

University of Florida
LIT 2000: Introduction to Literature, Section 1A24 (Class #16568)
Syllabus
Fall 2020

(State Core General Education - Humanities)

***Synchronous course on Monday and Wednesday—will be taught utilizing Canvas and Zoom (Zoom sessions usually held 9:35 AM-10:25 AM on Monday and Wednesday unless otherwise noted on schedule)**

***Asynchronous on Fridays—students will be expected to work at their own pace on Fridays.**

Instructor Name: Ms. Claire Karnap

Instructor Email: ckarnap248@ufl.edu

Course Meeting Times & Location: M & W Period 3 (9:35-10:25 am) on Zoom (tentative—varies some weeks)

Course Website: Canvas

Office Location and Hours: Skype; Wednesdays 11 am – 1 pm or by appointment

COURSE PRE-REQUISITE: 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.

Class Structure due to COVID19: Due to the current circumstances, this course will be taught utilizing Zoom and Canvas. Within the syllabus schedule, students will observe “Zoom meeting” under the “Lecture/Workshop” column—this refers to how the course will be taught for the fall term.

1. Days (Mondays and Wednesdays) listed as “Zoom meeting” will be a virtual class lecture/discussion where students will join the Zoom meeting to discuss the daily readings and participate in break-out sessions. Because of holidays, review days, and exams, there will be some weeks where Zoom meetings will take place on Fridays (week 2 and week 12).
2. On Fridays, students will be expected to work at their own pace utilizing Canvas, reading materials, and working on assignments to prepare for the class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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.

Students Should Purchase the Following Required Texts:

- Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* (9780199535859)
- Primo Levi, *Survival of Auschwitz* (9780684826806) (common text)
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (9781400033416) (common text)
- Gene Luen Yang, *American Born Chinese* (9780312384487) (Common text)
- Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (9780192806352)
- Salman Rushdie, *East, West: Stories* (9780679757894)

*Every section of LIT 2000 will read the texts marked as “common text” this semester in addition to Seamus Heaney’s assigned poems (available on Canvas)

***All other texts will be available on Canvas**

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Summary of grading

- Attendance & participation/in-class discussion (10%)
- 4 Brief Responses on Discussion Board (20%)
- 1 Close Reading of a literary text or passage (15%)
- 1 Critical Analysis paper (25%)
- 2 take-home essay exams (15% each—30%)

1. Attendance & Participation (10%)

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll or sign-up sheet. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for every unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class.

Participation: Students are expected to review the assigned readings before class. Each week will begin with a series of basic questions on the contents of the assigned readings. If students are unable to answer these questions, it will be assumed that they have not prepared the homework and will lose 1%. Consistent participation in class discussions, demonstrated knowledge of the assigned readings will also contribute to this portion of the final grade.

2. Participation in discussion board (20%)

Before each discussion section, students are required to contribute a question or an answer to an online discussion forum.

Description of assignment: *Interpretive* (or *Critical*) questions are open-ended and are concerned with textual meaning. They ask for opinions on themes, figurative language and symbolism within the narrative. They also ask for judgments regarding the period, history, politics and ethical questions that are relevant to the text. The open-endedness of Interpretive and Critical questions—which often use phrases such as "do you think" or "why do you suppose"—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.

3. Close Reading Assignment: 750 words, 15%

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.

The Close Reading assignment is due during the 6th week of the semester

4. Critical Analysis Paper: 1,500 words, 25%

This assignment asks students to combine close reading skills with critical concepts or historical information introduced in one of the supplemental readings. The goal is for students to produce a strong conceptual argument supported by textual and contextual evidence.

The Critical Analysis assignment is due during the 8th week of the semester.

These papers will be graded on a point scale of 1 to 10: 9-10, excellent; 8-8.9, good to very good; 7-7.9 average to good; 6-6.9, below average; below 6 is not a passing grade. All students, whatever their grade, will have the option to rewrite the essay.

5. 2 Take-home Essay Exams (15% each—30%)

Method of assessment will be 2 on-line take-home exam essays (each exam is worth 15%, or together, 30% of the total grade). Take-home exams will be distributed on-line (via Canvas). The exams will be comprised of short essay questions based on readings, lectures and discussion sections.

