

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
LIT2000 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE
SYLLABUS Spring 2016

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor	Sean Printz
Office	Turlington 4335
Office Hours	Wednesdays 12:40-2:45 pm or by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Time	Period 3, MWF
Location	Turlington 2322

COURSE PRE-REQUISITE: ENC 1101

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? 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 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.

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:

Aidoo, Ama Ata. *Our Sister Killjoy: Or, Reflections from a Black-eyed Squint*. London:

Longman, 1994. ISBN 9780582308459

Alexie, Sherman, and Ellen Forney. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*.

New York: Little, Brown, 2007. ISBN 9780316013697

Calvino, Italo. *Invisible Cities*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1974.

ISBN 0156453800

Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. Place of Publication Not Identified: Collier

Macmillan, 1986. ISBN 002029122

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved: A Novel*. New York: Vintage International, 2004.

ISBN 97814000033416

Satrapa, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis*. New York: Pantheon, 2007.

ISBN 9780375714832

Shakespeare. *The Merchant of Venice*. 2004, Print. ISBN 0743477561

Winn, James. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: Middle English Text with Facing*

Translation. Peterborough (Ontario): Broadview, 1992.

ISBN 9780921149927

other short reading and poetry listed on schedule (links on syllabus)

The Michael Radford/Al Pacino film of *The Merchant of Venice* is available here and on reserve in the library:

https://ufl.instructure.com/files/2500i824/download?download_frd=i

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

For access to literary terms, I am providing a link to *A Glossary of Literary Terms*:

https://ufl.instructure.com/files/2500i252/download?download_frd=i

Please consult this glossary for definitions of literary terms (such as genre, metaphor, allusion, or symbol, to name a few) when they arise in class or in assignments.

Also, please note that many of the materials listed with links on the syllabus also appear under “Files” on Canvas in full text.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Summary of grading

- Attendance & participation/in-class discussion (10%)
- Participation in Course Wiki (20%)
- 1 Close Reading of a literary text or passage (15%)
- 1 Critical Analysis paper (30%)
- 1 Take-home exam (25%)

1. Attendance & Participation and Reading Quizzes (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.

Reading Quizzes: Reading quizzes will be given regularly at the beginning of class. These are meant to test your basic understanding of the course and to get you thinking about the key concepts of the text at the beginning of the class.

2. Participation in Course Wiki or Writing Assignments (20%)

For each week, students are required to contribute to a class wiki or turn in a written assignment. This will come in a variety of formats, including a question/answer format, the creation of a character guide on a text, or a discussion of particular theoretical constructions with relation to the text. These assignments will be assigned on the first day of the week.

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 maybe used for this assignment.

The Close Reading assignment is due during the 5th week of the semester

4. Critical Analysis Paper: 1,500 words, 30%

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 16th week of the semester.

These papers will be graded on a point scale of 1 to 100: 90-100, excellent; 80-89, good to very good; 70-79 average to good; 60-69, below average; below 60 is not a passing grade. All students, whatever their grade, will have the option to rewrite the essay.

5. Take-home exam (25%)

Method of assessment will be 1 on-line take-home exam. The take-home exam will be distributed on-line (via Canvas and will be two hours in length. The exam will be comprised of short answer *and short essay* questions based on readings, lectures and discussion sections.

Submitted exams will be assessed for evidence of collusion.

The Take-home exam will be due Monday on the 13th week of the semester.

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)	

For University of Florida's honor code, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scsr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/dre/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352 392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://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>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Students should note that the schedule is a guideline and may change; students are responsible for all changes made to the syllabus and all changes announced in class, even if they are absent on the day of the announcement. It is each student's responsibility to keep up with the readings and all assignments.

UNIT I: *WHAT IS LITERATURE?*

Week One:

Jan. 6 - Introduction

Jan. 8 - Italo Calvino, "Why Read the Classics?"

