

15.2180 – TOPICS 2 PHILOSOPHY OF LITERATURE– FALL 2011

Time: MWF 1:30 – 2:20

Place: 384 University College

Instructor: Carl Matheson

How to reach me:

Office: 455 University College. My office hours are Monday and Wednesday 2:30 - 3:30 and by appointment.

Phone: 474-8944. Leave a message on voice mail if I'm not in.

Email: matheso@cc.umanitoba.ca This is the most reliable way of reaching me; I check my email several times a day.

Text: *Davies, D., & Matheson, C. (2008). Contemporary Readings in the Philosophy of Literature: An Analytic Approach. Broadview Press.*

Content: During the term, we'll survey several of the main topics in the philosophy of literature.

Here are some of them:

- 1) What is it for a work to be fictional? What is it for a work to be a work of literature?
- 2) Why do we respond with such feeling to fictional works, given that we know they're fictional? Should we do so?
- 3) Do fictional characters exist? If so what sort of thing are they?
- 3) What determines the best (or correct) interpretation of a work?
- 4) Can we learn from fiction?
- 5) What is the relationship between the moral value of a novel and its artistic value?

Grading: You will be expected to write three short (4-5 pages or so) papers. The papers will be of equal value.

The voluntary withdrawal date for this course is November 16, 2011. Please also see section 8 of the General Academic Regulations and Requirements in your Undergraduate Calendar for information concerning plagiarism and cheating. These can also be found on the Web at:

<http://crscalprod1.cc.umanitoba.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=60&chapterid=227&topicgroupid=4056&loadusercredits=False>

However, if you are ever uncertain about the academic honesty of anything you are doing for the course, please talk to me. A little conversation can save a lot of pain and complication for both of us.