

LIT 2000: Introduction to Literature (Section 1A24) Fall 2017

Instructor: Kelly Beck
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Class Meeting Time: MWF Period 3 (9:34-10:25 am)

Office: TBD
Office Hours: M/W Period 4
Location: Flint-Keene 0109

Course Prerequisite: ENC 1101

Course Description:

This course examines the unique and changing role literature has played in individuals' lives and in society. It is centered on three deceptively simple questions: What is literature? Why do we write literature? And why do we read literature? It introduces students to a range of literary genres, from different countries and historical periods.

Among the primary aims of this course is to help students develop the critical skill of analysis and interpretation. Students will also learn how formal and stylistic elements as well as historical context shape the meaning and significance of literature. By becoming more skillful readers of literature and its contexts, students become better readers of the worlds that literature addresses, develop their ability to decipher meaning from language, and better understand their own interactions with science, technology, media, commerce, and politics.

Outcomes:

In addition to gaining a deeper appreciation of the expressive potential of language and the varieties of literature, students will develop a broader cultural literacy and an understanding of the changing definition and role of literature in society.

Therefore, by the conclusion of the course it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the structures and conventions of different literary genres.
2. Produce original, critical readings of literary texts, using different methods of interpretation and analysis, while identifying and interpreting formal and genre-related elements in the texts.
3. Critically assess the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the human experience.
4. Draw connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading.

Required Texts:

<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	- William Shakespeare
<i>Confessions of Zeno</i>	- Italo Svevo
<i>Pinocchio</i>	- Carlo Collodi
* <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	- Jonathan Swift
<i>East, West: Stories</i>	- Salman Rushdie
* <i>Persepolis</i>	- Marjane Satrapi

Course Policies:

1. Attendance –

- Attendance is required. We cover a lot of material during our meeting times, and any missed sessions could affect your understanding of subsequent classes or assignments. Exemptions from this policy will be made **only** those absences deemed excused according to UF policy, including university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, severe illness (which will require a doctor's note), military service, and religious holidays.
- Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor *prior* to the date that will be missed. If you are an athlete, please come to my office hours with your athletic schedule, so we can be pro-active in planning your assignment due dates. Athletes are subject to the 12-Day Rule in which they are permitted to be absent 12 scholastic days without penalty. A 'scholastic day' is any day regular class work is scheduled. For any attendance questions, please see the online Undergraduate Catalog.

**** Please Note:**

- I do know how busy university life can be, so please communicate with me if you will miss class. This way we can work together to make your schedule with all its obligations manageable.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make yourself aware of all due dates and turn in assigned work on the assigned due date. If absent due to a scheduled event, students are still responsible for turning assignments in on time.
- If you are absent, any graded daily activities or quizzes may *not* be made up. These will be assigned a zero in the grade book unless your absence is one of the exempted absences outlined above, where they will not count for or against the grade. Again, for any issues concerning assignments, please see me beforehand.
- *This one is extremely important!* It is also your responsibility to check Canvas for any new announcements or assignment details/rubrics. **You should be checking Canvas daily.**
- If you still have questions about assignments, please contact me by email, see me in office hours, or ask another student. I highly suggest having contact information for at least one other person in the class to help stay updated on any new information.

2. Tardiness –

If students enter class after roll has been called, they are late, which disrupts the entire class. Two instances of tardiness count as one absence. Please be aware that if I give a surprise-reading quiz, it will be within the first 10 minutes of class. If you are tardy and arrive after the quiz has been turned in, you may not make it up, and the grade becomes a zero.

3. Classroom Behavior:

- Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.
- This course is reading and writing heavy. I understand the schedule of a college student's life is demanding, but to succeed in this course, you must be prepared for class every day. Make sure you consistently check the course schedule to ensure you have enough time to complete the assigned reading and writing assignments thoroughly.
- The more active you are when reading, the more you will be able to participate and contribute to our discussions, so I highly suggest annotating or keeping notes of any ideas you may want to contribute to class.
- We will be conducting some of our in-class work on Canvas, so please make sure you can connect to the site via your mobile device or a laptop. However, please be aware that being distracted by those devices while in class may be detrimental to your grade. I reserve the right to ask you to put away any device that is distracting you or other students during class time and may deduct points on daily activities for such distractions. Cell phone use, either texting or surfing, is **not** permitted during class.

