

LIT 1000 Genre Cohort Report Assignment:

The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize you with the different basic Genres literature narratives embody. In the end, one asks oneself, “Why is this text important?” Genre Approaches help to analyze the literature to see how literature embodies and classifies the way people approach the challenges that life throws at us.

Please Note: Due to the beginning nature of this assignment, I will allow web pages as resources. The purpose of this assignment is to get you to work with your group to tackle a complex and layered subject of genre, digest it, understand its levels and meanings, and teach the rest of your class colleagues about it so that they may use it in their studies and research if needed.

Assignment:

You and your cohorts will research your selected Genre. You will find out key terms, general background, the time it appeared (century, decade, history). Why did it appear? What are the motifs? how has it evolved over time? Did it start in a particular country? How does it translate to different cultures?

You will then, on your assigned day, teach this Genre—and its subgenres—to the rest of the class. You will produce a handout that you will give to the students outlining your lesson. Your lesson will include the following:

A definition of the Genre (not as easy as it sounds--not just a dictionary definition)

The list of fundamental elements and motifs of the theory — what are the basic beliefs of this Genre and Why?

A list of the 5 most major Authors who have pioneered/changed this genre and why. What are the Writer’s themes?

A list of 7 most major literary texts in the Genre and what they are about or do.

How the Genre itself changes how we look at the art of literature, life, and 3 good sources to check out.

How can we (as a class) use this Genre to understand the texts we have read in class? How can it be applied to popular culture (Movies, Film, TV) in order to help us decode where our approach to life is headed collectively?



Your group will be assessed on the handout and the lesson. Your handout and lesson should be in your words, in as plain English as possible, using quotes when necessary to help explain complex aspects of the ideas behind the theory. DO NOT simply plan on getting up in front of the class and reading flatly off of a piece of paper—doing that only shows that you have made no effort to digest and understand the material, and the class will know it. Anyone can do a cold reading of material they do not understand. It takes thought, effort, and critical thinking to teach material to an audience.

I understand this is your first time wrestling with this stuff. I do not expect you to be an expert. I do expect you to be able to explain these concepts to your colleagues in class, with a good handout as a companion, so that they can start to think about these ideas. There will be discussion both during and after your lesson. Be prepared to be up there the whole time, but your part will last about 40 minutes or so (with questions and digressions and exploration happening during your lesson).