

English 6336: Challenging the Canon

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Office Hours: TR: 11:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m., or by appointment

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Course Description

Throughout the semester, we will study books that challenge the American literary canon, which are texts that not considered critically acclaimed, classic, influential, etc. We will focus on the historical context and major trends in American literature. We will consider why certain authors, such as Stephen King, Octavia Butler, Bob Dylan, etc. are not often anthologized. We will gain a better understanding of problematic issues in American history and culture in relation to non-canonical texts.

Texts:

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft: ISBN-13 : 978-1982159375

Kindred: ISBN-13 : 978-0807083697

Other Readings Posted on Blackboard

Your Semester Grade

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Discussion Board/ Participation | 20% |
| Lesson Plan and Presentation: | 25% |
| Research Assignments | 15% |
| Seminar Paper | 40% |

Discussion Posts

Discussion posts are vital because allow us to mimic a face-to-face classroom experience. They allow students and the instructor to exchange ideas and learn from one another. These posts will be due at the end of the week, and although students must post at least one comment per week, except on weeks when I have scheduled an exam, they may post as many times as they wish and respond to as many posts as they like. Although I encourage students to feel free to voice their opinions when they relate to the subject being discussed, **I expect members of this class to respect and show concern for all members of the class when participating in these discussion boards.**

Research Assignments

A seminar paper takes an entire semester to work on, so students need to begin work on the paper as soon as the class begins. Every-other week, students will complete work that will aid them in the research and writing of the paper.

- Annotated Bibliography – A list of **ten sources** with a complete bibliographical citation for a critical work followed by two sentences explaining the overall argument of the critical work.
- Abstract – a paragraph explaining the overall argument of the seminar paper. The abstract must have a clear thesis statement.
- Outline – a two page outline that clearly describes the major topics and subtopics that will be discussed in the paper. The outline must be organized and well-developed.

Seminar Paper

This paper is a longer, individual paper (10-12 pages) over one or more major text(s) we will be evaluating over the semester. Students will use the Research Assignments they work on over the course of the summer session and apply their research to this paper. Students will consult the ALA website and include information on legislation related to the text(s) discussed in the paper. Students are expected to read, evaluate, and respond to the text(s) critically and deepen their understanding of the text(s). Students must include at least **five citations** in their paper, and will preferably come from sources in the Annotated Bibliography, but they may be different sources. (see MLA Handbook for guidelines or the OWL at Purdue:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>)

Lesson Plan and Presentation: A Lesson Plan discussing at least one of the works we covered this semester. These Lesson Plans must state specific goals, explain what is being assessed, and include at least one sample assignment that students will complete. In addition to this lesson plan, will prepare a 20-minute presentation discussing their approach to teaching certain text(s).

Use of Technology

Assignments must be uploaded on 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. This is an online course, and **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. Make sure to upload all assignments in the designated content area labeled “Assignments” on Blackboard.

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 the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented.

Schedule of Readings, Lectures, Assignments, and Exams

(Tentative and Subject to Change)

Week 1

Lectures

The American Literary Canon

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

Assignments due 6/12:

Discussion Board Post

Week 2

Lectures

Kindred

Exerpts from Underrepresented Groups

Assignments due 6/19:

Abstract (250 Words)

Annotated Bibliography (10 sources)

Week 3

Lectures

Graphic Novels

Excerpts from *Freeforall*, *Maus I*, *American Born Chinese*, *The Watchmen*

Assignments due 6/26:

Discussion Board Post

Outline (2 pp)

Week 4

Lectures

Literature, Music, and Spoken Word
Excerpts from YaYa, Hilborn, Falu, Bob Dylan

No Assignments due this week

Week 5

Lectures

Excerpt from *The Lottery* (graphic version)
Young Adult/Children's Literature selections

Assignments due 7/10:

Discussion Board Post

Week 6

Lectures

Students' Choice
Conferences

Assignments due 7/17:

Summer Seminar Paper due

Week 7

Lectures

Sample Lesson Plan and Presentation
Conferences

Assignments due 7/24:

Lesson Plan

Week 8

Assignment due by 7/29

Presentations