4. Assignment Submission & Paper Maintenance Responsibilities:

- Papers and drafts are due at the *beginning* of class on the assigned deadline. Late papers will not be accepted without penalty. After 24 hours, I reserve the right to not accept late work submissions. Please note that failure of technology is not an excuse for late work, so plan your time accordingly.
- All papers must be submitted as Word or PDF documents to E-learning/Canvas through turnitin.com (hard copies will be used *only* when requested).
- As members of a literature course, we will use MLA style formatting for all work. Failure to meet proper formatting requirements will result in loss of points, so please make sure your essays meet the following criteria:
 - o Double spaced
 - o 12 point, Times New Roman Font
 - o 1 inch margins on all sides (these are usually the default settings in Word)
 - o MLA style headers with page numbers
 - o MLA style heading
 - o MLA style citations.

For any MLA style or format questions, please refer to the OWL Purdue website:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

- Students are also responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a resubmission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is your responsibility to have and to make this material available. You will also need to have copies of all your work for the final project.

5. Assignments and Grading:

- Attendance & participation in class discussions and activities (15%)
 - 4 Brief Responses (20%)
 - 1 Close Reading of a literary text or passage (20%)
 - 1 Critical Analysis paper (25%)
 - 1 Midterm Exam (20%)
- Grading for this course will be thorough. Successful assignments will illustrate a careful regard for spelling, grammar, and citation guidelines. Do not rely on your instructor for copy-editing, even on drafts.
 - All work will be graded on a point scale according to the assignment's difficulty, expectations, and overall percentage. Individual rubrics and writing expectations will be given when the work is assigned. Failure to adhere to the rubric guidelines and paper expectations will result in a lower grade. I have included the University Grading Scale below for reference. Note: **You must complete *all assignments* to receive credit for this course.**
 - I believe in creating a fair environment for all my students, therefore, I do not hand back or publish grades until I have graded everyone's work. This ensures no student receives feedback or grades later than another. If you have questions about your grade, please do not ask me during class, as I will not give you an answer. Please review all comments on the assignment before discussing any grade questions, so our conversation can be specific and productive.
 - **Grade Appeals.** In 1000- and 2000-level courses, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant, in the Department office (4008 TUR). Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.

Assignment Descriptions:

1. Participation and In-Class Discussion

Students are expected to read the assigned readings before class. Consistent participation in class discussions and demonstrated knowledge of the assigned readings will also contribute to this portion of

the final grade. You should come to class each day with one typed question or observation to raise during class discussion and hand in at the end of class for credit, unless the Response assignment is due.

2. *Brief responses*

Four times over the course of the semester students are required to write a brief (300 word) response to the day's reading. These responses must be uploaded to Canvas BEFORE class the day on which they are due.

These responses raise either *interpretive* or *critical* questions concerned with textual meaning. They comment on themes, figurative language and symbolism within the narrative. They also may make judgments regarding the period, history, politics and ethical questions that are relevant to the text. The open-endedness of interpretive and critical responses indicates that there may well be neither simply "right" nor simply "wrong" answers; the success of a response is based on the evidence and reasoning students employ to support their analysis and judgment. Students are also expected to comment on their peer's responses at least 5 times across the semester.

3. *Close Reading Assignment: 2-3 pages*

This assignment will test student skills in close reading, especially as that skill pertains to works of poetry and short fiction. Students will be expected to analyze a text carefully and develop an argument regarding the whole of the text through a close reading. No outside sources may be used for this assignment.

4. *Critical Analysis Paper: 3-4 pages*

This assignment asks students to combine close reading skills with critical concepts or historical information introduced in class or supplemental readings. The goal is for students to produce a strong conceptual argument supported by textual and contextual evidence. 1 outside source may be used for this assignment.

5. *Midterm Exam*

This take-home exam will be distributed via Canvas on October 13. The exam will be comprised of matching and short essay questions based on readings, lectures and discussion. Submitted exams will be assessed for evidence of collusion.

Grading Scale:

A	4.0	93-100	930-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-92	900-929	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

6. Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the [Student Honor Code](#). The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

- a.) Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
- b.) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student. (University of Florida, Student Honor Code, 15 Aug. 2007 <<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>>)

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire [Student Honor Code](#).

Important Tip: You should never copy and paste something from the internet without providing the exact location from which it came.

7. Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <http://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.”

8. Students Needing Accommodations:

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202. That office will provide documentation to the student whom must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

CLASS SCHEDULE (MWF)

Students should note that the schedule is a guideline & may change – ALWAYS check Canvas!

UNIT I: WHAT IS LITERATURE?

Week 1: Introduction – The Borders of Literature

M – 8/21: Syllabus & Introductions

W – 8/23: ‘Borders of Literature’ Activity

Canvas Discussion Due

F – 8/25: Eagleton – “Introduction: What is literature?”

