

21W.758 Genre Fiction - Instructor's Notes by Shariann Lewitt

Class 2

How do we recognize the work as belonging to a genre?

Where do the edges blur?

Are there any "pure" works?

Genre as a lens to interpret/focus/understand contemporary experience.

We write from now - what we imagine of the past or the future is informed by the present, by our social and personal and economic and political concerns. Examples!

Popularity of preternatural romance - Vampire and Sexuality (from Victorian/Dracula)

Exercise - take an incident from your own life - write within your genre.

Laetz and Johnson -

Get lots wrong

Terrible sentences!!

Very cliché notion of fantasy - they clearly don't know the genre - be angry!

"reality"

fictional = incorrect????

vs. true crime

But - they do pose some real questions -

What makes something fantasy?

Pern (Dragons)

or SF, or mystery, or horror

That element is central to the structure and construction of the story.

What do we mean by "central"

What is window-dressing

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