
Calumet College



of Saint Joseph

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Calumet College of St. Joseph is a Catholic institution of higher learning dedicated to the academic, spiritual and ethical development of undergraduate and graduate students. Informed by the values of its founding religious community, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.), the College promotes the inherent dignity of all people, social justice, an ethic of service, student empowerment, opportunity, and lifelong learning. We are committed to the Five Pillars of a CCSJ Education: The CCSJ graduate will be Open to Growth, Intellectually Competent, Religious, Loving, and Committed to Doing Justice. This class, as outlined below, will help you to achieve those goals.

COURSE SYLLABUS, Fall 2020

EMCO 215: Genre

Instructor Information

Instructor Name	Chris Buczinsky, Ph.D.
Office Number:	Room 177
Phone Number:	(847) 220-0253 My cell. Please reserve this number for emergency texts/calls only . I prefer you email me or visit me during Zoom Office Hours .
Email:	cbuczinsky@ccsj.edu
Zoom Office Hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Fridays 9-12 by appointment



Instructor Background: I was born and raised on Long Island, N.Y. My father was a New York City Homicide Detective. My mother was a homemaker and a secretary to a printer. We moved out West when I was in high school, to the Arizona desert. I went to college in Idaho and spent summers in Oregon working on a farm. I've been a lawn mower, a dishwasher, a pizza maker, a rough carpenter, a hotel desk clerk, a high school English teacher, a children's poet and performer, a trade magazine editor, and after earning my Ph.D. in English from Northwestern University—a college professor. I've ridden my bicycle across the United States, watched cock fights in Indonesia, and sipped espresso in French cafes. I love Paris, the ocean, Blue Jays, carnivals, fighter jets, and coconut cake. I've been married for 35 years to a redhead I met in college. Our redheaded son lives in Seattle. In my spare time I garden, walk, ride my bike, do yoga, drink coffee, and above all draw and paint in watercolors and acrylics. This is my 18th year at CCSJ.

Course Information

Course Time:	F2F: Mondays 3:30-6:30 p.m.
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Classroom:	Room 268
Prerequisites:	None
Required Books and Materials:	<i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card <i>The Ballad of Buster Scruggs</i> by the Coen Brothers <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> by Dashiell Hammett <i>Last Days</i> by Brian Evenson <i>Pygmalion</i> by George Bernard Shaw <i>Fun Home</i> by Alison Bechdel
Course Description: An EMCO foundation course in story, students learn storytelling conventions in a variety of key literary genres, such as the Rom-Com, the Western, Gothic Horror, the Spy Thriller, and Science Fiction and Fantasy. Students learn the settings, narrative strategies, character types, plot structures, and themes characteristic of these genres.	
Learning Outcomes/ Competencies: Students in this course will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. know exemplary works of major American story genres. 2. understand the conventions of these story genres, including stock characters, typical settings, and common plots, themes and narrative strategies. 3. apply a knowledge of generic conventions to constructing story settings, characters and plots. 4. analyze and interpret the social, political, economic, and religious themes raised in the class texts. 5. evaluate the ethical, social, and political issues raised by the genres and the exemplary stories. <p>The course also meets the following EMCO Program objectives. Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. #1 Know the nature of narrative, the elements of story, storytelling genres and structures, the story writing process. 2. #3 Apply knowledge of English words, grammar, syntax, and style to create and edit a variety of literary, journalistic, and business texts. 3. #4 Apply the knowledge of multimedia storytelling in informative journalism, fictional entertainment, and strategic business communication. 4. #5 Analyze textual, aural, and video stories in a variety of genres to determine and convey meaning. <p>The course also meets the following General Education Program objectives. Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. read analytically, synthetically, and critically in a variety of genres. 2. write in a variety of forms using valid logic, persuasive rhetoric, and correct grammar, usage, and punctuation. 3. appreciate, create, and critique the persuasive power of art and media. 4. apply ethical standards to social issues and analyze their own core beliefs and the origin of these beliefs. 	
Teaching Methods/Learning Strategies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading Books. You read excellent examples of our genres—with my help. My job is to explain the genre and help you understand the example books; your job is to read—attentively, actively, annotating on character, plot, and theme. 2. Listening to Chalk Talks. I talk—either live or through video lectures—and you take notes, making sure you capture my main points and good examples in your own words. My job is to be clear, interesting and sometimes entertaining; your job is to listen, understand, note, and question. 3. Discussing Big Issues. I pitch questions about the larger ethical, social and political issues our books raise, and you discuss the questions as a group, either on Blackboard or in the classroom. My job is to identify an interesting issue; your job is to prepare and participate, enthusiastically and authentically. 4. Writing—Critically and Creatively. I pitch writing exercises at you, and you field them. Half of the assignments are critical and interpretive, and half are creative and imaginative. My job is to invent effective prompts; your job is to throw yourself, heart, soul, and mind, into the writing process. 	

