English 200.005 || Introduction to Literature
Spring 2016

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 am – 9:30 am and 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Meeting Time and Location: Ferguson 381, 9:30 am – 10:45 am
Department: English

Course Description: Readings in literary genres, such as poetry, drama, short story, novel.
Prerequisite: six hours of freshman English. For this “crash course” in literature we will read
selections from four literary genres: the short story, poetry, drama, and the graphic novel. We
will learn about how to read these genres in ways approachable for the non-specialist, with
particular attention on reading for character, theme, setting, point of view, and symbolism. The
overall goal for this course is to equip you with the basic “tools” to help you read literature in
powerful and meaningful ways.

Required Texts
• The Norton Introduction to Literature, 11th edition, Kelly J. Mays, editor
• Snow by Orhan Pamuk

Required Web Access
You will need to have access to d2l.sfasu.edu in order to get access to course materials, submit
assignments, and take reading quizzes. Please make sure to configure your d2l account as soon
as possible. I will accept no lack of accessibility excuses for missing assignments, quizzes, etc.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To learn about various literary genres;
2. To learn about specific literary terms and concepts useful in the reading and
   understanding of drama, poetry, and the short story;
3. To apply one’s knowledge of those terms and concepts in the discussing and writing
   about the literature;
4. To consider the ways in which cultural and historical contexts inform literature, and in
   turn how literature informs and shapes cultures and cultural experiences and exchanges;
5. To explore how personal reactions to literature can enrich our understanding and
   appreciation of literature; and
6. To learn about and put into practice basic skills for writing critically about literature in
   short writing assignments and in the exams.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
5. To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the humanities and arts.
6. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Category</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework, Quizzes, In-class Activities</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course Requirements

- Essays – All essays need to be in MLA style and will be electronically submitted on d2l.
- Quizzes – These will be on the reading assignments and most will need to be completed before coming to class on the due date of the reading.
- In-Class Writing – These in-class activities will be given on the day of class and will serve as exercises to develop your abilities as a critical reader and writer. They will also serve as quizzes to test your readiness for class and engagement with the reading material.
- Homework – these will be short essay or short answer assignments (submitted electronically) that will help with developing your writing and your understanding of important course materials.
- Attendance and Participation - You are expected to be prepared (have read the assigned work and completed the homework) and actively participate in class discussions. It is important that you are respectful of class time. Your participation grade will rely on attendance, discussion, and class activities, as well as your ability to participate in these activities without being disruptive. Use of cell phones or any other electronic device is not allowed.

Essays and Homework:

1. All homework is to be typed and turned in on the due date.
2. I will not accept hand-written homework.
3. For the major essays, I require an online submission through d2l before or on the due date and time.
4. All work needs to adhere to MLA format with appropriate documentation.
5. You may not use essays or assignments you have previously written.
6. I will not accept emailed assignments.
In-Class Writing and Written Homework: This is a reading and writing intensive course and as such we will be doing a great deal of writing. We will have frequent in-class writing sessions, which will aid your essay development process.

Attendance: You are expected to be in class and actively participate.

• I will allow 3 excused and/or unexcused absences.
• I will have your final grade dropped by 10 points per absence starting with the 4\textsuperscript{th}.
• Students with 6 or more absences (excused or unexcused) who fail to drop the course will receive an F for the semester.
• The absences that count as excused will be documented family emergencies, university sanctioned events, and extreme medical issues (hospitalization).
• However, as an appointment to see a doctor can be made at a time outside of class, I will not recognize it as an excused absence.
• All excused absences must have proper documentation.
• An excused absence does not also excuse the homework that is due for that day. You are responsible for all the work that is due for the class missed and the next.
• In case of an excused absence, homework needs to be turned in on the next day you are in class.

Tardiness:

• If you are not present when attendance is taken at the beginning of class, it is your responsibility to notify me at the end of class that you are present.
• If you fail to notify me at the end of class and instead claim attendance later in the semester, I will not change the record unless you have documented proof of attendance.
• If you are more than 15 minutes late to class, you will automatically be counted absent.
• If you are consistently late to class, your participation grade will drop.

Late Work:

• All assigned work will be due at class time
• If you have an assignment due but cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to have the work turned in by class time.
• Late work will not be accepted, unless:
• You have a documented emergency AND I have been notified 24 hours prior to the due date, your work will not be considered late but will be due on the day of your return to class (proper documentation must be shown for failing to turn in an assignment on time).
• Make-up quizzes and tests (which will be given only in the case of documented, excused absences, must be taken during my office hours on your own initiative within one week of the absence, and they may be somewhat more challenging (hence different) than the original versions.

Classroom Disturbance

If you are disrespectful, rude, or inconsiderate to me or anyone in the class, you will be asked to leave for the day and you will be counted absent.

• If you continually disrupt class you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent.
• Computer use is not necessary for this class therefore, use of laptops or tablets will not be allowed during class.
• Please **turn off your cell** phones when class starts. If you are found to be text messaging, or surfing the net, you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent.
• No iPods or mp3 players during class. You will be asked to leave and will be counted absent if you are found using these during class.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
A recent policy from the Provost’s Office states, “Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. **Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.”

