ENGLISH 2329: Intro to Literary Study
Authors, Texts, and Contexts

Course Description

What is literature? How does it work? Why does it matter? In this course, intended for current or potential English majors, we will explore these questions by reading, discussing, and writing about texts in a variety of genres (poetry, novel, short story, essay, film).

We will practice close reading skills and working with specialized literary terminology. We will also reflect on what it means to study literature today by surveying the history of literary criticism and theory in conversation with works of contemporary literature.

Graded Course Work

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<td>10%</td>
<td>Essay #1</td>
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<td>Essay #2</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam (Cumulative)</td>
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<td>20%</td>
<td>Reading Quizzes and In-Class Work</td>
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<td>10%</td>
<td>Preparation and Active Participation</td>
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Required Books and Materials

Required for Purchase:

- Poems: A Concise Anthology (Broadview)  
  ISBN#: 978-1554811472
- Shelley, Frankenstein, 3rd Edition (Broadview)  
  ISBN#: 978-1554811038
- Atwood, Oryx and Crake  
  ISBN# 978-0385721677
- Reading and Writing About Literature: A Portable Guide.  
  4th ed. (Bedford)  
  ISBN#: 978-1-319-03536-5

Blackboard:

- This course has a Blackboard website, where you can find other course materials and turn in your assignments.

Other Materials:

- Printed Handouts and Readings from Blackboard
- Notebook/paper for in-class writing and something to write with

Dr. Allison Dushane
adushane@angelo.edu
Office: Academic 021D

Office Hours
M/W 11:00am-2:00pm
And By Appointment
LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR ENGLISH 2329

• Students will gain an awareness of the history of literary studies and practice techniques for literary interpretation and through readings, lectures, essays and in-class discussion.
• Students will develop their close reading skills through careful analysis of literature, informing their study through consideration of the culture in which such literature was created and the critical debates surrounding specific texts.
• Students will learn the discipline-specific terminology and writing conventions that will be expected of them as English majors and strengthen their writing abilities.
• Students will work closely with literary and critical texts in order to learn how to develop their own interpretations of literature and to engage with the work of professional scholars.

COURSE POLICIES

I. ATTENDANCE

I do not differentiate between “excused” absences and “un-excused absences.” Instead, you have three absences to use in cases of illness, appointments, family issues, work conflicts, or circumstances that might prevent you from attending. You do not need to get my permission or e-mail me with an excuse to use your absences.

If you miss a class, you will need to determine what you missed during your absence by checking the Blackboard announcements, asking your classmates or by seeing me during office hours. I will post any lecture slides that I use in class on Blackboard. I will not respond to email inquiries that simply ask: "what did I miss?" It is your responsibility to check the schedule and stay on track.

Here is how I factor absences into your course grade:

• **Quizzes/In Class Work:** I will drop the three lowest grades from this category before calculating your final grade. I do not give make up quizzes or replacements for in-class work. Exceptions: If you intend to miss class to participate in a school-sponsored event or to observe a recognized holy day (see VI below), notify me in writing prior to the absence.
• **Active Participation:** I allow students three absences without penalty to their overall participation grade. After your fourth absence, your absences will affect your overall participation grade.
• More than six absences is grounds for failure of the course.

*If a situation arises that you suspect will result in excessive absences* (something like a chronic health condition or true emergency such as a death in the immediate family or hospital stay), you should notify me as soon as possible so we can discuss possible accommodations. In these cases, I will need to see some kind of documentation of your situation, and may refer you to the Dean of Students to get an official excuse. Once you have missed class meetings in excess of these allowances, there is nothing I can do for you that will preserve fair treatment for the rest of the class.
II. QUIZZES, IN-CLASS REFLECTIONS and ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Because this class includes discussion-based activities where all members depend on the input of others, you will be graded according to your participation. This will include, but is not limited to: your coming to class prepared and on time, your willingness to participate in class discussion, your readiness to volunteer when needed, and, most importantly, your overall level of engagement and attitude. Your active participation grade will be determined by all of these factors.

You must bring the appropriate printed texts to class for every discussion.

On any day that an assigned reading is due, I may give a quiz that covers the reading and/or the assigned literary terms for the day. These quizzes are meant to be very straightforward and are designed to make sure you made a good faith effort to get through and understand the material. Occasionally, these quizzes will be open book (even more incentive to bring your printed texts to class!).

On many class days I will assign prompts for in-class reflections and small group discussions. I grade in-class reflections and group work on a scale of 1-5, but I also take your preparation for and active participation in class into consideration when determining your overall participation grade. You will be encouraged to share and discuss your insights with the class. Be sure to bring a notebook/paper and something to write with to every class meeting.

