

Morales/English 120 Syllabus/Spring 2019

Weeks 1-8

Note: At the beginning of each class period, I will set aside 10 minutes for journal writing. Each day I will provide a journal topic at the beginning of class. This daily journal topic is to be completed at home (1-2 full single-spaced pages). Please write your journal entry in a dedicated notebook (“dedicated” meaning, to be used ONLY for journal topics). I will collect your writing journal twice during the semester (weeks 8 and 15). Make sure that you keep up with the writing and that if you are absent, you inquire about that day’s topic from a classmate. Journals are worth 5 points each.

WEEK ONE: This week, purchase your textbooks and notebook to be used for your journal

Wed Feb 20 Class Introduction: Class Rules, Syllabus, Textbooks, First 6 Weeks

Fri Feb 22 How to Read A Graphic Novel (*Stitches*, p. 1-23)

--Diagnostic Writing (essay to be written in class, not graded)

WEEK TWO

Beginning this week, five students per class period will lead discussion on the graphic novel *Stitches*. I will assign you to a day and discussion group—please make sure you come to class prepared and keep up with the reading/discussions. On the day of your discussion, you will turn in your typed notes (see separate document with instructions). If you are absent on the day of your discussion, you cannot make up the assignment.

Leading a Discussion Instructions, 25 points (See assigned dates below).

On the day of your discussion, you and a few of your classmates will lead us in discussion. To prepare, make sure that you’ve kept up with the reading so that you understand the context of the pages you are to discuss. On your discussion day, you, along with your group members, will speak for no more than five minutes about the assigned pages. (You may want to communicate with your group members to divide up your talking points, but this is not required). At the end of class, you will give me your typed notes in response to any of the following points:

--Summarize the plot/story. What’s happening?

--Discuss the setting. Where is this taking place and how does the author describe this place?

--Analyze the mood(s) and how Small conveys these moods

--Point of view: How does he depict a child’s point of view? Does the point of view ever shift?

--Themes: What might we have in common with Small? How does he allow us to care about the
The narrator?

--How does the style of art express the story? How would you describe the art?

--Focus on a few of your favorite frames from the section. Tell us why you find them effective.

--Think of a debatable question to ask the class for analysis. This question could ask us to interpret, analyze, criticize, or defend any aspect of the story.

- Mon Feb 25 Discussion Group #1: *Stitches*, pages 24-75
9:10 section: Adrian, Laurent, Vahe, Garen, Edwin
10:45 section: Emily, Tyler, Aileen, Lena, Melinda
- Wed Feb 27 Discussion Group #2: *Stitches*, pages 76-123
9:10 section: Andy B., Taleen, Kenny, Joseph, Andrew G.,
10:45 section: Edwin, Leslie, Dania, Viken, Madeline
- Fri Mar 1 Discussion Group #3: *Stitches*, pages 125-175
9:10 section: Lissette, Rebecca, Gor, Jennifer, Armando
10:45 section: Arin M., Yoseline, Eduardo N., Macey, Emin P.
- WEEK THREE
- Mon Mar 4 Discussion Group #4: *Stitches* pages 176-228
9:10 section: Dennis, Ethan, Allan, Ashley, Damarquis
10:45 section: William, Brianna, Noemy, Melanie S., La Shay
- Wed Mar 6 Discussion Group #5: *Stitches*, pages 229-273
9:10 section: John R., Frida, Alejandra, Taron, Gonzalo
10:45 section: Gregory, David T., Giselle, Jasper,
- Fri Mar 8 Discussion Group #6: *Stitches*, pages 274-325 (end of book)
9:10 section: Erwin, Adriana
10:45 section: Carlos Z., Arman Z.

Essay #1 Instructions: Analyzing a Graphic Novel (*Stitches*) 100 points

You will write a 750-1000-word essay (approximately 5-8 paragraphs) in which you respond to one of the following topics. You will begin with a clear thesis statement (a sentence that answers the prompt) and then you will prove/explain that thesis by describing specific examples from the novel including reference to specific frames and sequences. Make sure to clearly describe the frames to which you refer and include page numbers after each reference. You will add a “works cited” entry at the end of your essay. This essay should be written using MLA formatting.

- A. How does Small feel about his mother and what does he want his audience to understand about her?
- B. Discuss the role of art and drawing in the novel. What does Small seem to be telling us about his beginnings as an artist?
- C. Small is very good at using metaphor and simile to help explain his strongest emotions. Choose a specific emotion and discuss three or four frames or sections in which he illustrates how he was feeling using a metaphor (this can include dreams or fantasy).
- D. Does Small, in the end, empathize with his parents, or does he blame them for the abuse that he endured as a child? Prove your thesis with specific examples

WEEK FOUR

This week you will draft your first essay in class. We will begin using the textbook *Patterns for College Writing*, so please bring it to class from now on.

Mon Mar 11 Essay Workshop: Thesis Statements, Structure, and Paragraph Development

--*Patterns*, Chapters 3 and 4 (p. 49-78)

Wed Mar 13 Essay Workshop: Backing up your thesis; Editing and Proofreading

--*Patterns*, Chapter 5 (p. 79-91)

Fri Mar 15 **DUE: Essay #1: Analysis of *Stitches* (Worth 100 points)**

WEEK FIVE

Mon Mar 18 *Patterns*, Chapter 6, Narration (95-147)

Wed Mar 20 Essay #2 Instructions and examples

Fri Mar 2 More examples of narrative essays

WEEK SIX

Mon Mar 25 Finding your topic and narrowing your story to a manageable time-format; showing and telling

Wed Mar 27 Writing Workshop (topic to be announced)

Fri Mar 29 Writing Workshop (topic to be announced)

WEEK SEVEN

Mon April 1 *Cesar Chavez Holiday/NO CLASS*

Wed April 3 Narrative Essay Workshop: Bring your draft and your questions

Fri April 5 **DUE: Essay #2, 750-1000 words. (for peer review, must be finished, typed, proofread, MLA).** After receiving feedback from classmates, continue to revise and edit. Clarify your story, add reflection, and improve descriptions and sentence structure. Tighten it up. Make every word count.

WEEK EIGHT

This week we will begin discussing ways that you can prove or explain a thesis by using specific examples. Your next essay will combine the personal voice (“I”) with examples from society, history, and culture. You will now begin incorporating the words of other writers into your essays as well as facts, statistics, and philosophical quotations.

Mon April 8 **DUE: Essay #2, final draft.** Staple first draft and peer review comments to the back of your essay.

--Literary Reading, students read their essays

Wed April 10 Chapter 8, Exemplification, p. 203-258

Instructions for Essay #3, Writing with Examples

Fri April 12 **DUE: Journal**

--Examples of essays that use exemplification

Over spring break, study Chapter 3 and begin drafting your exemplification essay (DUE Friday April 26th)