Assessments

Your final grade in EMCO 215 will be assigned based on your performance in **five assessments**:

1. Chalk Talk Notes	120 pts.
2. Unit Tests	120 pts.
3. Class Discussions	120 pts.
4. Writing Assignments	240 pts.
5. Subgenre Presentation	100 pts.
Total Points	700 pts.

1. Chalk Talk Notes. (20 pts. each; 120 pts. total)

Chalk Talk Notes are your notes on the short lectures I deliver at the start of each unit, either Live, via Zoom, or in short Videos. I introduce the nature, history, and conventions of the genre, and highlight some classic examples, and you take notes. You will need them for the Unit Tests. (See **Notes Rubric**).

2. Unit Tests. (20 pts. each; 120 pts. total)

EMCO 215 Genre is a reading class, so I will be testing your knowledge and comprehension of what you read. The Unit Tests are short (10 question) tests on the introductory chalk talk and the key text in each unit. If you keep up with the reading schedule, read actively with attention and annotation, and finish the books, you will have no problem doing well on the tests.

3. Blackboard Class Discussions. (20 pts. each; 120 pts. total)

Class Discussions, whether on our Blackboard site or face-to-face, give you a chance to talk with others about the books we are studying, a chance to think about the larger issues raised by our books. Class discussions are graded on the quality of your contributions, either 1) initiating a discussion thread, or 2) commenting intelligently on threads created by your classmates. (See **Class Discussion Rubric**)

4. Writing Assignments. (20 pts. each; 240 pts. total)

The Writing Assignments are short (1-3 page) creative or critical writing exercises and assignments that give you a chance 1) to deepen your understanding of our genres and texts we are studying and 2) to apply your knowledge of genre conventions to the creation of your own stories.

5. Subgenre Presentation. (100 pts.)

This assignment is a short (15-20 minute) Zoom presentation on a *subgenre* of a genre we are studying this semester. The presentation should 1) identify the conventions of the subgenre, 2) explain the issues the subgenre tends to raise, and 3) introduce the class to some of the best examples of the subgenre. (See **Subgenre Presentation Rubric**)

Late Work Policy. All assignments must be submitted in Blackboard. Late work will be reduced one letter grade for every class period (or week) it is late. Late work will not be accepted beyond two weeks after it is due, unless explicitly arranged with the professor.

Grading Scale:

100% – 95%: A	94% – 90%: A-		
89% – 88%: B+	87% – 82%: B	81% – 80%: B-	
79% – 78%: C+	77% – 72%: C	71% – 70%: C-	
69% – 68%: D+	67% – 62%: D	61% – 60%: D-	59% and below: F

