ENGL273G-5: Art of Fiction
Final Project Assignment
Professor Jessica Shannon

For your Final Project Presentations you will choose a topic of particular interest to you and present it to the class. These presentations shall be *no less than* **5 minutes** and *no more* **than 10 minutes.** They should be focused and narrow in scope. I *must* approve the topic for your assignment; the deadline for this approval is *Tuesday, November 1.* YOU **MUST** TURN IN A **ONE PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTION** OF YOUR PROJECT PROPOSAL with a sense of how you are going to approach the presentation.

- You may (and are encouraged to) use audiovisual aids, posters and charts, etc.
- You will prepare a handout to be distributed to the class, i.e., one for **EACH** member of the class (and me). This should contain some information pertaining to your presentation which will help your audience in their understanding and enjoyment of your presentation. *This is NOT an outline of your presentation, or merely a copy of a poem (e.g.) you are addressing.*
- A written report of at least 3 (full) pages **must be passed in <u>with</u> this presentation**. It will address your approach and research, and how you decided to focus the information for your presentation.
- Your topics may cover areas of study and periods of time and authors who we have covered, *but cannot address works we have discussed.*
- Although power point presentations can be effective, do not use one if you will be using it to read from for your entire presentation. Think of it as a *visual aid only.*

<u>Some *suggested* ideas include</u>:
- The introduction of a short story writer or novelist that includes a **brief** overview of his or her background and professional accomplishments and **focuses on an analysis** of a work or work(s) that have not been assigned or discussed in class. (This is not just a biography; it must focus on a work.) Think about plot, narrative, setting, etc.
- A presentation and discussion explaining how **setting** may create **mood** and help to define a **character** in a short story.
- Choose a short story from *The Seagull Reader Stories* and discuss how a scene (or more) from it relates to a film, piece of art, a musical score, etc. (be specific in your comparisons).
- The development of your own **compare and contrast** exercise, placing two authors or two works **in conversation/juxtaposition** with one another. These could be short stories or novels; or a comparison between a short story and a novel.
- Make a diorama which would show the setting of a work- novel, short story. For your presentation, explain your design *thoroughly*.
- Use artworks which relate to works of a certain period that we have studied. For example, the Depression as it relates to works such as *I Stand Here Ironing*.
- Compare a novel/film to one of the novels/films discussed at length in class (i.e., discuss how the novel Brooklyn by Colm Toibin has similarities with *The Namesake* in that they both explore integration into a new culture).

*Please remember that these are simply ideas to assist you in choosing a topic. I encourage you to be as creative as possible but to **narrow your scope and focus**.*

This project is worth **20%** of your final grade, and is broken down as follows:

Topic submitted on time (by 11/1)	10%
Research- depth of information & critical approach	30%
Written report turned in on the day of your presentation*	20%
Handout (content and appropriateness)	20%
Attendance at the presentations of your classmates	15%
If you smile (at least once) while you are presenting	5%

 Also affecting your grade: staying within the 5-10 minute range; preparedness on the day of your presentation- arriving on time with all of your materials; having whatever technology you are using ready; presenting yourself in an effective manner.

*Your 3-page report will have its own grading rubric, which I will hand out as the presentations loom closer.

YOU MAY NOT CHANGE YOUR TOPIC WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM ME –
Come see me as soon as possible if you find yourself going in a different direction.