

LIT 2000: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE

20 | credits

I. General Information

Meeting days and times: T | Period 2 - 3 (8:30 AM - 10:25 AM) , R | Period 3 (9:35 AM - 10:25 AM)

Class location: TUR B310

Instructor(s):

Name: Annesha Palit

Office Building/Number: TUR 4359

Phone: (352)328-4476

Email: anneshapalit@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10am-12pm and by appointment/zoom

Course Description

This course examines the unique and changing role literature has played in individuals' lives and in society. It is centered on three deceptively simple questions: What is literature? Why do we write literature? And why do we read literature? It introduces students to a range of literary genres, from different countries and historical periods. Among the primary aims of this course is to help students develop the critical skill of analysis and interpretation. Students will also learn how formal and stylistic elements as well as historical context shape the meaning and significance of literature. By becoming more skillful readers of literature and its contexts, students become better readers of the worlds that literature addresses, develop their ability to decipher meaning from language, and better understand their own interactions with science, technology, media, commerce, and politics.

In this course, students will be assigned readings representative of a broad range of literary genres and cultures. These readings will cover a variety of literary movements and historical eras. The readings will include selections from the Western canon. Written analysis of literary works may be required. Students will be provided with opportunities to practice critical interpretation.

Prerequisites

None.

General Education Designation: Humanities.

Course Materials

- Canvas

- Google/Google books
- Bookstores

Materials will be available through the following means:

Course Reserves, UF Book stores

Materials Fee: N/A

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

In this course we will:

In addition to gaining a deeper appreciation of the expressive potential of language and the varieties of literature, students will develop a broader cultural literacy and an understanding of the changing definition and role of literature in society.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the structures and conventions of different literary genres.
- Produce original, critical readings of literary texts, using different methods of interpretation and analysis, while identifying and interpreting formal and genre-related elements in the texts.
- Critically assess the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the human experience.
- Draw connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading.
- Identify a variety of literary movements, historical eras, and/or cultural contexts.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills.

III. Graded Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Catalog](#).

Graded Components

Attendance & Participation (10%): Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll or sign-up sheet. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for every unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class. Participation: Students are expected to review the assigned readings before class. Each week will begin with a series of basic questions on the contents of the assigned readings. If students are unable to answer these questions, it will be assumed that they have not prepared the homework

and will lose 1%. Consistent participation in class discussions, demonstrated knowledge of the assigned readings will also contribute to this portion of the final grade.

Participation in Course Wiki, blog, or discussion board (20%): Before each discussion section, students are required to contribute a question or an answer to on an online discussion forum. Description of assignment: Interpretive (or Critical) questions are open-ended and are concerned with textual meaning. They ask for opinions on themes, figurative language and symbolism within the narrative. They also ask for judgments regarding the period, history, politics and ethical questions that are relevant to the text. The open-endedness of Interpretive and Critical questions--which often use phrases such as "do you think" or "why do you suppose"--indicates that there may well be neither simply "right" nor simply "wrong" answers; the success of a response is based on the evidence and reasoning students employ to support their analysis and judgment. Every discussion/questioned brought forth in the class would be seen in the light of an analytical/textual/counter contribution.

Close Reading Assignment: 750 words (15%): This assignment will test student skills in close reading, especially as that skill pertains to works of poetry and short fiction. Students will be expected to analyze a text carefully and develop an argument regarding the whole of the text through a close reading. No outside sources may be used for this assignment. The Close Reading assignment is due during the 6th week of the semester.

Critical Analysis Paper: 1,500 words (25%): This assignment asks students to combine close reading skills with critical concepts or historical information introduced in one of the supplemental readings. The goal is for students to produce a strong conceptual argument supported by textual and contextual evidence. The Critical Analysis assignment is due during the 8th week of the semester.

2 take-home exams ((15% each—30%)%): Method of assessment will be 2 on-line take-home exams (each exam is worth 15%, or together, 30% of the total grade). Take-home exams will be distributed via Canvas and will be two hours in length. The exams will be comprised of short answer and short essay questions based on readings, lectures and discussion sections. Submitted exams will be assessed for evidence of collusion.

TOTAL: 70%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-92.5
A-	92.4-89.5
B+	89.4-86.5
B	86.4-82.5
B-	82.4-79.5
C+	79.4-76.5
C	76.4-72.5
C-	72.4-69.5

Letter Grade	Number Grade
D+	69.4-66.5
D	66.4-62.5
D-	62.4-59.5
E	59.4-0

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
WEEK 1 (8/21)	INTRODUCTION: The Borders of Literature?	King, "I have a dream" speech Text and audio: http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm "Introduction: What is literature?," Terry Eagleton, <i>Literary Theory: An Introduction</i> (1983), pp. 1-15	
WEEK 2 (8/26 and 8/28)	Poetry	Emily Dickinson, "Essential oils are wrung" / Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess"	Discussion Board (8/28)
WEEK 3 (9/2 and 9/4)	Short Story	Frank O'Connor, "My Oedipus Complex" Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"	
WEEK 4 (9/9 and 9/11)	Drama	Shakespeare, <i>A Midsummer Summer Night's Dream</i>	Discussion Board (9/12)
WEEK 5 (9/16 and 9/18)	Epic	Paradise Lost - I	
WEEK 6	WRITING & REVIEW, CLOSE READING EXERCISE, TEST 1	750 words, Develop a central argument without secondary sources. Discuss beforehand which text would you choose and why.	Close reading assignment
WEEK 7 (9/29 and 10/2)	Self- Expression/Self- Construction	Rigoberta Menchú, I, Rigoberta Menchú	
WEEK 8 (10/7 and 10/9)	World Making (Cosmopoiesis)	Galileo Galilei, "Letter to Madama Cristina"	Discussion Board (10/9)
WEEK 9 (10/14 and 10/16)	Shaping Citizens: Moral Instruction	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>	
WEEK 10	REVIEW, ASSIGNMENT 2	<i>Beloved</i> Contd. (10/21) 1500 words, Critically analyze a text supplementing it with secondary sources. (10/23)	Critical Analysis assignment
WEEK 12 (10/28 and 10/30)	Exploration & Discovery	Jonathan Swift, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
WEEK 13 (11/4 and 11/6)	Moving Beyond the Self	D. H. Lawrence, "Fish", G.M Hopkins, "Pied Beauty" FIRST TAKE HOME EXAM	Short answer and short essay questions
WEEK 14 (11/13) 11/11-Holiday	Finding New Selves	Mark Haddon, <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>	
WEEK 15 (11/18 and 11/20)	New Ways of Seeing	Alison Bechdel's <i>Fun Home</i>	
WEEK 16 (12/1 and 12/3)	Conclusion: Where to now?	Does Great Literature Make Us Better? Gregory Currie. http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/06/01/does-great-literature-make-us-better/?_r=0 SECOND TAKE HOME EXAM	Short answer and short essay questions

See the UF Catalog's "[Grades and Grading Policies](#)" for information on how UF assigns grade points.

Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit.

IV. Calendar

V. University Policies and Resources

Attendance policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Students requiring accommodation

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF course evaluation process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. For additional information, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

In-class recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party-note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Procedure for conflict resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Carla Blount (cblount@ufl.edu, [352-294-2872](tel:352-294-2872)). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1308](tel:352-392-1308)) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1261](tel:352-392-1261)).

Resources available to students

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575), or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575) for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call [352-392-1161](tel:352-392-1161) for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call [352-392-1111](tel:352-392-1111) (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call [352-733-0111](tel:352-733-0111) or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call [352-273-4450](tel:352-273-4450).

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Teaching Center](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).

- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)