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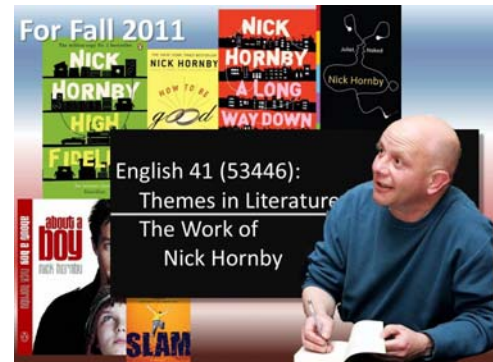
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# English 41: Themes in Literature The Novels of Nick Hornby

## Syllabus (Fall 2011)



**Texts/Supplies** The following novels by Nick Hornby: High Fidelity, About a Boy, How to be Good, A Long Way Down, Slam, and Juliet, Naked; we will also be reading excerpts from other work written by Hornby: Fever Pitch, Songbook, The Polysyllabic Spree, Housekeeping vs. the Dirt, Speaking with the Angel; other items might be the film versions of High Fidelity, About a Boy, and Fever Pitch

**E-Mail and Online Site** To access the course site go to the following URL: <http://blackboard.reedleycollege.edu>. Login using your seven-digit student ID for your username and password. You will need to be officially enrolled before you will be allowed to enter the site.

All communication related to this class will use either our Blackboard course site (Announcements, Discussion Board, etc.) or your District-supplied e-mail address (@my.sccd.edu). Please check your district e-mail address regularly or find out how to forward messages from that address to an address you are in the habit of checking.

**Necessary Programs** In order to do work from home, you should have the following programs (all of which are installed on computers on-campus): Internet browser (such as Internet Explorer or Firefox); e-mail access; word processor (MS Word preferably, see Paper Format below); Adobe Acrobat Reader for research materials.

**Attendance** Although an online class does not chart attendance per se, you do need to make your presence known. Every week new Discussion Board threads will be posted in response to the assigned reading. If you fall behind--in the reading, writing assignments, or discussion board posts--at any point during the course of the semester, you will find it extremely difficult to catch up.

**Discussion Board** The Discussion Board is really where the "life" of the class takes place, and as such we want to grant it the importance it is due. So, let me make a couple of observations:

First, unlike discussion in a traditional classroom, you have the opportunity to think carefully and deeply about the things that you "say" on the Discussion Board without the constraint of time pressure or the concern of whether or not your voice will be heard over the voices of others; you also have the opportunity to edit your remarks. Please take advantage of those opportunities.

Second, because this is an academic environment, please do not consider the Discussion Board as analogous to text messaging, instant messaging, or e-mail to friends. Your comments should be grammatical and mechanically sound with regards to spelling and punctuation.

Third, your role on the discussion board is to talk with each other about the reading. While I will be starting the conversation with questions, I hope that you will address your comments to each other. I will, of course, answer questions that you have about assignments, but I'd like for you to use the discussion board as a way of learning from each other.

Finally, remember that a significant portion of your grade is based upon the quantity, but more importantly, the quality of your participation.

**Late Papers** I will accept no late papers unless you have contacted me prior to the deadline posted for the assignment.

**There will be no make-ups of missed quizzes or tests for any reason, no matter how compelling.**

**Grades** There will be three papers (450 points), a midterm (50 points) and a final (100 points) during the course of the semester. The papers will be judged on the basis of style, organization, content, and the degree to which you have followed the directions for the assignment. No essay seriously deficient in the area of mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation) will receive a passing grade.

Your participation in discussion will be evaluated each time we finish with a particular book and will be worth a total of 300 points. Quizzes conducted throughout the semester will be worth a total of 100 points.

The point and grade scales are listed below.

**Plagiarism** Use of another's work as though it were your own will not be tolerated. In the current Reedley College Catalogue, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in

question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

**Extra Credit** During the course of the semester there will be several readings sponsored by Reedley College Speakers Series and Reedley College First Wednesdays at One series. Following your attendance at a reading you must complete and submit an Extra Credit Assignment to receive as many as ten points per reading. You may earn as many as forty extra credit points during the course of the semester. I will give you notice of dates and times.

Please note: extra credit is just that--extra; if you are unable to attend extra credit events due to schedule conflicts, lack of transportation, or for any other reason, I will not provide alternative events or assignments.

**Paper Format** All work must be typed, double-spaced and in 12-point type of a standard typeface (Times Roman, preferably). You must submit your work via the Assignments area. You must submit files in one of the following formats: Word documents (\*.docx or \*.doc) or Rich Text Format files (\*.rtf).

**Accommodation** If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Schedule of Assignments**

Discussion— <u>High Fidelity</u>	50 points
Discussion— <u>About a Boy</u>	50 points
Discussion— <u>How to be Good</u>	50 points
Discussion— <u>A Long Way Down</u>	50 points
Discussion— <u>Slam</u>	50 points
Discussion— <u>Juliet, Naked</u>	50 points
Paper #1	100 points
Paper #2	150 points
Paper #3	200 points
Midterm	50 points
Final	100 points
Quizzes	100 points
Total	1000 points

**Grading Scale**

A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799

D	600-699
F	000-599