English 2329

Introduction to Literary Studies

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.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 more about our department, our programs, publications, and organizations. 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

1. Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.
2. Students will master a series of assigned literary works in terms of generic conventions and content.
3. 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
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 during my office hours or by appointment. 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       15%

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 submissions (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 page 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.** I 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.

**Inclusion Statement**

We will be addressing controversial topics related to underprivileged groups throughout the semester. I support a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honor all identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). Please let me if there is a particular name or pronouns by which you identify. Also, please let me know if anything I or your peers may say in class makes you feel excluded or marginalized. You may come see me in my office, leave me a note, and your concerns will remain anonymous.

**Disability Services**

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. 28  Course Introduction and Discussion of EML Department

Aug. 30  Discuss annual Writers Conference
Terrance Hayes: “What I Am”
Naomi Shihab Nye: “Jerusalem”

Week 2
Sept. 4  Elmer Kelton: Selection from *The Time it Never Rained*

Sept. 6  Tobias Wolf: “Hunters in the Snow”
Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 9/9

Week 3
Sept. 11  Rudolfo Anaya: Selections from *Bless Me, Ultima*

Sept. 13  Carmen Tafolla:  “Caminitos”
          “La Malinche”
Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 9/16

Week 4
Sept. 18  Tim O’Brien: “The Things They Carried”

Sept. 20  Art Spiegelman: selection from *Maus*
          Gene Luen Yang: *American Born Chinese*
Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 9/23

Week 5
Sept. 25  Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni: Selections

Sept. 27  Ernest Hemingway: “Big Two-Hearted River: Part 1”
Lecture on Literary Techniques and Genres
Discuss Group Creative Writing Project
Critical Analysis of Writers Conference author due by Midnight on Blackboard on 9/30

Week 6
          Selections from *Oasis*

Oct. 4   Selections from *Oasis*
          Writing Workshop on poems
Writing Workshop Suggestions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 10/7
Week 7
Oct. 9  Continue Writing Workshop
       Discuss Publication Opportunities

Oct. 11 How to search University of Pennsylvania CFPs
       Selections from *Concho River Review*

**Upload sample submission due by Midnight on Blackboard 10/14**

Week 8
Oct. 16  Discuss Literary Criticism
       Discuss Survey and Seminar Papers for Upper-level Courses
       Plato: *The Myth of the Cave*

Oct. 18  Discuss Genres, Emerging Fields
*No assignments due this week*

Week 9
Oct. 23  Lecture on the Age of Reason
       Thomas Paine: “The Age of Reason”
       Jonathan Swift: “A Modest Proposal”

Oct. 25  Lecture on Romanticism
       William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge: *Preface to Lyrical Ballads*
       Nathaniel Hawthorne: Preface to *The House of the Seven Gables*

**Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 10/28**

Week 10
Oct. 30  Lecture on Modernism
       William Butler Yeats: “The Second Coming”

Nov. 1   Wallace Stevens: “The Emperor of Ice Cream”
       William Carlos Williams: “The Red Wheelbarrow”

**Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 11/4**

Week 11
Nov. 6   Lecture on Postmodernism
       Samuel Becket: *Endgame*

Nov. 8   Kurt Vonnegut: *Slaughterhouse-Five* selection

**Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 11/11**
Week 12
Nov. 13  Young Adult Literature
Selection from *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*
Student Selection

Nov. 15  Science Fiction
Selection from *American Gods*
Student Selection

**Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 11/18**

Week 13
Nov. 20  Watch clip from *The Handmaid’s Tale*

**Upload Extra Credit Quiz by 10:45 a.m. on Blackboard**

Nov. 22  Holiday (“Winter is coming”)

*No Assignments due this week*

Week 14
Nov. 27  Ethnic American Literature
Charles Chestnutt: “’Po Sandy”
Gary Soto: "Mexicans Begin Jogging"

Nov. 29  Sherman Alexie: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* Selection

**Discussion Questions due by Midnight on Blackboard on 12/2**

Week 15
Dec. 4  LGBTQ+ Literature
Plato: from *Symposium*
Allan Ginsberg: “Howl”

Dec. 6  Frank Bidart: “Queer”
Discuss Sample Survey/Seminar Paper

*No Assignments due this week*

Week 16
Dec. 13  Upload Sample Survey/Seminar Paper by 10:00 a.m. on Blackboard