LIT2000: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor	Sophia Espaillat			
Office	TBA			
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Time	MWF Period 3
Location	TUR B310
Section	1A24

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 genrerelated 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 following texts will be provided for you electronically via the course Canvas page:

- Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice
- Dante, Inferno, Cantos I & XXVI
- Emily Dickinson, "Essential oils are wrung"
- Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" and Jorge Luis Borges, "The Aleph"
- Camara Laye, *The Dark Child*
- Marcel Proust, Swann's Way (opening chapter)
- Toni Morrison, Beloved
- Jonathan Swift, Gulliver's Travels
- Elizabeth Bishop, "The Fish," "Roosters," and "Pink Dog"
- Jennine Capó Crucet, How to Leave Hialeah
- Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis

GRADE DISTRIBUTION: Summary of grading

- Attendance & participation/in-class discussion (10%)
- Participation in Course Wiki, blog, or discussion board (20%)
- 1 Close Reading of a literary text or passage (15%)
- 1 Critical Analysis paper (25%)
- 2 take-home exams (15% each—30%)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. 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 12th 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.

5. 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.

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

Students should note that the schedule is a guideline and may change				
	<u>UNIT I – WHAT IS LITEI</u>			
Week/Dates	Class Plans	Homework		
WEEK 1	Friday, August 22 nd	Friday, August 22 nd		
August 22 Introduction: The Borders of Literature	 Review Syllabus & Campus Resources Read/View King, "I Have a Dream" speech In-class Writing Diagnostic 	 Read "Introduction: What is literature?," Terry Eagleton, <i>Literary Theory: An</i> <i>Introduction</i> (1983), pp. 1- 15 Read Act 1 & 2 of Shakespeare, <i>The Merchant</i> <i>of Venice</i> 		
WEEK 2	Monday, August 25 th	Monday, August 25 th		
August 25-29 Drama	 Class Discussion on "Introduction: What is Literature?" 	• Read Act 3 & 4 of Shakespeare, <i>The Merchant</i> of Venice		
	 Introduction to Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Theater Class Discussion on Acts 1 & 2 of <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> Review expectations for Discussion Post #1 (QCQ) Wednesday, August 27th Class Discussion on Acts 3 & 4 of <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> Class Activity part 1 on <i>The</i> <i>Merchant of Venice</i> Friday, August 29th Class discussion based on Discussion Post #1 (QCQ) Class Activity part 2 on <i>The</i> <i>Merchant of Venice</i> 	 Complete Discussion Post #1 (QCQ) due Thursday, August 28th by 5:00 PM Wednesday, August 27th Read Act 5 of Shakespeare, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> Complete Discussion Post #1 (QCQ) by Thursday, August 28th 5:00 PM Friday, August 29th Read Dante, Inferno, Canto I 		
WEEK 3	Monday, September 1 st	Monday, September 1 st		
Sept. 1-5	LABOR DAY—NO CLASS	• Read Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , Canto I		
	Wednesday, September 3 rd	Wednesday, September 3 rd		
Epic	 Introduction to Dante, <i>The</i> <i>Divine Comedy</i> and conventions of epic poetry Class Discussion on Dante, <i>Inferno</i>, Canto I Friday, September 5th Class Discussion based on Discussion Post #2 (QCQ) 	 Read Dante, Inferno, Canto XXVI Complete Discussion Post #2 (QCQ) by Thursday September 6th 5:00 PM. Friday, September 5th Read Emily Dickenson, "Essential Oils Are Wrung" 		

CLASS SCHEDULE

	Class Activity on Dante, <i>Inferno</i> Canto XXVI	
WEEK 4 Sept. 8-12 Poetry	 Monday, September 8th Introduction to CLOSE READING EXERCISE (due 9/24) Introduction to Emily Dickinson's embodied relationship to textuality, language, genre, and poetic form Wednesday, September 10th Emily Dickinson's Love Letters to Susan Class Discussion on Dickenson's reception and contemporary perception Friday, September 12th Class Discussion based on Discussion Post #3 (QCQ) Class Activity on Dickenson's letters 	 Monday, September 8th Complete Discussion Post #3 (QCQ) by Thursday September 11th 5:00 PM. Begin looking for possible excepts for the CLOSE READING EXERCISE (due 9/24) Wednesday, September 10th Complete Discussion Post #3 (QCQ) by Thursday September 11th 5:00 PM. Friday, September 12th Read Jorge Luis Borges, "The Aleph"
WEEK 5 Sept. 15-19 Short Story	 Monday, September 15th Introduction to Magical Realism & Hermeneutics Class Discussion on Jorge Luis Borges, "The Aleph" Wednesday, September 17th Introduction to the conventions of Southern Gothic Class Discussion on Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" Friday, September 19th Class Discussion based on Discussion Post #4 Class Activity on Jorge Luis Borges, "The Aleph" and Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" 	 Monday, September 15th Read on Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" Complete Discussion Post #4 (QCQ) by Thursday September 18th 5:00 PM. Wednesday, September 17th Complete Discussion Post #4 (QCQ) by Thursday September 18th 5:00 PM. Friday, September 19th Select excerpt for CLOSE READING ACTIVITY (due 9/24) Begin studying for TEST 1 due Friday, September 26th by 11:59 PM
WEEK 6 Sept. 22-26	 Monday, September 22nd Close Reading Exercise Workshop 	Monday, September 22 nd

