

LIT2000: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE
Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor	Hyunjung Kim
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Office Hours	TBA
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Section	8IL7
Class	23149
Time	MWF Period 3 (09:35 - 10:25 AM ET)
Location	Online

COURSE PRE-REQUISITE: ENC 1101

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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.

Therefore, by the conclusion of the course it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the structures and conventions of different literary genres.
2. 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.

3. Critically assess the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the human experience.
4. Draw connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading.
5. Identify a variety of literary movements, historical eras, and/or cultural contexts.
6. Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

The required texts will be selected from the following:

- John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (excerpt)
- Emily Dickinson, "Essential oils are wrung"
- Gwendolyn Brooks, "We Real Cool"
- Langston Hughes, "Theme for English B"
- Susan Glaspell, "Trifles"
- Zora Neale Hurston, "Sweat"
- Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"
- Margaret Atwood, "The animals in that country"
- Michelle Zauner, "Crying in H Mart" (Ch.1)
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
- Adrienne Rich, "Diving into the Wreck"
- Han Kang, "The Vegetarian" (Ch.1)
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- *Everything Everywhere All At Once* (2022, dir. by Daniels)

Explanation: Shorter texts such as excerpts, poems, and short stories, as well as some longer works, will be provided as PDF files on Canvas. However, students will be required to purchase certain full-length texts from the bookstore. Information about which texts need to be purchased will be provided during the first class session. You may use any edition of the written texts (Kindle, paperback, hardcover, etc.). You must have access to the film.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Summary of grading

- Attendance & participation/in-class discussion (20%)
- 1 Discussion Leader (25%)
- Midterm Close Reading of a literary text or passage (25%)
- Final Critical Analysis paper (30%)

1. Attendance & Participation (20%)

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.

2. Discussion Leader (25%)

Once during the semester, each student will lead a class discussion based on the week's designated readings. Before you lead a discussion, you will prepare a mini presentation in which you identify:

- 1-2 themes that are presented in the text and/or any relevant background info about the text (author's intentions, historical/cultural context, interviews, articles, book reviews, etc.)
- The quotes/moments that highlight your chosen theme(s)
- 1-2 discussion questions that you have for the class

You will post your work on Canvas by 8:00PM the day before the scheduled class session. The sign-up sheet will be available during the 2nd week of class.

3. Midterm Close Reading Assignment: 750 words, 25%

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

4. Final Critical Analysis Paper: 1,500 words, 30%

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 15th week of the semester.

These papers will be graded on a point scale of 1 to 10: 9-10, excellent; 8-8.9, good to very good; 7-7.9 average to good; 6-6.9, below average; below 6 is not a passing grade. All students, whatever their grade, will have the option to rewrite the essay.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- **Makeup Policy:** Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>), there will be no make-up option for missed exams or late assignments.

Where possible, make-ups should be arranged by email or in person prior to the expected absence. In case of illness, student should contact instructor on his or her return to classes.

- **Late Policy:** A class roll will be passed around at the beginning of class. If a student is late, he or she will have to sign the roll after class. Such lateness distracts other students and the instructor and will affect the student's final participation grade. Students will lose 0.5% from their final grade each time they arrive late.
- **Cell phone policy:** Students must turn cell phones to silent before coming to class. Each time a student's cell phone rings or each time that a student texts during class, 1% will be deducted from that student's final grade.

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93 (4.0)	92-90 (3.67)	89-87 (3.33)	86-83 (3.0)	82-80 (2.67)	79-77 (2.33)	76-73 (2.0)	72-70 (1.67)	69-67 (1.33)	63-66 (1.0)	62-60 (0.67)	59- (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Academic Honesty: Students are required to be honest in their coursework, may not use notes during quizzes or exams, and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of the assignment in question and/or the course. For University of Florida's honor code, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352 392-1575; <https://counseling.ufl.edu>).

Online Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing end-of-semester course evaluations via GatorEvals (<https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu>). You will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email received from GatorEvals or in the Canvas course menu under GatorEvals.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Students should note that the schedule is a guideline and may change

UNIT I – WHAT IS LITERATURE?

- WEEK 1 **INTRODUCTION: The Borders of Literature?**
Reading:
Terry Eagleton, "Introduction: What is literature?"
- WEEK 2 **Epic**
Reading:
John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (excerpt)
- WEEK 3 **Poetry**
Emily Dickinson, "Essential oils are wrung"
Gwendolyn Brooks, "We Real Cool"
Langston Hughes, "Theme for English B"
- WEEK 4 **Drama**
Reading:
Susan Glaspell, "Trifles"
- WEEK 5 **Short Story:**
Reading:
Zora Neale Hurston, "Sweat"
Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"
- WEEK 6 **REVIEW & WRITING**
MIDTERM CLOSE READING ASSIGNMENT DUE ON FRIDAY

UNIT II – WHY DO WE WRITE?

- WEEK 7 **World Making (Cosmopoiesis)**
Reading
Margarett Atwood, "The animals in that country"
- Self-Expression/Self-Construction:**
Reading:
Michelle Zauner, "Crying in H Mart" (Ch. 1)
- WEEK 8/9 **Shaping Citizens: Moral Instruction**
Reading:
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

UNIT III – WHY DO WE READ?

- WEEK 10 **Exploration & Discovery:**
Reading:
Adrienne Rich, "Diving into the Wreck"
- Finding New Selves**
Reading:
Han Kang, "The Vegetarian" (Ch. 1)
- WEEK 11/12 **New Ways of Seeing**
Reading:
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- WEEK 13 **Moving Beyond the Self**
Reading:
Everything Everywhere All At Once (2022, dir. by Daniels)
- WEEK 14 No Classes – Happy Thanksgiving!
- WEEK 15 **Conclusion: Where to now?**
Reading:
Gregory Currie, "Does Great Literature Make Us Better?"