Submitted exams will be assessed for evidence of collusion.

Weekly Schedule (subject to change):

***All readings are required and must be completed for the class under which they are listed.**

Week 1	Lecture/Workshop	Unit 1: What is Literature? -Readings-	Assignments
M Aug 31	Intro: The Borders of Literature Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas (Available on Monday morning-- review before or after class session)	Syllabus and Course Overview	
W Sept 2	Zoom Meeting	Terry Eagleton, <i>Literary Theory: An Introduction</i> (1983), pp. 1-14	
F Sept 4	No Zoom Meeting	Begin reading Shakespeare, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	
Week 2			
M Sept 7	Drama No Zoom Meeting	No Class—Holiday	
W Sept 9	Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas	Shakespeare, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> (Acts 1-3)	
F Sept 11	Zoom Meeting	Shakespeare, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> (Acts 4-5)	
Week 3			
M Sept 14	Epic Zoom Meeting	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Book I	

	Review PowerPoint on Canvas		
W Sept 16	Zoom Meeting	Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , Cantos I and XXVI	
F Sept 18	No Zoom Meeting	Begin reading for week 4	
Week 4			
M Sept 21	Poetry Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint	Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself” excerpt and Heaney, “Punishment” and “Digging”	
W Sept 23	Zoom Meeting	Seamus Heaney, “Blackberry-Picking,” “Death of a Naturalist”	
F Sept 25	No Zoom Meeting	Work on Response #1 and submit	Response #1 Due by 2 PM
Week 5			
M Sept 28	Short Story Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas	Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (1-6)	
W Sept 30	Zoom Meeting	Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (7-13)	
F Oct 2	No Zoom Meeting	Work on assignments at your own pace	
Week 6			
M Oct 5	Workshop Day	WRITING & REVIEW	
W Oct 7	No Zoom Meeting	Close Reading Assessment	Close Reading Assessment Due By 2 PM
F Oct 9	Exam Online	No Reading—Exam Day	Test 1
Week 7			
M Oct 12	Self-Expression	Primo Levi, <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> (Author’s Preface through Our Nights)	

	/Self-Construction: Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas		
W Oct 14	Zoom Meeting	Primo Levi, <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> (The Work through The Canto of Ulysses)	
F Oct 16	No Zoom Meeting	Primo Levi, <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> (The Events of the Summer through A Conversation with Primo Levi by Phillip Roth)	Response #2 Due by 2 PM
Week 8			
M Oct 19	World Making (Cosmopolises) Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas	James Joyce, "The Dead" (1 st half)	
W Oct 21	Zoom Meeting	James Joyce, "The Dead" (2 nd half)	
F Oct 23	No Zoom Meeting	Workshop on Paper Extended Office Hours Availability	Critical Analysis Paper Due by 11:59 PM
Week 9			
M Oct 26	Shaping Citizens: Moral Instruction Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (Foreword through pg. 59)	

W Oct 28	Zoom Meeting	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pg. 60-124)	
F Oct 30	No Zoom Meeting	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (125-173)	
Week 10			
M Nov 2	Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (174-235)	
W Nov 4	Zoom Meeting	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (236-277)	
F Nov 6	No Zoom Meeting	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (278-324)	
Week 11			
M Nov 9	Review Day— See PowerPoint on Canvas Extended Office Hours	REVIEW	
W Nov 11	Holiday	No Class—Holiday	
F Nov 13	No Zoom Meeting	No Reading—Exam Day	Test 2
Week 12		<u>UNIT III: WHY DO WE READ?</u>	
M Nov 16	Exploration & Discovery Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas	Montesquieu, <i>Persian Letters</i> (Introduction- 74)	
W Nov 18	Zoom Meeting	Montesquieu, <i>Persian Letters</i> (75-150)	
F Nov 20	Zoom Meeting	Montesquieu, <i>Persian Letters</i> (150-225)	
Week 13			
M Nov 23	Moving Beyond the Self	Response Workshop Day (No Class Meeting)	Response #3 Due by 2 PM

