

LIT 2000: Introduction to Literature

Fall 2019

LIT 2000, Introduction to Literature, Section #1A35, Class #17611, Fall 2019

Instructor Name: Brianna Anderson

Course meeting times & locations: T Period 2-3 (8:30 AM – 10:25 AM) | R Period 3 (9:35-10:25 AM) | CBD 0210

Office Location and Hours: TR 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | TBD

Course website: Canvas

Instructor Email: brianna.anderson@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the role literature has played in individuals' lives and in society. It is centered on three questions: *What is literature? Why do we write literature? And why do we read literature?* LIT 2000 introduces students to a diverse range of literary genres, from different national traditions and historical periods.

Among the primary aims of this course is to help students develop critical skills of literary analysis and interpretation. Students will also learn how formal and stylistic elements as well as historical contexts 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 relationship to science, technology, media, commerce, and politics. *This course confers H credit.*

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 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 MATERIALS

Note: While you may purchase any edition of these texts, please be sure that they are not abridged.

Calvino, Italo. *Invisible Cities*.
Crucet, Jennine Capó. *How to Leave Hialeah*
Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*
Morrison, Toni. *Sula*.
Naipual, V. S. *Miguel Street*.
Satrapi, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis*.
Shakespeare, William. *The Merchant of Venice*.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION (see below for Assignment Details and Grading Scale)

- Participation and in-class discussion: **100 points midterm + 100 points end term** (20%)
- 4 Brief Responses: **50 points each x 4 responses = 200 points** (20%)
- 1 Close Reading of a literary text or passage: **150 points** (15%)
- 1 Critical Analysis paper: **250 points** (25%)
- 1 Midterm Exam: **200 points** (20%)

COURSE POLICIES:

Course Credit: You must complete all *assignments* to receive credit for this course.

Attendance: Attendance in this class is not only mandatory, it is essential. Since discussion is so important for interpreting literature, any tardiness or absence disrupts your understanding and that of your peers.

- 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>.
- You are allowed **three 50-minute absences**. (Note that a double period counts as two 50-minute absences.) Each 50-minute absence after three will lower your final grade by 3%.
- **If a student misses six 50-minute periods during a semester, they will fail the entire course.** Only those absences involving university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, and religious holidays are exempt from this policy. Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed. If absent due to a scheduled event, students are still responsible for turning assignments in on time.
- When you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed and come to the next class prepared; contact a classmate or the instructor to find out what work you've missed. It is also your responsibility to make yourself aware of all due dates.

Tardiness: Students who arrive late to class disrupt their peers' learning and risk missing important announcements and information. Be courteous and on time. **Late arrivals to class (more than five minutes) will count as partial absences; please see me after the class in question so I know you attended. Being tardy 3 times constitutes 1 absence.**

Classroom Behavior: I will not tolerate any rude, coarse, or offensive remarks based upon race, gender, ability, or sexual identity, in written assignments or in class discussion. In addition, please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Many

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.

In-Class Work: Be prepared each day with the textbook and printouts of or digital access to any additional readings, any notes you have taken on the readings, paper to write on, and a writing utensil. You must be present for all in-class activities to receive credit for them. In-class work cannot be made up.

Technology: You must turn cell phones to silent before coming to class. Cell phones may never be used in class. You may use laptops, e-readers, or tablets in class only to view texts under discussion. Students who violate this policy will receive an absence for the class period and may lose their right to use technology in the classroom.

Paper Format & Submission: Except for the Brief Responses, which will be submitted to the Discussion Boards on Canvas, all papers should be formatted per MLA 8th edition standards (TNR 12, double-spaced, one-inch margins, MLA header, and MLA citations) and submitted to the assignment on Canvas as a .doc or .docx file. **Please note that failure of technology is not an excuse for missing or late assignments, so plan your time accordingly.**

Late Papers/Assignments: Papers that are submitted late will lose ten percent off their final grade for each day that they are late. After three days, I will not accept late papers. Brief Responses will not be accepted late.

Paper Maintenance Responsibilities: Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.

Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’”

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. 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.

All acts of plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment and may result in failure of the entire course. Plagiarism can occur even without any intention to deceive if you fail to understand and employ proper documentation techniques. When in doubt, ask for help!

Students with disabilities who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/), which will provide appropriate documentation to give the instructor early in the semester.

Wellness/Counseling: Students who are in distress or who are in need of counseling or urgent help: please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to you. UF's Counseling and Wellness Center offers additional support: 352-392-1575, or contact them online: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

Harassment: UF's policy on Sexual Harassment: The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/policy-statement/>

Grading Policies: For information on UF Grading policies, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

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.