IV. CLASSROM CONDUCT and EMAIL ETIQUETTE

I request that you turn off all electronic devices and put them in your bags during class. There is rarely reason to keep your phone on the desk or in your lap during class since all telephonic communication—including texting—is prohibited in class.

When questions about course content occur to you outside of our scheduled class sessions, I encourage you to come to office hours or email me. I will attempt to answer emails quickly within business hours (M-F 9am-5pm), though I have meetings on and off campus and sometimes cannot answer as quickly. After 5pm and on weekends, I check my email less regularly and it may be several hours or even a day before you hear back from me.

V. LATE and LOST WORK

Essays must be turned in via Blackboard via the SafeAssign dropbox before class begins on the day they are due. Be sure to submit your essay as a Word document or in .PDF format. If I cannot open the document via Blackboard, the essay will receive a 0. I will not accept essays in hard copy or via e-mail attachment.

No extensions will be granted on or after a due date—all arrangements must be made in advance.
You may submit essay assignments up to a week beyond their due date. However, I will deduct half a letter grade from your assignment for each 24 hours it is late. After a week, you will forfeit the possibility of turning in the assignment, thus earning a zero. Unless I tell you otherwise in writing, I will only accept essays uploaded to the dropbox via Blackboard. If you miss an essay deadline, please send me an e-mail as soon as possible to let me know when you plan on finishing/uploading the assignment.

You will need to devise a strategy for securely storing digital files. I highly recommend that you incorporate a backup file system into your storage strategy. We all know that hard drives can fail and flash drives can disappear. Back up all of your work in multiple locations.

VI. OBSERVANCES OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS and TRAVEL TO UNIVERSITY EVENTS

Students traveling to university-sponsored events and students who have spoken to me in advance about missing a class for purposes of religious observance will have the opportunity to make up whatever work can be completed. The opportunity to make-up work is the student’s responsibility to arrange: (1) notification must be made in writing and in advance of the absence and (2) all work must be completed in what I deem to be a timely manner. To be clear, no makeup work will be permitted after the fact; all arrangements must be made in advance and you and I must agree upon a timetable prior to your absence.

VII. STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

“All ASU students are expected to understand and to comply with the University’s policy on Academic Honesty as stated in the ASU Bulletin and in the ASU Student Handbook. Students who violate the Policy on Academic Honesty will be subject to disciplinary action, including a failing grade in the course.”

Your enrollment in ENGLISH 2329 assumes your agreement to this honor code. Stealing from another person or source is wrong and passing off work you did not complete as your own is a violation punishable by your immediate failure in the course. I have no patience for this breach of trust and ethics.

VIII. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I am sympathetic to all disabilities, and request that all persons requesting accommodation work through the student life office to make sure that they receive the attention they need.

“Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, located in room 112 of the University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.”
IX. WRITING GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

**Paper Formatting and Citation Style**
All papers for this course must be adhere to the citation and formatting conventions outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (8th edition), with a word count added to the standard header. Check Blackboard for handouts and links to resources that cover MLA style.

**Word Count**
Each assignment will include a minimum word count or range. The main text of your paper, not including the header, bibliography, and notes, should reach the minimum or fall within the indicated range. If your paper does not reach the minimum, it will receive a deduction. Papers that fall more than 20% short of the minimum will receive a failing grade.

**Online Submission: Blackboard and SafeAssign**
You will turn in your essay assignments online through Blackboard. If you are turning in an assignment to a dropbox, you will be required to give permission to have your paper checked by SafeAssign, which is a plagiarism-checking software that checks for similarities to past submissions and online material.

**Writing Center**
The ASU Writing Center is a wonderful resource for students of all levels. They offer face-to-face tutoring, synchronous online tutorials, and responses to e-mailed questions about writing and reading. If you seek their help with your writing, you should provide the assignment prompt and all work you’ve completed toward the assignment. The office is on the third floor of the Porter Henderson Library, Room C305.

To set up an appointment, go to http: www.angelo.edu/dept/writingcenter.
DAILY SCHEDULE*

*Subject to change: please check Blackboard Announcements regularly!

Be sure to check Blackboard regularly for any changes to the schedule. This schedule provides an overview of the semester so that you can plan around major assignment due dates, but I will post more detailed reading assignments, handouts, lecture slides and other important information on a weekly basis.

