

LIT 2120—World Literature II, 1750-Present: Investigating Identities (Section 03A6, Class #15833)

Instructor Name: Ryan Kerr

Class Time: MWF Period 6 (12:50-1:40 pm)
BLK 0315

Office Hours: MW Period 5 (11:50-12:40 pm)
TUR 4307

Course Website: Canvas

Instructor E-Mail: ryankerr@ufl.edu

Course Description: The goal of this course will be to understand major and culturally significant works of global literature from the enlightenment to the present. Specifically, this course will be interested in using literary analysis skills not only to understand the “meaning” or “significance” of these works, but also to understand how works of literature can act as representations of larger global conflicts and social issues. The subtitle of this course name, “Investigating Identities,” means that we will be exploring interpersonal and geopolitical conflicts that constitute the formation of the self. How is the self manufactured because of historical dominant ideologies or popular conceptions of morality? How does social inequality manifest itself and how does identity become contingent on those issues? Issues of the world literature canon will be explored. Works of theory will be examined alongside some of the primary texts.

COVID Statement:

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

- If you sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

Course Policies:

1. You must complete all *assignments* to receive credit for this course.
2. **Attendance: Four** or more unexcused absences will result in a lowered final course grade. Absences are excused in the case of field trips, religious holidays, etc. Students who have **six** unexcused absences will fail the course.
3. Tardiness disrupts the class and should be avoided. Being tardy **three** times will count as **one** absence.
4. During class discussions, students are expected to be respectful to their peers. Online posts and e-mails should be courteous and respectful.
5. *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/about/title-ix-rights/>
6. *Paper Format & Submission*: Students are expected to turn in assignments on time and they must communicate with me as soon as possible if extenuating circumstances (more about disability accommodations below) or technical difficulties are preventing them from completing assignments by the deadline.
7. *Late Papers/Assignments*: Late papers will be counted off half of a letter grade for every day it is late. Discussion posts must be made up at a later date for a different text since they are meant to be done in conjunction with upcoming class discussions.
8. *Paper Maintenance Responsibilities*. Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.
9. *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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

The UF Student Honor Code defines plagiarism as follows:

A Student must not represent as the Student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
 2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student’s own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student’s own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
 3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
 4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.
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1. Students with *disabilities* who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu>) which will provide appropriate documentation to give your instructor early in the semester.
 2. *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/> (Links to an external site.)
 3. For information on UF Grading policies, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> (Links to an external site.)
 4. *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). Please contact Ms. Blount at cblount@ufl.edu Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.
 5. *Course Evaluations*. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages requesting that you do this online: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx> (Links to an external site.)
 6. *Policy on environmental sustainability*. Whenever possible, I will use paper-sparing electronic media to distribute our course materials. Consider purchasing electronic editions of assigned texts when they are available, or used copies of print texts. If you do not elect to keep your print books, consider sharing them with others after the semester ends. (For example, you could donate them to the Alachua County [Friends of the Library](#) (Links to an external site.) annual book sale.)
 7. A. For face to face courses a statement informing students of COVID related practices such as:

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- 1. Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- 2. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus \(Links to an external site.\)](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms \(Links to an external site.\)](#).
 1. Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Required Texts: The bulk of the readings this semester will be available as scans online. You can find nearly all of these works in the public domain online, but you need to make sure you're reading my online scans for the translated works, since you need to read the translations I'll be using.

You do need to get a copy of *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, print or digital.

Chinua Achebe *Things Fall Apart* Anchor Books 1994 0385474547

Assignments:

10%- Participation- Students are expected to attend class and to participate in class discussions and activities. Students who accrue four or more absences will have points taken off for this section. Six absences result in an automatic course failure.

25%- Discussion Posts- 1000 words (5 x 200 words)- Students will be assigned five different days over the course of the semester wherein they will need to write 200-word responses to that day's reading. These discussion posts should *not* be summaries. Instead, students should attempt to reflect upon and analyze the reading for that day, focusing on things they found interesting, noteworthy, surprising, or confusing. Discussion posts will be due at 11:59 pm the night before the next class day. Students will be graded on their insights as well as their grammar and writing skills.

10%- First Paper- 1000 words- DUE SEPTEMBER 20- Students will write an analytical paper about one of the following works: *Oroonoko*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Candide*, or *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass*. These papers should have a clear and specific thesis surrounding the

thematic elements of the work. Students should use specific examples from the text to back up their claim about the work's theme.

20%- Take-Home Midterm- 1000 words (5 x 200 words per question)- DUE OCTOBER 25- Students will respond to five open-ended questions pertaining to some of the following works: *Oroonoko*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Candide*, *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass*, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, *Heart of Darkness*, or *Death in Venice*. Students will be graded on how thorough and specific their answers are and how successfully they create a convincing argument in their answers. These questions are open-book and open-note. There will also be a section wherein students are asked to define key terms discussed in class.

15%- Annotated Bibliography- 1000 words (5 x 200 words per entry)- DUE DECEMBER 6- In preparation for the final paper, students will synthesize five secondary sources pertaining to the primary text about which they will be writing. Students should write five 200-word entries discussing the strengths, weaknesses, and overall relevance of each source.

20%- Final Paper- 2000 words- DUE DECEMBER 14- Students will write a final paper about any of the following texts: *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Death in Venice*, *The Metamorphosis*, or *Things Fall Apart*. Students will write a clear thesis statement surrounding one of the thematic elements of the text in question. Students should cite at least five secondary sources and use specific examples from the story to support their claims.