Test 1 Review	 Wednesday, September 24th Writing with Purpose Presentation How to Write a Strong Thesis Statement Using Statements of Logic Friday, September 26th Review for Test 1 due TONIGHT by 11:59PM 	 Complete CLOSE READING ACTIVITY due Wednesday, September 24th by 11:59 PM Wednesday, September 24th Complete CLOSE READING ACTIVITY due TODAY Wednesday, September 24th by 11:59 PM Review Class Notes/Lectures/Activities for Test 1 due Friday, September 26th Friday, September 26th Complete Test 1 due TODAY Friday, September 26th by 11:59 PM Read Chapters 1-4 of Camara Laye, The Dark Child
	UNIT II – WHY DO WE	-
WEEK 7 Sept. 29- Oct. 3 Self- Expression/ Self- Construction	 Monday, September 29th "Why Do We Write?" Presentation Introduction to Bildungsroman and conventions of African Literature Introduction to Camara Laye and <i>The Dark Child</i> Wednesday, October 1st Reading <i>The Dark Child</i> through the lens of (post)colonialism Class Discussion on Chapters 1-8 Friday, October 3rd Class Discussion based on Discussion Post #5 Class Activity on <i>The Dark</i> 	 Monday, September 29th Read Chapters 5-8 of Camara Laye, <i>The Dark Child</i> Complete Discussion Post #5 (QCQ) by Thursday October 2nd 5:00 PM. Wednesday, October 1st Read chapters 9-end of Camara Laye, <i>The Dark Child</i> Complete Discussion Post #5 (QCQ) by Thursday October 2nd 5:00 PM. Friday, October 3rd Read part 1 of Marcel Proust, "Swann's Way" (opening chapter)
WEEK 8 Oct. 6- 10 World Making (Cosmopoiesis)	Child Monday, October 6 th Introduction to Critical Analysis Paper Defining Cosmopoiesis Introduction to Marcel Proust and In Search of Lost Time	Monday, October 6 th Read part 2 of Marcel Proust, "Swann's Way" (opening chapter)

	 Class Discussion on part 1 of Marcel Proust, "Swann's Way" (opening chapter) Wednesday, October 8th Introduction to World Systems Theory Class Discussion on part 2 of Marcel Proust, "Swann's Way" (opening chapter) Friday, October 10th Class Discussion based on Discussion Post #6 Class Activity on Marcel Proust, "Swann's Way" (opening chapter) 	 Complete Discussion Post #6 (QCQ) by Thursday October 9th 5:00 PM. Wednesday, October 8th Complete Discussion Post #6 (QCQ) by Thursday October 9th 5:00 PM. Friday, October 10th Read chapters 1-9 of Toni Morrison, Beloved
WEEK 9	Monday, October 13 th	Monday, October 13 th
Oct. 13-17	• Introduction to <i>Beloved</i> and	• Read chapters 10-18 of
	the history of slavery in the	Toni Morrison, Beloved
Shaping	United States	Wednesday, October 15 th
Citizens: Moral	Class Discussion on chapters	• Read chapters 19-25 (Book
Instruction	1-9 of <i>Beloved</i>	2) of Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>
	Wednesday, October 15 th	• Complete Discussion Post
	Class Discussion on Book 1 (ab anterior 1, 10) of Balanced	#7 (QCQ) by Tuesday
	(chapters 1-18) of <i>Beloved</i>	October 21 st 5:00 PM. Friday, October 17 th
	Class Activity on Book 1 of Beloved	• Read chapters 19-25 (Book
	Friday, October 17 th	2) of Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>
	HOMECOMING—NO CLASS	Complete Discussion Post
		#7 (QCQ) by Tuesday
		October 21 st 5:00 PM.
WEEK 10	Monday, October 20 th	Monday, October 20 th
Oct. 20-24	Review Expectations for Test	• Read chapters 26-28 (Book
	2 on Friday, October 24 th	3) of Toni Morrison, Beloved
Shaping	Class Discussion on Book 2 of	Complete Discussion Post
Citizens: Moral	Toni Morrison, Beloved	#7 (QCQ) by Tuesday
Instruction	Wednesday, October 22 nd	October 21 st 5:00 PM.
(cont.) & Test 2 Review	Class Discussion based on Discussion Post #7	Wednesday, October 22 nd
NEVIEW	Discussion Post #7	• Review for Test 2 due
	Class Activity on <i>Beloved</i> Friday, October 24 th	Friday, October 24 th by 11:59 PM
	Critical Analysis Paper check	Friday, October 24 th
	in	Complete Test 2 due
	Review for Test 2	TONIGHT by 11:59 PM
		• Read chapters 1-4 of
		Jonathan Swift, "Voyage to

