



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

Special Topics: Mary Karr

ENGL – 4205 - 20376

Semester: Spring 2019

Instructor: Mr. Mark Botts

Credit Hours: 1

Office Location: Admin. 324

Prerequisites: None

Office Hours: MWF, 1 – 3

Course Time: 4/1 – 5/3, TR, 12:30 – 1:45

Email: mbotts@concord.edu

Building and Room Number: Marsh Hall 334

Phone: 304.384.5171

Course Description/Rationale: To engage students in the analyzing, conceptualizing, and writing of screenplays

Course Management System: Lecture. (Blackboard will also be utilized.)

Hardware/Software Needed: None

Text requirements:

Karr, Mary. *Cherry: a memoir*. Penguin Book: New York, NY. 2000. ISBN: 0-14-100207-7.

Karr, Mary. *Sinners Welcome: poems*. HarperCollins: New York, NY. 2009. ISBN: 978-0-06-077656-5

Concord University Educational Goal(s)

Learning Outcomes for English 400-level Mini-Course	Concord University Educational Goals (Advanced Course Level)	2012 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Standards
1. Students will demonstrate their ability to	CU Skills Goal #1a: Effective intercommunication skills and literacies,	NCTE Content Knowledge I.1: Candidates are knowledgeable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draw inferences from close readings • demonstrate understanding of interrelationships among textual elements 	<p>adapted as needed for the demand of various kinds of discourse . . . [including] reading . . .</p>	<p>about texts . . . [including] print and non-print texts [and] media texts . . .</p>
<p>2. Students will demonstrate their ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write critically, supporting inferences drawn from close reading by citing and interpreting specific textual evidence • write proficiently at a level of “adequate” or above, as defined by the Department’s criteria for evaluation of essays 	<p>CU Skills Goal #1 b: Effective intercommunication skills and literacies, adapted as needed for the demand of various kinds of discourse . . . [including] writing . . .</p>	<p>NCTE Content Knowledge II.1: Candidates can compose a range of formal and informal texts taking into consideration the interrelationships among form, audience, context, and purpose . . .</p>
<p>3. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply critical thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) to literary texts.</p>	<p>CU Skills Goal #2: An ability to employ appropriate observational, logical, analytical, computational, creative, and critical thinking skills in problem solving</p>	

4. Students will demonstrate competency in analyzing and synthesizing textual elements; and in integrating these elements within a unified discussion.	CU Skills Goal #4: An ability to analyze, synthesize, and integrate elements, information and ideas	
5. Students will demonstrate an ability to interpret selected literary texts in their historical contexts.	CU Knowledge Goal #3: An ability to interpret events and trends within historical contexts	NCTE Professional Knowledge and Skills Standard I.1: Candidates are knowledgeable about texts . . . [including] classic texts . . . that represent a range of world literatures [and] historical traditions .
6. Students will demonstrate acquaintance with aesthetic principles, methods, materials, and methods that empower works of literature to reinforce or challenge societal values and assumptions.	CU Knowledge Goal #6: Awareness of the aesthetic principles, methods, materials, and media employed in artistic performance and in the creation of works of art and literature.	NCTE Content Knowledge Standard II.2: Candidates . . . understand the impact of language on society.

<p>7. Through close reading of literary texts presenting moral dilemmas, the students will demonstrate competency in recognizing and evaluating underlying assumptions based on ethical or moral values.</p>	<p>CU Attitudes Goal #1: Habitual reflection on ethical/moral implications of actions when weighing decisions and evaluating outcomes</p> <p>K</p> <p>C</p>	<p>NNNCTE Professional Knowledge and Skills VII.1:Candidates . . . model literate and ethical practices in ELA teaching, and engage in/reflect on a variety of experiences related to ELA.</p>
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Course Description/Rationale: One-hour courses are designed to focus on major authors, genres, themes, or literary movements. They allow for focused intense study, often in the specific research area of the instructor. This course will explore the work of Mary Karr. We will apply close readings, paying attention to the author’s aesthetic. We will also give heed to structural analysis, searching for key themes and arcs, by focusing primarily on two complete/published books. Attention will also be paid to two essays by the author.

Learning Outcomes: Students will have greater understanding/appreciation/application of critical thinking, the writing process, and communication within interpersonal and intrapersonal dynamics – as it specifically applies to the work of Mary Karr.

Course Requirements: Attend class on time. Using mature rhetoric, engage with classmates and professor and text(s) during class sessions. Read/View and be prepared to discuss and/or write about all assigned texts. Submit all projects on time.

Grading Policy: The grade for this class will be a cumulative score, comprised of the following assignments, each worth 25% of your total score:

1. Reading Quizzes
2. Discussion Sessions
3. Text Analysis Assignments
4. Final Essay

Reading Quizzes will take place *after we cover a complete work*; so, there will be 4 Reading Quizzes.

Except for our first day together, Discussion Sessions will take place each day we meet, and you are to submit 3 topics or statements or questions to share with the class.

There will be 4 one-page Textual Analysis Assignments, each one following MLA format. Each textual analysis essay will come from notes you take during our lectures and discussion sessions. Think of them as brief, formal approaches to the lecture/discussion material. One is due *after we cover a complete work*.

The Final Essay is to follow the MLA format. The document will be a 7-page essay.

Grading Scale: A = 90% - 100% / B = 80% - 89% / C = 70% - 79% / D = 60% - 69% / F = 0% - 59%

Course Timeline

(Aside from our first day together. Each date indicates what you are to have read - so you can competently discuss the material and be quizzed on it.)

Week 1

4/2 Intro to course. Overview of Mary Karr.

4/4 Pgs. 1-14 “Prologue” of *Cherry*.

Week 2

4/9 Sections 1 & 2 (“Elementary’s End” & “Midway”) of *Cherry*.

4/11 Sections 3 (“Limbo”) of *Cherry*.

Week 3

4/16 Section 4 (“High”) of *Cherry*.

4/18 Quiz & Textual Analysis Assignment due for *Cherry*. Essay “Against Decoration.”

Week 4

4/23 Quiz & Textual Analysis Assignment due for “Against Decoration.” Pgs. 1-30 of *Sinners Welcome*.

4/25 Pgs. 31-67 of *Sinners Welcome*.

Week 5

4/30 Essay “Facing Altars: Poetry and Prayer” (Pgs. 67-93 of *Sinners Welcome*).

5/2 Quiz & Textual Analysis Assignment due for *Sinners Welcome*. Final Essay due.

Accessibility/Accommodations

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable

accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:

<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."