Course Evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to go online and evaluate this course: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>

Assignment Descriptions:

1. Participation and In-Class Discussion (20% of final grade)

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. Also be certain to bring your texts to class every day—either electronic copies, print-outs, or books – and paper and pen or pencil with which to write.

2. Brief responses (20% of final grade)

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 4 times across the semester.**

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.

5. Midterm Exam

This take-home exam will be distributed on-line (via Canvas). 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

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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: Readings and assignments are subject to change. Pay attention to Canvas and announcements in class.

Readings and Due Dates	
Unit 1: What is Literature?	
Week One	
8/20	Syllabus and Course Overview
8/22	Terry Eagleton – “What is Literature?” (Canvas)
Week Two	
8/27	Dante — <i>Inferno</i> , Canto I (Canvas)
8/29	Dante — <i>Inferno</i> , Canto XXVI (Canvas)
Week Three	
9/3	Shakespeare — <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , Acts 1-3
9/5	Shakespeare — <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , Acts 4-5
Response #1 Due	
Week Four	
9/10	Langston Hughes — “Ballad of the Landlord,” “Theme for English B” (Canvas) Sylvia Plath — “The Colossus,” “Fever 103” (Canvas)
9/12	Flannery O’Connor — “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (Canvas)
Week Five	
9/17	Jorge Luis Borges — “The Aleph” Excerpt from Ann and Jeff VanderMeer — “The Weird: An Introduction” (http://weirdfictionreview.com/2012/05/the-weird-an-introduction/)
9/19	Close Reading Peer Review Workshop — Bring a draft of your close reading paper to class
Unit 2: Why Write Literature?	
Week Six	
9/24	Primo Levi — <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> : Beginning to “Chemical Examination” Close Reading Final Draft Due in Canvas by 11:59 PM
9/26	Primo Levi — <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> : “The Canto of Ulysses” to End

	Week Seven
10/1	V.S. Naipaul — <i>Miguel Street</i> : Chapter 1 to 12
10/3	V.S. Naipaul — <i>Miguel Street</i> : Chapter 13 to End Response #2 Due
	Week Eight
10/8	Toni Morrison — <i>Sula</i> : Beginning to “1922” Toni Morrison — Excerpt from “Unspeakable Things Unspoken: The Afro-American Presence in American Literature” (Canvas)
10/10	Toni Morrison — <i>Sula</i> : “1923” to “1939”
	Week Nine
10/15	Toni Morrison — <i>Sula</i> : “1940” to End
10/16	Midterm Exam due in Canvas by 11:59 PM on Wednesday 10/16
10/17	Italo Calvino — <i>Invisible Cities</i> : Chapters 1 to 3
	Week Ten
10/22	Italo Calvino — <i>Invisible Cities</i> : Chapters 4 to 7
10/24	Italo Calvino — <i>Invisible Cities</i> : Chapters 8 to end Response #3 Due
	Unit 3: Why Read Literature?
	Week Eleven
10/29	Mark Newgarden and Paul Karasik - “How to Read Nancy” (Canvas) Excerpts from Scott McCloud’s <i>How to Read Comics</i> (Canvas) Excerpts from Emily Carroll’s <i>Through the Woods</i> (Canvas)
10/31	Marjane Satrapi — <i>Persepolis</i> : Beginning to “The Dowry”
	Week Twelve
11/5	Marjane Satrapi — <i>Persepolis</i> : “The Soup” to “The Return” Period 3: Instructional session with Jeanne Ewert in Library West
11/7	Marjane Satrapi — <i>Persepolis</i> : “The Joke” to “The Exam”
	Week Thirteen
11/12	Marjane Satrapi — <i>Persepolis</i> : “The Makeup” to End

11/14	Jennine Capó Crucet — <i>How to Leave Hialeah</i> : “Resurrection” to “Animal Control” Response #4 Due
	Week Fourteen
11/19	Jennine Capó Crucet — <i>How to Leave Hialeah</i> : “Noche Buena” to “Men Who Punched Me”
11/21	Jennine Capó Crucet — <i>How to Leave Hialeah</i> : “Relapsing Remitting” to End
	Week Fifteen
11/26	Critical Analysis Workshop — Bring a thorough outline of your critical analysis paper to workshop
11/28	No class - Thanksgiving Break
	Week Sixteen
12/3	L. D. Burnett, “Holding on to What Makes Us Human”
12/4	Critical Analysis Due in Canvas by 11:59 PM on Wednesday 12/4
12/5	No class - Reading Day