

Introduction to Literature

ENGL-2001

Fall 2020 Section E03 3 Credits 08/12/2020 to 12/05/2020 Modified 08/12/2020

In this class we will develop foundational English studies skills necessary to read and interpret literary texts. In particular, we will learn what to look for while reading fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and film. We will gain vocabulary to discuss the relationship between form and content, and will practice finding meaning in literature. We will use techniques of literary analysis, apply literary studies terminology, and demonstrate an ability to move from descriptive observations about literary texts to larger claims about their meaning, context, and significance. We will also cultivate the ability to put our own ideas into writing and into conversation with others.

Description

A course that introduces students to the conventions of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and film with the goal of developing collegiate-level reading and interpretation skills. Required for English majors. May count for credit in Area C.2.

Requisites

Prerequisites:

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Matt Franks

Email: mfranks@westga.edu

Email is always the best way to contact me. Email me with any questions, or to set up a time to meet!

Office Hours

Thursdays 1-4

Virtual Office Hours

Drop in anytime Thursdays 1-4 for online office hours here: meet.google.com/ijv-pjuy-wbn (<https://meet.google.com/ijv-pjuy-wbn?hs=122&authuser=1>)

Meeting Times

This is a fully online course, so we will have no meetings or synchronous activities. All course work will be due each week on Fridays by noon. This class is not self-paced, which means you cannot get ahead of everyone else. I will release each week's activities on Fridays by noon for the upcoming week.

Materials

The Norton Introduction to Literature, Portable 13th edition

Author: Mays, Kelly

Publisher: W.W. Norton

ISBN: 9780393420463

This textbook is required for the course.

Additional required readings are available in CourseDen under Content.

You may have to purchase access to two of the films we watch as a class: *Amelie* (2001) and *Moonlight* (2016).

Outcomes

Students will learn to:

- Identify and apply the vocabulary of literary study to interpret poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, & film (*we will do this by reading and applying literary terms from our course anthology in class workshops, discussions, tests, and writing assignments*)
- Evaluate and analyze themes, conventions, and form in written and verbal coursework (*we will do this every day in our class discussions and you will demonstrate this in your writing*)
- Develop and demonstrate metacognitive skills such as annotating, summarizing, re-reading, and formulating theoretical questions (*our in-class worksheets and workshops will be focused on practicing these skills*)

Evaluation

Criteria

See assignment sheets for detailed description, requirements, and rubrics for all assignments

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Short Assignments	25%	All topics	Graded pass/fail
Annotations & Notes	5%	Fiction	Graded based on assignment rubric
Response Paper	10%	Poetry	Graded based on assignment rubric
Essay	20%	Fiction, Poetry, or Drama	Graded based on assignment rubric
Tests	15%	Fiction, Poetry, and Drama	Graded based on points
Participation	25%	All topics	Graded based on participation rubric (https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098750/viewContent/37849714/View)

Breakdown

Grades with a rubric are assigned as follows:

Grade	Range	Notes
A+	98-100	A+ = 98 for assignments with a rubric
A	93-97	A = 95 for assignments with a rubric
A-	90-92	A- = 92 for assignments with a rubric
B+	88-89	B+ = 88 for assignments with a rubric
B	83-87	B = 85 for assignments with a rubric

Grade	Range	Notes
B-	80-82	B- = 82 for assignments with a rubric
C+	78-79	C+ = 78 for assignments with a rubric
C	73-77	C = 75 for assignments with a rubric
C-	70-72	C- = 72 for assignments with a rubric
D+	68-69	D+ = 68 for assignments with a rubric
D	63-67	D = 65 for assignments with a rubric
D-	60-62	D- = 62 for assignments with a rubric
F	0-59	F = 55 for assignments with a rubric

Assignments

All assignment sheets are in CourseDen, under Assignments.

Short Assignments

These assignments consist of worksheets, freewrites, collaborative activities, and other short writing activities that you'll use to hone your close reading and critical thinking skills. These assignments are pass/fail, so if you do them and put in effort, you'll earn a passing grade (*learning outcomes #1-3*).

Due weekly on Fridays by noon

Annotations & Notes

An assignment that asks you to annotate a short fictional text we have read and compile notes on what elements of fiction you notice (*learning outcome #3*). See the [assignment sheet](#) (<https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098750/viewContent/37849762/View>) for details.

Due Friday, September 11 by noon

Response Paper

A short informal interpretation of one of the poems we have read (*learning outcomes #1-2*). See the [assignment sheet](#) (<https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098750/viewContent/37849764/View>) for details.

Due Friday, October 16 by noon

Essay

Drawing on your skills developed throughout the semester as a whole, you will produce a polished, 3-4-page paper that uses your close reading skills to offer an argument for an interpretation of a central issue in one of the texts we have read over the semester (*learning outcomes #1-2*). See the [assignment sheet](#) (<https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098750/viewContent/37849763/View>) for details.

Due Friday, December 4 by noon

Tests

Three 30-minute tests that will assess your knowledge of and ability to discuss the elements of fiction, poetry, and drama we learn (*learning outcome #1*). See the [test prep sheet](#) (<https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098750/viewContent/37849765/View>) for help on studying for the tests.

Due by noon on Friday, September 18 (Fiction); Friday, October 23 (Poetry); Friday, November 13 (Drama)

Participation

This is a discussion-based course, so contributing to our virtual discussions every week is a major part of your grade. Participation is graded based on the quality and quantity of your comments in online discussions (*learning outcomes #1-3*). See the [online discussion grading rubric \(https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098750/viewContent/37849714/View\)](https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098750/viewContent/37849714/View) for details.

All discussion posts due weekly on Fridays at noon (no late discussion posts allowed)

Schedule

All weekly coursework will be due on Fridays at noon. You will not get credit for late discussion posts.