UNIT I: POETRY/CLOSE READING

| T.1.15 | **In Class:** Keats, “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”  
**BB/Handout:** Kusch, "Introduction: Thinking About Literature" |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| TH.1.17 | **BB:** Sidney, from *Astrophil and Stella*  
**RWL:** Chapter 2: The Role of Good Reading (pp.6-15) and Chapter 6: Writing About Poems (pp.100-104)  
**BB:** Essential Literary Terms – print this out and bring it to every class until the midterm. You don’t need to read it for today! We will be working with it in class. |
| T.1.22 | **BB:** William Shakespeare, from *Sonnets*  
**Handout:** Concise Close Reading |
| TH.1.24 | **P:** John Donne, from *Holy Sonnets* #10 and #14  
**P:** Lady Mary Wroth, [In this strange labyrinth how shall I turn?]  
**RWL:** Chapter 4: Common Writing Assignments, "Explication" and "Analysis" |
| T.1.29 | ➢ ESSAY #1 DUE @ 11:00am in Blackboard Dropbox  
**P:** John Donne, "The Flea" and "A Valediction: Forbidden Mourning"  
**P:** George Herbert (all selections) |
| TH.1.31 | **P:** Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress"  
**P:** Thomas Gray, "Elegy in a Country Churchyard"  
**RWL:** Chapter 4: Common Writing Assignments, "Comparison and Contrast" |
| T.2.5 | **P:** John Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "Ode to a Nightingale"  
**P:** Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind" |
| Th 2.7 | **P:** Christina Rossetti “Goblin Market” |
| T.2.12 | **P:** Robert Browning, "Porphyria's Lover" and "My Last Duchess"  
**RWL:** Chapter 3: The Writing Process (pp.25-54) and Chapter 4: Common Writing Assignments "Compare and Contrast" |
| TH.2.14 | **P:** T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”  
**P:** W.B. Yeats, “The Second Coming”  
**P:** Marianne Moore, "A Grave" |
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>T 2.19</td>
<td>- P: Haryette Mullen, &quot;Dim Lady&quot;&lt;br&gt;- P: Adrienne Rich, &quot;A Valediction Forbidden Mourning&quot;&lt;br&gt;- Be sure to bring RWL + Poems with you to class!</td>
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<td>TH 2.21</td>
<td>➤ NO CLASS MEETING: ASU Writer's Conference (Extra Credit Discussion Board Post)</td>
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<td>T 2.26</td>
<td>➤ ESSAY #2 DUE @11:00AM in Blackboard Dropbox&lt;br&gt;BB: Hawthorne, &quot;The Birth-Mark&quot; (Bring to class – you don’t have to read it until Thursday)&lt;br&gt;RWL: Chapter 5: Writing About Stories (pp. 76-79)</td>
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<td>TH 2.28</td>
<td>BB: Hawthorne, &quot;The Birth-Mark&quot;&lt;br&gt;Midterm Exam Review</td>
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<td>T 3.5</td>
<td>➤ MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<td>T 3.19</td>
<td>- F: Frankenstein Volume I: Chapters I-VII (finish Volume I)</td>
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<td>TH 3.21</td>
<td>- BB: Humphry Davy, Discourse&lt;br&gt;- BB: Erasmus Darwin, from The Temple of Nature and Zoonomia</td>
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<td>T 3.26</td>
<td>- F: Frankenstein Volume II: Chapters I-V&lt;br&gt;  o BB: The Sublime</td>
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<td>TH 3.28</td>
<td>- F: Frankenstein Volume II: Chapters V-end of volume&lt;br&gt;  o Appendix B: The Education of Mary Shelley (pp. 223-238) - Wollstonecraft selections</td>
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<td>T 4.2</td>
<td>- Frankenstein Volume III: Chapters I-IV&lt;br&gt;  o Appendix B: The Education of Mary Shelley (pp. 223-238) - Godwin selections</td>
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<td>TH 4.4</td>
<td>- Frankenstein Volume III: Chapters V-end of book</td>
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<td>T 4.9</td>
<td>- RWL: Research Paper&lt;br&gt;- Bring Frankenstein to class</td>
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<td>TH 4.11</td>
<td>➤ ESSAY #3 DUE @11:00AM in Blackboard Dropbox&lt;br&gt;Atwood, Oryx and Crake (Bring to Class)&lt;br&gt;RWL: Chapter 9: Literary Criticism and Literary Theory</td>
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**SPRING BREAK**

**UNIT II: HISTORICISM**

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### UNIT III: CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE AND CRITICISM

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 4.16</td>
<td>Oryx and Crake 1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 4.18</td>
<td>Oryx and Crake 4-6</td>
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<td>T 4.23</td>
<td>BB: Freud, The Uncanny + Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 4.25</td>
<td>Oryx and Crake 7-9</td>
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<td>T 4.30</td>
<td>Oryx and Crake 10-13</td>
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<td>TH 5.2</td>
<td>BB: “Why Study English?”</td>
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<td>Final Exam Review</td>
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**FINAL EXAM**

Tuesday, May 7th @ 10:30am-12:30pm