Syllabus Quiz due - CANVAS

Week 2: Drama

M – 8/28: Shakespeare – *The Merchant of Venice* Acts 1-2

Film Trailer Viewing

W – 8/30: Shakespeare – *The Merchant of Venice* Acts 3-4

F – 9/1: Shakespeare – *The Merchant of Venice* Acts 5

Leggatt – “The Fourth and Fifth Acts” (Signet Ed. p. 142-155)

Response #1 Due

Week 3: Epic

M – 9/4: **NO CLASS – Memorial Day**

W – 9/6: Dante – *Inferno* Canto I & Canto III

Liszt Symphony

F – 9/8: Dante – *Inferno* Canto XXVI

Tennyson – “Ulysses”

Week 4: Poetry

M – 9/11: Discuss Close Reading assignment – Brainstorming activity/exercises

Browning – “My Last Duchess” (Interrupted Reading & Style comparison with Tenn.)

W – 9/13: Dickinson – “ I heard a fly buzz - when I died”

“Because I could not stop for death”

F – 9/15: Dickinson – “I dwell in possibility” → *Annotation Analysis of poem Due*

Gordon – “A Bomb in her bosom: Emily Dickinson’s Secret Life” (Guardian article)

Week 5: Short Story

M – 9/8: Borges – “The Aleph”

W – 9/20: Borges – “The Aleph” – Close Reading Activity

F – 9/22: O’Connor – “A Good Man is Hard to Find”

Week 6: Writing and Reviews

M – 9/25: *Close Reading Draft due* & Peer Review

W – 9/27: Conferences

F – 9/29: Draft 2 Workshop

UNIT II – WHY DO WE WRITE?

Week 7: World Making

M – 10/2: *Close Reading Final Draft Due*

Excerpt from Mazzotta – “Cosmopoiesis”

Joyce – “The Dead” pgs. 1-5 (end at “Here’s Freddy”)

W – 10/4: Joyce – “The Dead” pgs. 6-38

F – 10/6: **NO CLASS - Homecoming**

Week 8: Self Expression & Construction

M – 10/9: Svevo – *Confessions of Zeno* -- (Finish Joyce Discussion if necessary)

W – 10/11: Svevo – *Confessions of Zeno*

Response #2 Due

F – 10/13: Svevo – *Confessions of Zeno*

Week 9: Self Expression & Construction

M – 10/16: **MIDTERM EXAM Due** – **No class today** – **Exam due by noon!**

W – 10/18: Discuss Critical Analysis Paper

Smiley – “From Hero to Zeno” (in class)

F – 10/20: Basic Researching & Brainstorming Workshop for Paper

Week 10: Childhood & Shaping Citizens

M – 10/23: Collodi – *Pinocchio*

W – 10/25: Collodi – *Pinocchio*

Staniou & Tsilimeni – “Pinocchio’s Road to Adulthood”

F – 10/27: Collodi – *Pinocchio*

Viewing of scenes from Disney’s *Pinocchio*

UNIT III - WHY DO WE READ?

Week 11: Exploration & Discovery

M – 10/30: Swift – *Gulliver’s Travels* – “Lilliput” (Part 1)

Excerpts on Satire

W – 11/1: Swift – *Gulliver’s Travels* – “Brobdingnag” (Part 2)

Excerpts on Science and the Enlightenment

F – 11/3: Swift – *Gulliver’s Travels* – “Laputa...” (Part 3)

Response #3 Due

Week 12: Exploration & Discovery

M – 11/6: Swift – *Gulliver’s Travels* – “Houyhnhnms” (Part 4)

W – 11/8: Trip to Special Collections (?)

F – 11/10: **NO CLASS**

Week 13: Finding New Selves

M – 11/13: Rushdie – “Good Advice is Rarer Than Rubies” (*East, West*)

“At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers” (*East, West*)

Response #4 Due

W – 11/15: Rushdie – “The Harmony of the Spheres” (*East, West*)

F – 11/17: Rushdie – “The Courter” (*East, West*)

Week 14: Writing Process

M – 11/20: *Rough Draft of Critical Analysis – Peer Review*

Podcast Response Due (or) “Why Do We Read Literature?” (*Irish Times*)

W – 11/22: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break

F – 11/24: NO Class – Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: New Ways of Seeing

M – 11/27: Strapi – *Persepolis*

W – 11/29: Strapi – *Persepolis*

‘Strapi Exclusive Interview’ Viewing

F – 12/1: Strapi – *Persepolis*

Film Snippet Viewing

Week 16: Wrap Up – Are There Such Things as Borders?

M – 12/4: Conferences for Critical Analysis

W – 12/6: Edmundson – “The Ideal English Major”

Wrap Up Activity

F – 12/8: *Critical Analysis Final Draft Due (11:59 pm)*