Course Schedule

Aug. 24	Introductions, Syllabus, First Assignment Genre: An Introduction
Unit 1: Science Fiction: <i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card	
Aug 31	Chalk Talk #1: Science Fiction: Definition, Conventions, History <i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card Chapters 1-8
Sept. 7	<i>Labor Day Holiday: No Class</i> The Hero's Journey in <i>Ender's Game</i> <i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card Chapters 9-12
Sept. 14	<i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card Chapters 13-15 Unit 1 Test
Unit 2: Crime Fiction: <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> by Dashiell Hammett	
Sept. 21	Chalk Talk #2: Introduction to Detective Fiction <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> by Dashiell Hammett Chapters 1-7
Sept. 28	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i> by Dashiell Hammett Chapters 8-15
Oct. 5	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i> by Dashiell Hammett Chapters 16-20 Unit 2 Test
Unit 3: The Western: <i>The Ballad of Buster Scruggs</i> by the Coen Brothers	
Oct. 12	Chalk Talk #3: Introduction to the Western On Campus Film Showing: <i>The Ballad of Buster Scruggs</i> by the Coen Brothers
Oct. 19	<i>The Ballad of Buster Scruggs</i> by the Coen Brothers Unit 3 Test
Unit 4: The Coming-of-Age Story: <i>Fun Home</i> by Alison Bechdel	
Oct. 26	Chalk Talk #4: Introduction to the Coming-of-Age Story <i>Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic</i> by Alison Bechdel Chapters 1-4
Nov. 2	<i>Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic</i> by Alison Bechdel Chapters 5-7 Unit 4 Test
Unit 5: Romantic Comedy: <i>Pygmalion</i> by George Bernard Shaw	
Nov. 9	Chalk Talk #5: Introduction to Romantic Comedy <i>Pygmalion</i> by George Bernard Shaw Acts 1-2
Nov. 16	<i>Pygmalion</i> by George Bernard Shaw Acts 3-5 Unit 5 Test
<i>November 23-27</i> Thanksgiving Break No Classes	
Unit 6: Gothic Horror: <i>Last Days</i> by Brian Evenson	
Nov. 30	Chalk Talk #6: Introduction to Horror "The Brotherhood of Mutilation" from <i>Last Days</i> by Brian Evenson pages 1-35
Dec. 7	"The Brotherhood of Mutilation" from <i>Last Days</i> by Brian Evenson pages 36-70 Unit 6 Test
Dec. 14	Face to Face Class: Course Evaluation Fare Thee Wells, Tearful Goodbyes

I reserve the right to change this schedule to meet the needs of the class. Always check our class Blackboard site for daily assignment updates.

Student Responsibilities	
Safety Measures	<p>The safety of our College Family in this unprecedented time is our primary concern. Following guidelines presented by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), the Indiana Health Department, and best practices among other institutions of higher education, we are requiring the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings over the mouth and nose in all indoor public spaces, including classrooms, the library, the Tutoring Center, and faculty offices. • Because face coverings are in use, no eating or drinking in the classroom. Plan to meet your needs between classes using appropriate social distancing. • Daily self-monitoring. If you have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, or any symptoms of COVID-19 – fever or chills, a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, or nausea or vomiting – stay home and consult the class policy for staying on track. • Disinfecting your personal space using the materials provided when you enter the classroom. • Maintaining physical distancing of at least six feet within classrooms and other common spaces. <p>Please note: To accommodate students who may not be able to attend class in person, this class may be taped and posted to the course Blackboard site. Tapes will not be used for any other purpose outside of class.</p>
What to Do in Case of Illness	<p>If you are exposed to COVID 19, become ill, or are otherwise unable to attend classes as required, notify the College by sending an email to illness@ccsj.edu. The message that you are unable to attend class will be relayed to your faculty. The College will contact you with expectations regarding next steps and follow-up.</p>
Attending Class	<p>You cannot succeed in this class if you do not attend. We believe that intellectual growth and success in higher education occur through interaction in the classroom and laboratories. Being absent doesn't excuse you from doing class work; you have more responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course. In accordance with English program policy, any student missing more than NINE (9) hours of class will receive an F. These nine hours include both excused and unexcused absences; it also includes all tardies of more than 15 minutes. Please be aware these hours include birthdays, sport events, illness, work, etc. If a problem arises with your absences, please come and talk to me immediately.</p> <p>Zoom Class Rules are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare a private space where family, friends and pets can't interrupt. 2. Arrive at least 5 minutes before class is scheduled to begin. 3. Dress appropriately: no pajamas, no blankets, no nudity, no meals. 4. Keep your audio muted until you are called upon to speak. 5. Turn video on and be present the entire time. Note: to be marked present, you must be visible the entire time. 6. Any rudeness and you will be dropped from the Zoom Meeting, marked absent, and prohibited from continuing the class until the matter is settled with me and the Dean.