		the Country of the Houynhnms", <i>Gulliver's</i> <i>Travels</i> • Continue working on Critical Analysis Paper due Friday, November 7 th by 11:59 PM
WEEK 11	<u>UNIT III – WHY DO WE</u> Monday, October 27 th	<u>READ?</u> Monday, October 27 th
Oct. 27-31 Exploration & Discovery	 Introduction to Jonathan Swift, the travelogue, and satire Class Discussion on chapters 1-4 of Jonathan Swift, "Voyage 	• Read chapters 5-8 of Jonathan Swift, "Voyage to the Country of the Houynhnms", <i>Gulliver's</i>
	to the Country of the Houynhnms", <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> Wednesday, October 29 th Class Discussion on chapters 5-8 of Jonathan Swift, "Voyage	Travels Complete Discussion Post #8 (QCQ) by Thursday October 30th 5:00 PM. Wednesday, October 29 th
	to the Country of the Houynhnms", <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> Class Activity on Gulliver's Travels and satire Friday, October 31 st	• Read chapters 9-12 of Jonathan Swift, "Voyage to the Country of the Houynhnms", <i>Gulliver's</i> <i>Travels</i>
	 Class Discussion based on Discussion Post #8 	 Complete Discussion Post #8 (QCQ) by Thursday October 30th 5:00 PM. Friday, October 31st Read "The Fish" by Elizabeth Bishop
WEEK 12	Monday, November 3 rd	Monday, November 3 rd
Nov. 3-7	Review expectations for Critical Analysis Paper	• Read "Roosters" by Elizabeth Bishop
Moving Beyond the Self	 Introduction to Elizabeth Bishop & Animal Studies Close Reading Activity on "The Fish" by Elizabeth Bishop Wednesday, November 5th Ethics and the Human-Animal Relationship 	 Complete Discussion Post #9 (QCQ) by Thursday November 6th 5:00 PM. Continue working on Critical Analysis Paper due Friday, November 7th by 11:59 PM
	 Close Reading Activity on "Roosters" by Elizabeth Bishop Friday, November 7th Class Discussion based on Discussion Post #9 	 Wednesday, November 5th Read "Pink Dog" by Elizabeth Bishop Complete Discussion Post #9 (QCQ) by Thursday November 6th 5:00 PM

		Friday, November 7 th
		Critical Analysis Paper
		DUE TODAY, November 7 th
		by 11:59 PM
		• Read short stories 1-4 of
		Jennine Capó Crucet, How to
		Leave Hialeah
WEEK 13	Monday, November 10 th	Monday, November 10
Nov.10-14	Introduction to Critical	• Read short stories 5-8 of
	Analysis Presentation	Jennine Capó Crucet, How to
Finding New	assignment	Leave Hialeah
Selves	• Introduction to Literature of	• Complete Discussion Post
	Latinidad	#9 (QCQ) by Thursday
	Class Discussion on short	November 13 th 5:00 PM.
	stories 1-4 of Jennine Capó	Begin working on Critical
	Crucet, <i>How to Leave Hialeah</i>	Analysis Presentation
	Wednesday, November 12 th	assignment due Monday,
	Latinidad and	December 1 st by 9:00 AM.
	• Latinuatiand Intersectionality	Wednesday, November 12
		• Read short stories 9-11 of
	Class Activity on stories 1-8 of	
	Jennine Capó Crucet, How to	Jennine Capó Crucet, How to Leave Hialeah
	Leave Hialeah	
	Friday, November 14 th	Complete Discussion Post
	Class Discussion based on	#9 (QCQ) by Thursday
	Discussion Post #10	November 13 th 5:00 PM.
		Friday, November 14
		• Read parts 1 & 2 of Marjane
		Satrapi, Persepolis
WEEK 14	Monday, November 17 th	Monday, November 17 th
Nov. 17-21	Introduction to <i>Persepolis</i>	• Read part 3 of Marjane
	Class Discussion on parts 1 &	Satrapi, Persepolis
New Ways of	2 of Satrapi, Persepolis	Complete Discussion Post
Seeing	Wednesday, November 19 th	#10 (QCQ) by Thursday
	Literature as Graphic Media	November 20 th 5:00 PM.
	Revolution	Continue working on
	• Class Activity on parts 1-3 of	Critical Analysis
	Satrapi, Persepolis	Presentation assignment
	Friday, November 21 st	due Monday, December 1 st
	Class Discussion based on	by 9:00 AM.
	Discussion Post #11	Wednesday, November 19 th
	Review expectations for	• Read part 4 of Marjane
	Critical Analysis Presentations	Satrapi, Persepolis
		 Complete Discussion Post
		#10 (QCQ) by Thursday
		November 20 th 5:00 PM.

WEEK 15 Nov. 24-28	THANKSGIVING—NO CLASS	 Friday, November 21st Read Does Great Literature Make Us Better? Gregory Currie. Continue working on Critical Analysis Presentation assignment due Monday, December 1st by 9:00 AM.
WEEK 16 Dec. 1-5	 Monday, December 1st Critical Analysis Presentations part 1 Wednesday, December 3rd Critical Analysis Presentations part 2 Friday, December 5th READING DAY—NO CLASS 	Monday, December 1 st Critical Analysis Presentation assignment due TODAY Monday, December 1st by 9:00 AM.