<http://www.nvbooks.com/articles/archives/iO86/oct/OO/whv-read-the-classics/>

Week Two:

Jan. 11 - Stephen Greenblatt, "Culture"

<http://www.westga.edu/~mmcfar/Culture.pdf>

Jan. 13 - *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Book 1

Jan. 15 - *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Book 2

Week Three:

Jan. 18 - Holiday, no class

Jan. 20 - *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Book 3

Jan. 22 - *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Book 4

Week Four:

Jan. 25 - Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* Act 1

Jan. 27 - Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* Act 2

Jan. 29 - Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* Act 3

Week Five: Close Reading Due Saturday, February 6th.

Feb. 1 - Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* Act 4

View film of *The Merchant of Venice*:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBxAxagnOogUINFhOVFNTbiZsamM/>

Feb. 3 - Billy Collins, "Introduction to Poetry"

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/1760.56>

Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess"

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/173024>

Feb. 5 - Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/174262>

Week Six:

Feb. 8 - Sherman Alexie, "How to Write the Great American Indian Novel"

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/how-to-write-the-great-american-indian-novel/>

Dominique Christina and Denice Frohman, "No Child Left Behind"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHSqUyi6GUU>

Guante "Ten Responses to the Phrase 'Man Up'"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFoBaTkPgco>

Elizabeth Acevedo, "Hair"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osvS78Nw_vY

Feb. 10 - James Joyce, "The Dead"

Feb. 12 Sherman Alexie, *Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* (Read "Black Eye of the Month Club" to "Grandmother Gives me Some Advice.")

Week Seven:

Feb. 15 - Sherman Alexie, *Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* (Read "Tears of a Clown" to "My Sister Sends Me a Letter.")

Feb. 17 - Sherman Alexie, *Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* (Read "Reindeer Games" to "Talking about Turtles.")

Feb. 19 - Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, "The Journey" through "Ka-Be"

Week Eight:

Feb. 22 - Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, "Our Nights" through "This Side of Good and Evil"

Feb. 24 - Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, "The Drowned and the Saved" through "October 1944"

Feb. 26 - Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, "Kraus" through end of book.

Week Nine: Spring Break

Feb. 29 - Spring Break, no class

Mar. 2 - Spring Break, no class

Mar. 4 - Spring Break, no class

Week Ten:

Mar. 7 - Toni Morrison, *Beloved*. Pages 1-45

Mar. 9 - Toni Morrison, *Beloved*. Pages 46-91

Mar. 11 - Toni Morrison, *Beloved*. Pages 92-136

Week Eleven:

Mar. 14 - Toni Morrison, *Beloved*. Pages 137-183

Mar. 16 - Toni Morrison, *Beloved*. Pages 184-230

Mar. 18 - Toni Morrison, *Beloved*, Pages 231-End of Book.

Week Twelve:

Mar. 21 - Jorge Luis Borges, "The Aleph"

http://www.phinnweb.Org/1_in_ks/literature/borges/a_leph.html

Mar. 23 - Alice Munro, "The Moons of Jupiter"

https://ufl.instructure.com/files/2Fji48iQi/download?download_frd=i

Mar. 25 - Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*. Read Sections 1 and 2 **Take home exam due Monday Mar 28th.**

Week Thirteen:

Mar. 28 - Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*. Read Sections **3** and **4**

Mar. 30 - Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*. Read Sections **5** and **6**

Apr. 1 - Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*. Read Sections **8** and **9**

Week Fourteen:

Apr. 4 - Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*. Pages **1-44**

Apr. 6 - Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*. Pages **45-90**

Apr. 8 - Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*. Pages **90-134**

Week Fifteen:

Apr. 11 - Marjane Satrapi *Persepolis*. Read “The Veil” through “The Heroes.”

Apr. 13 - Marjane Satrapi *Persepolis*. Read “Moscow” through “The Passport.”

Apr. 15 - Marjane Satrapi *Persepolis*. Read “Kim Wilde” through “The Pill.”

Week Sixteen: Critical Analysis Due Friday, April 22nd.

Apr. 18 - Marjane Satrapi *Persepolis*. Read “The Vegetable” through “The Return.”

Apr. 20 - Marjane Satrapi *Persepolis*. Read “The Joke” through “The End.”
and Gregory Currie, “Does Great Literature Make Us Better?”

http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/06/oi/does-great-literature-make-us-better/?_r=0