

This is preliminary syllabus. A complete course syllabus will be available at the start of the semester. 1

ENGL WOMS 2329: American Literature

"Banned Books and Other Controversial Media"

Maymester 2013

Class Dates: May 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30; Final Exam = May 31

Time: 1-4:45pm

COBA 253

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Course Description: This course provides a general introduction to the study of American literature through a focus on banned books and other controversial media. Students will consider the role of literature in society, the debates and disagreements about language, content, purpose and audience that cause some books to be banned and censored, as well as how authors contend with the silencing of their writing.

Required Texts:

Students must purchase these editions of the required texts, even if other editions are available. Online/electronic editions are NOT ACCEPTABLE substitutes. Students must have the hard copies of these books and will not be allowed to remain in class if they do not have the book on the day it is being discussed. Laptops, Kindles, iPads, tablet computers, and cellphones are NOT ALLOWED in class.

- 1) Walt Whitman. *Leaves of Grass: The First (1855) Edition*. Penguin Books. ISBN: 9780140421996 [\[amazon link\]](#)
- 2) Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*. Perennial. ISBN: 0060930187 [\[amazon link\]](#)
- 3) Sherman Alexie. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Little, Brown. ISBN: 978-0-316-01369-7 [\[amazon link\]](#)

Additional reading materials will be provided through Blackboard. Students are required to print and bring HARD COPIES of these materials to class on the days they are being discussed.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify characteristics of certain literary and media genres: poetry, fiction, autobiography, film, and children's literature.
- Analyze the meanings of literary and visual texts.
- Identify and explain the literary, historical, and social/political contexts of assigned texts.
- Explain and analyze how context shapes the composition, reception, and interpretation of texts.

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- Develop and support original analytical arguments about literary texts.
- Employ effective collaborative skills in group environments
- Utilize proper MLA citation and bibliographic form.

COURSE POLICIES

A full description of course policies will be available at the start of the semester.

Attendance Policy: Because of the unique structure of the Maymester intersession, the course moves swiftly over a great deal of material. For this reason, attendance is mandatory and no excused absences will be granted without evidence of medical or family emergency. Students will be deducted 5 points for EVERY HOUR OF CLASS they miss. **Missing 4 hours of the course (or one full day) will result in an automatic F for the course.**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based

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academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Electronic Communication Policy: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Support Services Available: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The

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purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.