve watched or read as a starting point, but you are welcome to off-road with your own. You’re also welcome to keep building on your work from the previous week.
- be sure to include an Account

-Tuesday, April 21: HORRORS: REAL & IMAGINED

- Neil Gaiman, “Click-Clack the Rattlebag”
- Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”
- Ursula K. Le Guin, “The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas”

-Wednesday, April 22: Submit Sketch #3 (300 words) + Account

- For this prompt, sketch a short (300 words+) scenario of real and/or imagined horrors. This can be a short telling of a monster story. This can be a telling of spooky lore. This can be a “what if” of horrifying scenarios. This sketch may be high-stakes mortifying, but this can also be a benign telling of a harmless cryptid. The goal is to

create a fictional scene or description of something that chills, thrills, or draws curiosity.

-be sure to include an Account

### -Thursday, April 23: HORRORS: SAYING UNSAYABLE

-Susan Steinberg, “Cowboys”

-Loneliness

(Note: this is a wordless game; play it all the way through to the end)

<https://www.necessarygames.com/my-games/loneliness/flash>

-*Pandemic II*

Note 1: This is an online version of the board game *Pandemic*; try your hand at playing this game, and keep track of what you notice about it. You need not finish the game, but give it a shot. I apologize in advance for the monotone robot voice in the tutorials...

Here is a link to Tutorial video 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oro28yg7W74>

Here is a link to Tutorial video 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-w-gLVfi30>

Note 2: Once you watch the Tutorial, click this link:

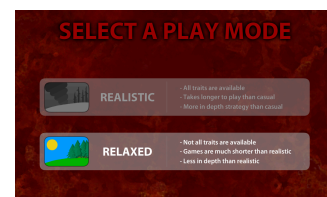
<https://www.kongregate.com/games/darkrealmstudios/pandemic-2>

Then, open the game, and create a free account, load the game on your screen, and hit:

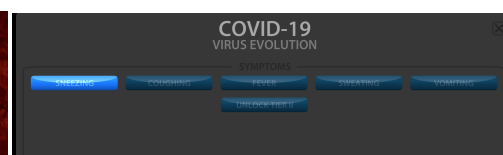
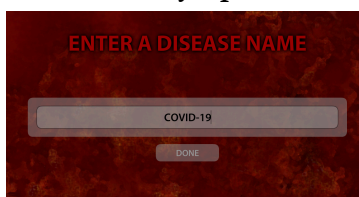


Choose “New Game.” From there, you will be prompted to choose a “mode”— “Realistic” or “Relaxed.”

See if you can’t rock your way through the “Relaxed” version of the game, but if you’re up for an IRL challenge, give “Realistic” mode a shot:



Note 3: Feel free to name your pandemic disease anything you’d like or build it to have any symptoms you please—but.... you could also try re-creating COVID-19 with the same symptoms and infection rates and to see where the game goes...



Note 4: Once you get to the game screen, you can tap the “Menu” button for additional tutorial instructions and guidance. Also, this game is 100% free to play. You will “buy/sell” evolution points to “evolve” your disease, but you do not need to pay money to play this game or to unlock levels.

Note 5: Why are we doing this? Because cultural narratives and storytelling fuel how we imagine and engage disaster. While building and playing this game, take notes about what you notice here— where is the line between fiction and fact? What kind of story are we encountering? What are you experiencing as a character in this fictional non-fiction world? Our goal is to look at the narrative of a crises— in what ways do we participate in its making and abide by its plot? In what ways are we characters in our own lives inside of a story right now? Who are the heroes? Who are the victims? In what ways are we all trying to beat a fiction narrative that we’ve invented for ourselves to resolve our own understanding of tragedy, as much as we’re trying to beat a killer illness?

Note 6: Oh, and plot twist— the object of the game is not to save everyone. In this version of *Pandemic*, you play as the virus. Your goal is to strategize how to become as infectious and deadly as possible using “Evolution Points” to “buy/sell” disease symptoms, which you can mix and match based on the “Breaking News” mini-screen. For example, if you see that a country just got hit with a drought, “sell” the “waterborne” transmission trait, and make your virus rodent- or insect-transmitted, etc.

Also, even though there are a lot of little details to the game, once you start playing, the mechanics are simple: **evolve, evade, and destroy.**



### -Sunday, April 26: Submit Fiction #3 (900 words) + Account

-For this prompt, write a fiction piece based on our theme of “horrors.” This can be a scene or micro-narrative involving a monster or a grim situation. This can be a first-person stream-of-consciousness journey through a hard-decision in the mind of a character. The goal here is to tease out a short tale around the horribly, the strange, the unthinkable, or the strange.

-be sure to include an Account

**-Wednesday, April 29: Fiction Folio Due to Moodle or Email by 11:59PM**

### **Apprenticeship Projects:**

-Tuesday, April 28: Apprenticeship Projects: Selections

-By Tuesday April 21 (previous week), please send me a short selection of work by the person you've selected for your Apprenticeship Project. This can be 1-2 poems, a short story, a passage from a novel, a few songs, a TV or movie clip, etc. I'm going to put everything in a folder on Moodle; and I'm asking you all to read the works your classmates have selected and come ready to talk about your own selection. This part of the project counts towards the project's grade (5%).

**\*Conferences on Tuesday 4/28 to discuss Final Portfolio\***

**\*\*[Wednesday, April 29: Fiction Folio Due; See Above]\*\***

-Thursday, April 30: Apprenticeship Projects: Selections

**\*Conferences on Thursday 4/28 to discuss Final Portfolio\***

**-Sunday, May 3: Apprenticeship Projects Due**

### **Final Days & Final Portfolios:**

-Tuesday, May 5: Class Reading: Round 1! Each person gets 5-7 minutes to read a few pieces of their own writing!

-Thursday, May 7: Class Readings: Round 2 (continued readings) and Reflections!

Submit Final Portfolio & Craft Essay to Moodle by 11:59PM on May 7<sup>th</sup>

-Also:

**\*THURSDAY, MAY 7 @ 11:59PM: ALSO THE FINAL DUE DATE FOR ALL WORK. SUBMIT TO MOODLE OR BY EMAIL.\***