	No Zoom Meeting		
W Nov 25	Holiday	No Class—Holiday	
F Nov 27	Holiday	No Class—Holiday	
Week 14			
M Nov 30	Finding New Selves Zoom Meeting Review PowerPoint on Canvas	Gene Luen Yang's <i>American Born Chinese</i> Chapter 2 “The Vocabulary of Comics” from Scott McCloud's <i>Understanding Comics</i>	
W Dec 2	Zoom Meeting	Salman Rushdie, <i>East, West: Stories</i> (East)	
F Dec 4	No Zoom Meeting	Salman Rushdie, <i>East, West: Stories</i> (West)	Response #4 due by 2 PM
Week 15			
M Dec 7	Conclusion: Where to now? Zoom Meeting	Salman Rushdie, <i>East, West: Stories</i> (East, West)	
W Dec 9	Zoom Meeting	How to welcome and nurture the poets and painters of the future, Helen Vendler, http://harvardmagazine.com/2012/11/write-rs-and-artists-at-harvard	

Course Policies:

1. You must complete all *assignments* to receive credit for this course. Students who miss a peer evaluation preparatory workshop will have the relevant assignment penalized.
2. *Attendance:* Attendance is required and will be taken every day. If you miss more than four (4) classes, you will automatically fail the course. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this class are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> (Links to an external site.). Required absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed. If you are absent due to a scheduled event, you are still responsible for turning assignments in on time. If you are absent due to extenuating circumstances, please notify me (by email) of the situation.
3. A note on tardiness: Students who enter class after roll has been taken are late, which disrupts the entire class. Three instances of tardiness (more than 15 minutes) count as one absence.

4. This course includes workshops, lectures, and group activities; therefore, students need access to a computer, internet, paper, writing equipment, and access the readings online for each class meeting.
5. *Paper Format & Submission*: Final drafts must be thoroughly polished and professionally structured. All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins and page numbered using correct MLA formatting. All papers will be submitted as an MS Word (.doc or .docx) to Canvas.
6. *Late Papers/Assignments*: Late assignments and late papers will not be accepted. Only under extenuating circumstances will I consider an extension—students must contact me at least 48 hours before the assignment is due if an emergency arises and provide documentation.
7. *Paper Maintenance Responsibilities*. Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.
8. *Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism*. Plagiarism violates the Student Honor Code and requires reporting to the Dean of Students. All students must abide by the Student Honor Code: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> (Links to an external site.).
9. Students with *disabilities* who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [dso.ufl.edu/drc/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) (Links to an external site.)), which will provide appropriate documentation to give the instructor.
10. For information on UF Grading policies, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> (Links to an external site.)
11. *Grade Appeals*. In upper-division courses, students may appeal a final grade by contacting Dr. Kenneth Kidd, Undergraduate Coordinator and Associate Chair (kbkidd@ufl.edu). Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.
12. *Course Evaluations*: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).
13. Students who face difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352) 392-1575, or

contact them online: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> (Links to an external site.)

14. *Classroom Behavior and Netiquette*: Students should be respectful of their peers and different viewpoints on subjects discussed during each class meeting. Disrespectful behavior is unprofessional; it will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class. Additionally, emails to the instructor must follow professional protocols of subject, grammar, and tone—including proper salutations and signature. Remember that all emails sent through our UFL accounts are Public Records (Florida Statutes, Chapter 119). Do NOT use electronic devices to text during class or access social media. Students will receive one warning for the duration of the term; if the student continues, he or she will be counted absent for the class period.
15. *UF's policy on Harassment*: UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty: <http://hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/recruitment-staffing/institutional-equity-diversity/resources/harassment/>
16. *Privacy Related Issues Concerning Recording Zoom Meetings*: Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93 (4.0)	92-90 (3.67)	89-87 (3.33)	86-83 (3.0)	82-80 (2.67)	79-77 (2.33)	76-73 (2.0)	72-70 (1.67)	69-67 (1.33)	63-66 (1.0)	62-60 (0.67)	59- (0)

Note: A grade of C– is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>