Turning In Your Work	You cannot succeed in this class if you do not turn in all your work when due. All assignments will be reduced one letter grade for every class day they is late. Late work will not be accepted more than two weeks beyond the due date—unless the instructor makes an exception.
Meeting Standards for Classroom Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all the class time. Come to class on time and stay in class until the end. Coming late, leaving early, and getting up during class disrupts the class and disrespects others. • Come prepared. Bring your texts, be prepared to take notes, and be able to demonstrate that you have completed the assignments for the day through your participation in class. • Respect others. Listen when your classmates and the instructor are speaking. Think about their contributions. Respond appropriately. • Electronic devices are strictly prohibited. Engage with your classmates and the instructor without technological distractions. You will be asked to leave class or dropped from the Zoom session if you are using your phone. If you have an emergency and must be in touch with a family or friend, please ask the instructor for permission.
CCSJ Student Honor Code	<p>This course asks students to reaffirm the CCSJ Student Honor Code:</p> <p>I, as a student member of the Calumet College academic community, in accordance with the college's mission and in a spirit of mutual respect, pledge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously embrace honesty and curiosity in the pursuit of my educational goals; • Avoid all behaviors that could impede or distract from the academic progress of myself or other members of my community; • Do my own work with integrity at all times, in accordance with syllabi, and without giving or receiving inappropriate aid; • Do my utmost to act with commitment, inside and outside of class, to the goals and mission of Calumet College of St. Joseph.
Doing Your Own Work	<p>If you turn in work that is not your own, you will be subject to judicial review by the Faculty-Student Grievance Committee. These procedures can be found in the Student Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.</p> <p>Using standard citation guidelines to document sources avoids plagiarism. You'll find guides to the major citation methods at the CCSJ Specker Library Web page at http://www.ccsj.edu/library/subjectsplus/subjects/guide.php?subject=cite</p> <p>You'll also find a comprehensive guide to understanding what constitutes plagiarism, "What Is Plagiarism," on the Specker Library Web page at https://www.ccsj.edu/library/What%20is%20Plagiarism.pdf This guide comes from Plagiarism.com, and covers many ways in which plagiarism can occur. Be sure to review this important source!</p> <p>Please note: All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.</p>
Sharing Your Class Experience	Your voice matters! At the end of the term, you will have the opportunity to evaluate your classroom experience. These confidential surveys are essential to our ongoing efforts to ensure that you have a great experience that leaves

	you well prepared for your future. Take the time to complete your course evaluations – we value your feedback!
Withdrawing from Class	After the last day established for class changes has passed (see the College calendar in the CCSJ Course Catalog), you may withdraw from a course by following the policy outlined in the Course Catalog.

Resources	
CCSJ Book Rental Program	The CCSJ Book Program ensures that everyone has the right course materials on the first day of class to be successful. You pay a book rental fee each semester, and in return, receive all the materials for all your classes prior to the beginning of classes. At the end of the semester, simply return the books. For traditional students, the Book Rental Program is conveniently located in the library, where students can pick up and return their books. For students in accelerated programs and graduate programs, books will be delivered to their homes and they can return them by mail. For more information, see http://www.ccsj.edu/bookstore . All books must be returned at the end of the semester or you will incur additional fees, which will be charged to your student account.
Student Success Center	The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help you master specific subjects and develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. You can contact the Student Success Center at 219 473-4287 or stop by the Library. In addition, you can access online tutoring at Tutor.com. See the link within the Blackboard course.
Disability Services	Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic services in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If you believe that you need a “reasonable accommodation” because of a disability, contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 219-473-4349.
Student Assistance Program	Through a partnership with Crown Counseling , Calumet College of St. Joseph provides a free Student Assistance Program (SAP) to current students. The SAP is a confidential counseling service provided to students for personal and school concerns which may be interfering with academic performance and/or quality of life. The SAP counselor is available on campus once a week and off-site at the Crown Counseling offices in Crown Point or Hammond. For more information, contact Kerry Knowles SAP Counselor , at 219-663-6353 (office), 219-413-3702 (cell), or kerryk@crowncounseling.org .
CCSJ Alerts	Calumet College of St. Joseph’s emergency communications system will tell you about emergencies, weather-related closings, or other incidents via text, email, or voice messages. Please sign up for this important service annually on the College’s website at: http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html .