**English 515: Reading Story**

**Fall 2023**

**Dr. Mackas**

**Course Time: Wednesdays, 5:15-6:45 p.m., via Big Blue Button on Canvas**

**Office Location: Lawson 124-E**

**Email: maria.mackas@reinhardt.edu**

**Office Hours: TT 12:30-1:45 and by appointment**

**Course Description:** In this eight-week online course, students analyze the use of story in exemplary texts of all genres. Story is the crux of all literature. In all genres, something unexpected must happen that creates drama and tension. Even in poetry, story is implicit in the situation of the poem.   Writers must learn to construct plots that draw their readers in and keep them reading. They must learn to develop and structure plot and master pacing and the interweaving of past and present events.

Each week, students will read (or, in the case of film, watch) an assigned text. Students will post responses to targeted questions, engage in a weekly live-chat session with the instructor and fellow students, and submit a weekly analysis paper on the readings. All activities will focus on observing use of story in the assigned pieces and analyzing how each author uses writing techniques to create effects.

**Grades:**

Weekly responses to prompts (2 double-spaced pages, due every

   Monday by noon) 20%

Presentation on one chapter in our text,

with accompanying reading 20%

Participation in live chat 20%

Paper analyzing story

   in a work from your chosen genre

   (10 double-spaced pages) due Sept. 29 40%

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate mastery of structure and form in their chosen genre.

Means of Assessment: posts, chats and papers

1. Demonstrate the ability to analyze craft elements in literary works within their chosen genre.

Means of Assessment: posts, chats and papers

**Text**

***Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* (Tenth Edition)**

**Various online readings/pdfs**