**English 2329**
Introduction to Literary Studies

**Instructor:** Dr. Gabriela Serrano

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**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Course Description**

I have divided the course into two major sections because I want English majors and minors to think about their academic development on a departmental level and a broader, professional level. We will dedicate the first part of the semester to learning as much as there is to know about our department, and analyze the programs, publications, and organizations that offer students opportunities on a departmental level for professional development. For the second part of the semester, we will consider the discipline of English on a larger scale and study the critical lenses by which professionals in the field have conversations about literature and study particular literary theories and genres. Theory is a kaleidoscope by which we examine literary texts; it is complex, and the reader must view literature through different lenses to gain a clearer understanding of a text. Through a better understanding of our department and the discipline of English in general, students will become critical readers and develop their analytical skills and appreciation for great works of literature.

**ASU Core Curriculum Objectives for Sophomore Literature and Related Course Assessments**

Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.

Students will master a series of assigned literary works in terms of generic conventions and content.

Learning activities will include listening to lectures, taking notes, participating in classroom discussions and in-class group work, reading quizzes, oral and written analyses, and examinations.

**Texts and Websites**
Writers Conference
http://www.angelo.edu/dept/english_modern_languages/writers_conference.php

Oasis  http://www.angelo.edu/dept/english_modern_languages/oasis.php

Concho River Review
http://www.angelo.edu/dept/english_modern_languages/concho_river_review.php

Department of English and Modern Languages
http://www.angelo.edu/dept/english_modern_languages/

Open Door Policy
Students are welcomed and encouraged to visit me whenever they wish to readings, assignments, or any other subject as it relates to this class. If students cannot come during my office hours, they may schedule an appointment or contact me via Skype. I will be logged on to Skype during my office hours, so feel free to contact me at the aforementioned Skype Profile during this time. If I am away for a few minutes or attending to a student, I will return your call promptly. The easiest and best way to contact me outside of my office hours is to e-mail me (gserrano@angelo.edu). I read my e-mail on a daily basis during weekdays and will reply promptly.

Semester Grade
Critical Analysis on Writers Conference 15%
Writing Workshop Submission 15%
Sample Submission for CFP 10%
Sample Survey/Seminar Paper 30%
Quiz Grades 15%
Class Discussion Questions 20%
Participation/Attendance 5%

Critical Analysis of ASU Writers Conference Author
Students read, evaluate, and respond to texts by authors who have been speakers/are a speaker at ASU’s Writers Conference and write a two-page analysis of one of the readings we cover by these writers. Students will analyze these texts critically to deepen their understanding of these works. In addition, students will also attend the Writers Conference and incorporate the experience into this analysis.

Writing Workshop Submission
Students will read and several submissions from Oasis and the Concho River Review, two publications sponsored by the ASU English and Modern Languages department. Students will then be required to work in groups during workshop sessions to provide critical feedback on two submission (one from Oasis and one from Concho River Review). Students must include a copy of the work they have edited during class and prepare a two pages critique of the work.
Sample Submission for CFP
I encourage students to seek professional opportunities early in their careers. Such opportunities include conference presentations, publications, and editing opportunities. Students must find such an opportunity and prepare a 500 word abstract describing their research, creative project, etc. Also, students must include a copy of the CFP for which they are submitting their sample submission.

Sample Seminar Paper
A short 3-5 page paper that evaluates a critical secondary source about one of our readings for the semester. The paper must include at least three secondary sources, and students must use proper MLA formatting. These secondary sources may come from a scholarly journal or a book found on the following databases: MLA, Academic Search Complete, or a book.

Quiz Grades
Quizzes will cover the assigned readings throughout the semester. Quizzes are unannounced and must be completed within the first five minutes of class. If students are more than five minutes late, they may not take the quiz for that day. Students may not make up any quizzes, but I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester in case of illness, a family emergency, car trouble, etc.

In-Class Discussion Questions
Discussion Questions cover the assigned readings and lectures due for the week and will be due by Midnight on Sunday of every week. I will not accept late submissions for these Discussion Questions, so make sure to upload them by the due date and time. I will drop the lowest Discussion Question grade in case of illness, a family emergency, car trouble etc.