Grading/Assessment Rubric:

A: The student has met the criteria of the assignment successfully. The paper strongly argues points that connect clearly to a well-written thesis statement. The grammar of the paper shows evidence of attentive proofreading and there are little to no errors whatsoever.

B: The student has met the criteria of the assignment, but the thesis statement could be more clearly defined. The connections between the argumentative points and the thesis statement itself could be clearer. There are several noticeable grammatical errors.

C: The student has only minimally met the criteria of the assignment. The argument either exhibits poor logic or barely resembles a clear argument. The thesis statement is not argumentative and the points do not clearly relate to the thesis statement. There are numerous grammatical errors that distract from the readability and meaning of the paper.

D: The student has not met the criteria of the assignment. The thesis statement is absent entirely and the paper does not form a coherent argument at all. There are numerous grammatical errors that strongly interfere with the readability and meaning of the paper.

E: (Equivalent to an F) These grades are given to assignments that are never turned in or are plagiarized. A paper that is very far outside of the parameters of the assignment, however, will receive an E grade.

Plusses and minuses are given to grades that overlap between the criteria of two different letter grades (a paper that has a clearly defined thesis statement and is free of grammatical errors but could use clearer connections between the thesis and the argument would receive an A-minus, for example).

Final Grade Breakdown:

A: 93-100%

A-Minus: 90-92.99%

B-Plus: 87-89.99%

B: 83-86.99%

B-Minus: 80-82.99%

C-Plus: 77-79.99%

C: 73-76.99%

C-Minus: 70-72.99%

D-Plus: 67-69.99%

D: 63-66.99%

D-Minus: 60-62.99%

E: 0-59.99%

Content Warning: The topics in this class include controversial and sensitive subjects, including racism and sexual violence. See me privately if you feel a work might be triggering for you so arrangements can be made. Students who feel as though many of these works will be problematic for them may want to consider taking a different course.

SYLLABUS

Week 1

Aug 23- Introduction- Syllabus, Course Aims

Aug 25- Introduction to Literary Analysis / Aphra Behn- *Oroonoko*, first half

Aug 27- Aphra Behn- *Oroonoko*, second half

Week 2

Aug 30- Enlightenment / Jonathan Swift- *Gulliver's Travels* Part III, ch. IV-VI

Sept 1- Jonathan Swift- *Gulliver's Travels* Part IV, ch. I-IV

Sept 3- Jonathan Swift- *Gulliver's Travels* Part IV, ch. V-XII

Week 3

Sept 6- NO CLASS, HOLIDAY

Sept 8- Voltaire- *Candide*, ch. 1-15

Sept 10- Voltaire- *Candide*, ch. 16-30

Week 4

Sept 13- Fredrick Douglass- *Narrative of the Life*, ch. 1-9

Sept 15- Fredrick Douglass- *Narrative of the Life*, ch. 10

Sept 17- Fredrick Douglass- *Narrative of the Life*, ch. 11 and appendix

Week 5

Sept 20- Romanticism / Samuel Taylor Coleridge- "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," Parts 1-4- **FIRST PAPER DUE**

Sept 22- Samuel Taylor Coleridge- "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," Parts 5-7

Sept 24- Realism / Leo Tolstoy- *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, ch. I-II

Week 6

Sept 27- Leo Tolstoy- *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, ch. III-VI

Sept 29- Leo Tolstoy- *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, ch. VII-XII

Oct 1- Modernism / Joseph Conrad- *Heart of Darkness*, Part 1

Week 7

Oct 4- Joseph Conrad- *Heart of Darkness*, Part 2

Oct 6- Joseph Conrad- *Heart of Darkness*, Part 3

Oct 8- HOMECOMING, NO CLASS

Week 8

Oct 11- Thomas Mann- *Death in Venice*, Parts 1-2

Oct 13- Thomas Mann- *Death in Venice*, Parts 3-4

Oct 15- Thomas Mann- *Death in Venice*, Part 5

Week 9

Oct 18- James Joyce- "The Dead"

Oct 20- Finish James Joyce- "The Dead" / Marcel Proust- *Swann's Way*, excerpt

Oct 22- Marcel Proust- *Swann's Way*, excerpt continued

Week 10

Oct 25- Franz Kafka- *The Metamorphosis* Part 1- **MIDTERM DUE**

Oct 27- Franz Kafka- *The Metamorphosis* Part 2

Oct 29- Franz Kafka- *The Metamorphosis* Part 3

Week 11

Nov 1- T.S. Eliot- "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

Nov 3- Virginia Woolf- *A Room of One's Own*, excerpt

Nov 5- Postcolonialism / Frantz Fanon- "Concerning Violence," first half

Week 12

Nov 8- Frantz Fanon- "Concerning Violence," second half

Nov 10- Chinua Achebe- *Things Fall Apart*, Ch. 1-7

Nov 12- Chinua Achebe- *Things Fall Apart*, Ch. 8-13

Week 13

Nov 15- Chinua Achebe- *Things Fall Apart*, Ch. 14-19

Nov 17- Chinua Achebe- *Things Fall Apart*, Ch. 20-25

Nov 19- Aimé Césaire- “Discourse on Colonialism,” excerpt

Week 14

Nov 22- Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*, excerpt

Nov 24- NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

Nov 26- NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

Week 15

Nov 29- Postwar / Allen Ginsberg- “Howl,” Part 1

Dec 1- Allen Ginsberg- “Howl,” Parts 2 and 3

Dec 3- Doris Lessing- “To Room Nineteen”

Week 16

Dec 6- Jean Rhys- “Let Them Call It Jazz” / **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

Dec 8- Zadie Smith- “The Embassy of Cambodia” / Final Remarks

Dec 10- NO CLASS, READING DAY