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):**

I will accept no excuse for plagiarism! If you are using an author’s ideas, please give them proper credit by citing them. If you are not sure whether or not you are plagiarizing, please contact me during my office hours or send an email to me and we can discuss the issue. If you are caught plagiarizing you will fail the assignment (receive zero points) and appropriate paperwork will be filed with the academic dean.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will
automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**AARC**
The Academic Assistance Resource Center offers a free tutoring/writing assistance service to all students at SFASU. You are encouraged to seek help from this center throughout the semester.

**Discrimination/Harassment Policy:**
No one will be discriminated against or harassed on the basis of gender, age, size, ethnicity/race, religion, disability, or any other categories. If discrimination/harassment takes place (either reported or observed) involved students will be required to conference with me prior to returning to class. More information on this topic can be found here: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/discrim_complaints_sexual_hrsmnt.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/discrim_complaints_sexual_hrsmnt.asp)

**MySFA**
Per SFASU policy (as stated at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/email_uni_comm.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/email_uni_comm.asp)), your SFASU-assigned e-mail address is considered an official method of communication from faculty to students. Thus, it is your responsibility to check, on a regular and frequent basis, for any e-mail messages that I may have need to send regarding this course. Such messages may direct you to the mySFA/Blackboard area of this course for additional materials or instructions. Often, I will post schedule updates or announcements on d2l.sfasu.edu as well. Make sure you check frequently.
Course Calendar

The following schedule is tentative. No due dates will be moved up, and I’ll try to keep changes to a minimum.

Tuesday, January 19: Introduction to course; Syllabus.
    **Homework for Thursday:** Read The Art of (Reading) Poetry: An Album (all of the Poems in the album p. 875)

Thursday, January 21: Introduction to poetry; Discuss reading.
    **Homework for Tuesday:** Read Exploring Gender: An Album (Wagoner, Ortiz Cofer, Howe, Hicok, and Hayes) p. 903.

Tuesday, January 26: Discuss reading.
    **Homework for Thursday:** Read Homelands: An Album (Angelou, Walcott, Ortiz Cofer, Shahid Ali) p. 939.

Thursday, January 28: Discuss reading.
    **Homework for Tuesday:** Read “The Elephant in the Village of the Blind” p. 13.

Tuesday, February 2: Introduction to short fiction. **Homework #1 Due** – turn in on D2L in the corresponding Dropbox folder.
    **Homework for Thursday:** Read Saunders’ “Puppy” p. 173.

Thursday, February 4: Discuss reading; point of view; narrative voice.
    **Homework for Tuesday:** Read Carver’s “Cathedral” p. 33.

Tuesday, February 9: Discuss reading; first person narrative.
    **Homework for Thursday:** Read Alexie’s “Flight Patterns” p. 54.

Thursday, February 11: Narrative structure.
    **Homework for Tuesday:** Read Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings.”

Tuesday, February 16: Discuss character.
    **Homework for Thursday:** Read Danticat’s “A Wall of Fire Rising” p. 368.

Thursday, February 18: Discuss Symbolism.
    **Homework for Tuesday:** Read Faulkner “A Rose for Emily” p. 730.

Tuesday, February 23: Discuss Faulkner.
    **Homework for Tuesday, March 1:** Read Attwood “Happy Endings” p. 765.

Thursday, February 25: **Class Cancelled** – Professor attends SCOLAS Conference.

Tuesday, March 1: Discuss Attwood.
Thursday, March 3: **Midterm Exam**

Tuesday, March 8: Introduction to drama. Screening.
   **Homework for Thursday:** Read Williams’ “A Streetcar Named Desire” p. 1815.
Thursday, March 10: Screening and Play.

Tuesday, March 15: Spring Break
Thursday, March 17: Spring Break

Tuesday, March 22: Drama continued.
Thursday, March 24: Easter Break
   **Homework for Tuesday, March 29:** Read Soyinka’s “Death and the King’s Horseman” p. 2177.

Tuesday, March 29: Discuss Soyinka.
   **Homework for Thursday:** Read Sophocle’s *Antigone*.
Thursday, March 31: Discuss Antigone.
   **Homework for Tuesday:** Read Sophocle’s *Antigone*.

Tuesday, April 5: Discuss Reading. **Writing Project Due** – turn in on D2L in the corresponding Dropbox folder.
   **Homework for Thursday:** Read Chapters 1-5 of *Snow*.
Thursday, April 7: Introduction to novel; discuss reading
   **Homework for Tuesday:** Reach chapters 6-11 of *Snow*.

Tuesday, April 12: Discuss reading.
   **Homework for Thursday:** Read Chapters 12-17 of *Snow*.
Thursday, April 14: Discuss reading.
   **Homework for Tuesday:** Read Chapters 18-23 of *Snow*.

Tuesday, April 19: Discuss reading.
   **Homework for Thursday:** Read Chapters 24-29 of *Snow*.
Thursday, April 21: Discuss reading. **Homework #2 Due** – turn in on D2L in the corresponding Dropbox folder.
   **Homework for Tuesday:** Read Chapters 30 - 35 of *Snow*.

Tuesday, April 26: Discuss reading.
   **Homework for Thursday:** Read Chapters 36-41 of *Snow*.
Thursday, April 28: Discuss Reading.
Homework for Tuesday: Read Chapters 41-44 of Snow.

Tuesday, May 3: Discuss reading.
Thursday, May 5: Last Day of Class

Tuesday, May 10: Finals Week.
Thursday, May 12: Finals Week.