When	Topic	Notes
Friday, August 14	Week 0.5: Introduction to the class	Complete your first weekly checklist (https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=2098750&type=content&rcode=usgx-20293138) by noon.
Unit 1: Fiction		
Friday, August 21	Week 1: The Elements of Literature & Intro to Fiction	Read Mays: Introduction, p. 1-13 Read Mays: Introduction to Fiction & Carver story, p. 16-38 Complete your weekly checklist by noon
Friday, August 28	Week 2: Plot & Narration	Read Mays: Plot & Ellison story, p. 48-63 Read Mays: Narration and Point of View, Poe story, p. 77-93
Friday, September 4	Week 3: Character & Setting	Read Mays: Character & Morrison story, p. 94-115 Read Mays: Setting, p. 122-126 & Tan story, p. 130-144
Friday, September 11	Week 4: Symbol, Figurative Language, & Theme	Read Mays: Symbol & Figurative Language & Hawthorne story, p. 147-164 Read Mays: Theme & Crane story, p. 184-205 Due: Annotation & Notes Assignment
Unit 2: Nonfiction		
Friday, September 18	Week 5: Literary Nonfiction	Read Chalykoff: Introduction to Literary Nonfiction Read Woolf, Professions for Women Read Anzaldua, How to Tame a Wild Tongue Due: Fiction Test
Unit 3: Poetry		
Friday, September 25	Week 6: Intro to Poetry & Speaker	Read Mays: Introduction to Poetry, p. 398-422 Read Mays: Speaker, p. 428-436
Friday, October 2	Week 7: Situation & Language	Read Mays: Situation & Setting, p. 442-456 Read Mays: Language, p. 476-482
Friday, October 9	Week 8: Visual Imagery, Figures of Speech, & Symbol	Read Mays: Visual Imagery and Figures of Speech, p. 486-498 Read Mays: Symbol, p. 503-509
Friday, October 16	Week 9: Sound & Structure	Read Mays: Sounds of Poetry, p. 517-532 Read Mays: Internal Structure, p. 536-545 Read Mays: External Form, p. 555-559 Due: Response Paper

When	Topic	Notes
Unit 4: Drama		
Friday, October 23	Week 10: Intro to Drama	Read Mays: Introduction to Drama, p. 650-669 Read Mays: Elements of Drama, p. 676-685 Due: Poetry Test
Friday, October 30	Week 11: Fences	Read Mays: Fences, p. 685-736
Friday, November 6	Week 12: Water by the Spoonful	Read Mays: Water by the Spoonful, p. 738-785
Unit 5: Film		
Friday, November 13	Week 13: Intro to Film	Read Ryan & Lenos: Introduction to Film Watch: The Best Years of Our Lives Due: Drama Test
Friday, November 20	Week 14: Amelie & Moonlight	Watch: Amelie (2001 film) Watch: Moonlight (2016 film)
Wednesday, November 25	Week 14.5: Wrapping up	
Friday, December 4	Finals Week	Due: Essay

* Course Policies and Resources

Timelines

Unless an unforeseen situation arises,

- I will return all assignments within one week from the time they are turned in
- I will respond to all emails within one 24-hour business day
- I expect that you will talk to me immediately about any concerns or issues that arise, that way I can best support your success in the class! Email is the best way to reach me, or join me in virtual office hours.

Late Work

All late assignments will be graded down by 1/3 of a grade per day (not class period!). An A paper becomes an A- if it is one day late, a B+ if it is two days late, etc.

You cannot do late discussion posts: if you do not complete your weekly posts by each Friday at noon, you will not get credit for them.

Discussion & Email Etiquette

In our online discussions and communications with one another, please be respectful of others' experiences, beliefs, and values. In general, try to follow these guidelines:

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying
- Do not attack others or their opinions
- Avoid outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake

Discussion Guidelines

To make our online discussions more like conversations and less like busywork, please follow these guidelines:

- Once 5 people have responded to a specific topic, then do not post another original response. Instead, build on what others have said in that topic to keep the discussion going.
- Respond thoughtfully, not just "I agree" or "Good point!"
- Have something new to say, don't repeat something that's already been said
- Respond to my follow-up questions to build on the existing discussion, and add your own questions for other students to answer
- If you disagree, explain why. If you agree, add something. If both, then do both!

Turning in Assignments

Your essays will be turned in on CourseDen, under assignments. It is your responsibility to ensure that your files are successfully uploaded as an attachment in .docx format. You will not receive credit for submitting files that are incompatible with Microsoft Word, are corrupted, or are empty.

Accessibility

If you have a disability or require any kind of additional support in order to succeed in this course, please let me know within the first two weeks of class.

Institutional Policies

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information# (http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGcares](#).

ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

COVID-19

Proctored Exams/Online Instruction: Students should be aware and plan ahead for the possibility of having to complete all

courses and/or exams online or in a proctored environment. This means talking with your instructors about what minimum technical requirements (software and hardware) will be required should your class move online or a student's personal needs dictate. This also includes making plans for internet access at whatever location participation may occur.

Virtual or in-person proctored exams, if your instructor should require them, may result in an additional cost to the student. Please discuss these details with your instructor or see the information provided here.

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia institutions, including the University of West Georgia, will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

Student FAQs: For more information about UWG COVID-19 guidance for students visit the [Student FAQ webpage](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php>).

Additional Items

English Program Goals

English majors will be able to:

1. Identify and assess the traditions, conventions, and contexts associated with the study of the English language and its literatures.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information and ideas from diverse oral, written, and/or visual sources.
3. Conduct research, develop organizational strategies, and compose professional documents using the academic conventions of English Studies as a discipline.