

English 385-2
Chuck Palahniuk
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Fall 2020

Professor: G. Christopher Williams

Office: CCC 423

Office Hours: Via Zoom appointment (email me to schedule a time)

Office Phone: 346-2769

E-mail: cwilliam@uwsp.edu

Class Time: 2:00-3:15PM TR

Classroom: DUC 230 (Laird North)

Catalogue Description: 3 cr. Close, critical study of one or more masters of literature. Subtitle will designate author(s). May repeat with different subtitle.

Course Goals and Objectives:

The *primary goal* of this course is to read and analyze the fiction of James Chuck Palahniuk. We will be interested in examining his often shocking aesthetics and his potential effects on 20th and 21st century literature.

A *secondary goal* of this course is to effectively interpret literary texts. An emphasis on critical reading is paramount and participation in discussion of the works that we are reading is crucial to success in the course.

The course will focus on developing interpretive skills and learning how to formulate a reasonable literary analysis. A research paper one of Palahniuk's works will be required.

Texts:

Palahniuk, Chuck. *Chuck Palahniuk: Fight Club, Invisible Monsters, Choke.*

Palahniuk, Chuck. *Lullaby.*

Palahniuk, Chuck. *Diary*

Palahniuk, Chuck. *Haunted.*

Palahniuk, Chuck. *Rant.*

Palahniuk, Chuck. *Stranger than Fiction*



Grading Formula:

Exam #1	100 pts.
Exam #2	100 pts.
Exam #3	100 pts.
Thesis Proposal	20 pts.
Analytical Paper	50 pts.
Final Research Paper	200 pts.
In Class Writing	50-100 pts.

Grading Scale:

	94-100% = A	90-93%=A-
87-89% = B+	84-86% = B	80-83% = B-
77-79% = C+	74-76% = C	70-73% = C-
67-69% = D+	64-66% = D	60-63% = D-

59% and below = F

Classroom Regulations:

1. **Attendance.** Attendance is taken at each class. It is preferred that you should plan on attending and contributing to discussion regularly in class. It should be noted that all of my courses are very much discussion oriented. There may be some lecture, but most of the course is more interactive than that. However, I do realize that some members of the class may need to participate online. If that is the case, it is highly encouraged to attend class during class time via Zoom whenever possible. Doing so will allow you to participate more directly in class discussions, allowing you to try out your ideas and to ask questions. In either case, plan on coming **prepared** to discuss and debate the readings. Additionally, also plan on leaving your electronic devices off during class time. Texting throughout a class, for example, is not being present and participating in a class.

Classes will be recorded and either made available on Canvas or by e-mail for those that need them. However, due to the nature of the class, I would highly, highly recommend joining the class at the scheduled class meeting times via Zoom. Again, alternatives are possible, but trying to attend as synchronously as possible will likely improve your overall experience. Information on how to access the class via Zoom will be made available prior to those class times.

Finally, if you do intend to take the course online or need to switch to an online experience due to the present circumstances of the pandemic, good communication is crucial to success. Asking questions via Zoom or by e-mail is always welcome and important to making sure that you remain on the same page as the rest of the class. Additionally, you do need to let me know if you are having trouble accessing online resources or not receiving all necessary instructions. While it is my intention to send out the syllabus, handouts, and the like to online students as they become relevant, nevertheless, if you don't receive those materials in a timely manner, you do need to let me know as soon as possible. I can't read minds, so letting me know what you need help with or what you are missing is necessary to improve your chances of success, and if I overlooked something, the only way that I can know that is if you let me know as soon as possible.

2. **Exams.** Essay exams will be given in class and will be open book. Bring your book, **since quotation from it will be required for justifying your answers.** No cell phones or other electronic devices will be allowed during the exam period. Blue books will be provided on the date of the exam. As noted, exams may not be made up. Plan to attend.

3. **Research Essay.** This is the most important assignment in the course, and must be written in the assigned sequence. You cannot receive a grade on a later stage until you have submitted all of the work previously assigned.

To write this paper you need to do the following:

A. **Read and take notes** in the library (on your own).

B. **Research** using both the library and the internet to familiarize yourself with research on your topic and text. Journals and books are preferred sources of research. Internet sources are largely used for general reference and are generally not preferred.

C. Develop a **thesis proposal** that introduces your argument and some of the research that you will use to frame the argument and/or be opposing in your argument.