Use of Technology
Assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard as WORD documents. I will not accept excuses for any technical difficulties students may have with their assignments, which include computers crashing, difficulty uploading papers, Blackboard shutting down, etc. Students must have a competent knowledge of Blackboard. In addition, students need to make sure to give themselves enough time after finishing their assignments to manage any of these technical difficulties. I will not accept any assignments via email because it is a violation of your rights as students for me to discuss grades via email.

“No Drama Clause”:
I will drop the lowest quiz and discussion question grade at the end of the semester, and I will drop one letter grade per day a paper is late in case of illness, a death in the family, car trouble, etc., but I do not want students to ask for special exceptions for such occurrences. Again, I drop the lowest Discussion Questions and quiz grades and deduct 10 points per day a paper is late in case of an emergency.
Departmental Policy on Academic Honesty

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook: http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf Failure to comply with the honor code will result in disciplinary action and a failing grade in this course.

I will assign a grade of “F” for the following violations:

I. Plagiarism “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or idea into one’s own work offered for credit” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Chapter VI, Section 5.32)
II. Cheating - this includes copying material from another member of the class, having someone in or outside of class complete an assignment or exam for you.

Students with Special Needs

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact ASU’s Disability Services: http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/

Schedule of Readings and Assignments
(Tentative and Subject to Change)

**Week 1**
Aug. 29 Course Introduction and Discussion of English and Modern Languages Department
Aug. 31 Discuss annual Writers Conference
Terrance Hayes: “What I Am”
Naomi Shihab Nye: “Jerusalem”

**Week 2**
Sept. 5 Elmer Kelton: Selections
Sept. 7 Tobias Wolf: Hunters in the Snow
Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 9/10

**Week 3**
Sept. 12 Rudolfo Anaya: Selections from Bless Me, Ultima
Sept. 14 Carmen Tafolla: “Caminitos”
Selection from Currandera
**Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 9/17**

**Week 4**
Sept. 19 Tim O’Brien: “The Things They Carried”
Sept. 21 Art Spiegelman: selection from Maus
**Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 9/24**

**Week 5**
Sept. 26 Juan Felipe Herrera (U.S. Poet Laureate): Selections
Sept. 28 Lecture on Literary Techniques and Genres
Discuss Group Creative Writing Project
*Critical Analysis of Writers Conference author due by 11:00 a.m. on Blackboard*

**Week 6**
Oct. 3 Selections from Oasis
Writing Workshop on poems
Oct. 5 Selections from Oasis
**Writing Workshop Suggestions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 10/8**

**Week 7**
Oct. 10 Discuss Publication Opportunities
How to search University of Pennsylvania CFPs
Oct. 12 Selections from Concho River Review
**Upload sample submission due by Midnight on Blackboard 10/15**

**Week 8**
Oct. 17 Discuss Literary Criticism
Discuss Survey and Seminar Papers for Upper-level Courses
Oct. 19 Discuss Genres, Emerging Fields
*No assignments due this week*

**Week 9**
Oct. 24 Lecture on the Age of Reason
Thomas Paine: “The Age of Reason”
Jonathan Swift: “A Modest Proposal”
Oct. 26 Lecture on Romanticism
Week 10
Oct. 31  Lecture on Modernism
William Butler Yeats: “The Second Coming”

Nov. 2  Ernest Hemingway: “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”
Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 10/29

Week 11
Nov. 7  Lecture on Postmodernism
Samuel Becket: Endgame

Nov. 9  Kurt Vonnegut: Slaughterhouse-Five selection
Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 11/5

Week 12
Nov. 14  Young Adult Literature
Selection from The Perks of Being a Wallflower
Student Selection

Nov. 16  Science Fiction
Selection from American Gods
Student Selection
Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 11/19

Week 13
Nov. 21  Watch clip from A Wrinkle in Time
Upload Extra Credit Quiz by 12:15 p.m. on Blackboard

Nov. 24  Holiday (“Winter is coming”)

*No Assignments due this week*

Week 14
Nov. 28  Ethnic American Literature
Charles Chestnutt: “’Po Sandy”
Gary Soto: "Mexicans Begin Jogging”

Nov. 30
Sherman Alexie: Selection from *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*

**Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 12/4**

**Week 15**

Dec. 5  LGBTQ+ Literature  
Allan Ginsberg: “Howl”  
Selections from *October Mourning*

Dec. 7  Discuss Sample Survey/Seminar Paper

**No Assignments this week**

**Week 16**

Dec. 12  *Upload Sample Survey/Seminar Paper by 12:30 p.m. on Blackboard*