D. Write and submit a **5 page rough draft** of the paper focusing on the primary source of your research with an **MLA formatted works cited page**,

E. **Revise and expand** the earlier analytical paper to **8-10 pages** based on feedback from me. Your research should be used to help ground your argument (discussing in the introduction how your claims and ultimately thesis fit into prior discussions of this text—this is the most common use of research in literary arguments) and be used to flesh out claims made in the body. Critical apparatus and structures may also be used to enhance the argument—talk to me early on (proposal stage) to clarify how you plan to do so. Turn in this **final draft** (8-10 pages) with a **works cited page** (not included in page count).

4. **Daily writing.** Daily writings may or may not be common in class. If they are, these writings will be relevant to the discussion that we will be having during that period. Those attending in person and via Zoom will be expected to write them and to turn them in during class time. If you are attending fully online, please contact me for further instructions on writing prompts. Your writings will be due before each class period, so you will need to let me know that you need to be placed on the list to receive these prompts within an appropriate time frame. E-mail me after this first class period if this issue applies to you. As I said, these writings are intended to get conversation started during many class periods, so missing one or two of these writings will probably have no significant effect on your final grade. However, missing many of them can. Therefore, regular attendance is encouraged.

5. **Paper specifications.** All papers must be word processed and double-spaced in a 12-point readable font with standard one-inch margins. Identifying information (your name, instructor, class and--most importantly--section number, and date) should be typed in the upper left hand of the first page. Papers will be turned in electronically via Turnitin.com. Instructions will be given regarding how to register at Turnitin.com prior to the due date for the first assignment.

Students meeting face to face during class time and synchronously via Zoom will be asked to have their papers available the night the paper is due either in hard copy form or electronically on your phone. We will discuss details regarding this requirement in more detail as appropriate.

6. **Plagiarism.** Students in this course are responsible for reading and understanding the University's policies on plagiarism. It is available on the UWSP web site. While inadvertent plagiarism can be easily corrected, intentional plagiarism is a serious academic offense with potentially grave consequences. With the rise of internet usage, incidents of plagiarism have risen. At the same time, internet tools have made plagiarism easier to identify. Don't take chances. Do your own work.

Many people do not understand what plagiarism is. The simple definition is this: **plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas without properly documenting that the words or ideas belong to that original author.** If you are uncertain whether you may be plagiarizing, please **ask me** what is appropriate. We are here to learn and asking questions ahead of time is always welcome and helpful.

7. **Schedule.** The following schedule **is subject to change at my discretion.** If you have been absent, please make sure to check with your fellow students regarding possible schedule changes for the next day that you will be attending. While you may have been absent, you are still responsible for being prepared for class when you return.

8. **Students With Special Needs.** If there is anything I can do to help you to make the best of your opportunities in higher education, please let me know. If you have any or need any special equipment, interpreters, or books on tape that would aid you in pursuing your interests in the course, I will do my best to help. Additionally, should any concerns come up regarding your ability to participate in or complete the course due to the circumstances of the pandemic, please let me know as soon as possible. We can discuss alternative arrangements at that time. I just need a heads up, though, in order to make adjustments in a timely manner.

	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
1- Week of Aug. 30	No class	Introduction to the syllabus
2 - Week of Sept. 6	<i>Fight Club</i>	<i>Fight Club</i>
3 - Week of Sept. 13	<i>Fight Club</i>	<i>Invisible Monsters</i>
4 - Week of Sept. 20	<i>Invisible Monsters</i>	<i>Invisible Monsters</i>
5 - Week of Sept. 27	Exam #1	<i>Choke</i>

6 – Week of Oct. 4	<i>Choke</i>	<i>Choke</i>
7 – Week of Oct. 11	<i>Lullaby</i>	<i>Lullaby</i>
8 - Week of Oct. 218	<i>Lullaby</i>	Exam #2
9 - Week of Oct. 25	Discussion of Final Paper	<i>Diary</i>
10 - Week of Nov. 1	<i>Diary</i>	<i>Diary</i>
11 - Week of Nov. 8	<i>Haunted</i>	<i>Haunted</i>
12 - Week of Nov. 15	Thesis Proposal Due	<i>Haunted</i>
13 - Week of Nov. 22	<i>Rant</i>	Thanksgiving Break
14 - Week of Nov. 29	Analytical Paper Due	<i>Rant</i>
15 - Week of Dec. 6	<i>Rant</i>	<i>More Stranger Than Fiction</i>

Final Exam & Final Draft Due Monday, December 14th, 10:15AM-12:15PM