

ENGL 5324: **WHITMAN**

Summer II 2012

TR 1-5pm

Preston Hall 301

Dr. Desirée Henderson

Office: University Hall 223

Office phone: 817.272.3131

Email: dhenderson@uta.edu

Office hours: By appointment

**Required text:** Whitman, *Leaves of Grass and Other Writings*; ed. Moon; Norton Critical Edition, 2002; ISBN 978-0-393-97496-6

**Recommended text:** Wolosky, *The Art of Poetry: How to Read a Poem*; Oxford UP, 2008; ISBN 978-0195371185

This text is recommended for any students who are less familiar with the study of poetry or who would benefit from a general guide to poetic terminology and analytical approaches.

**Course Description:** This course provides an intensive study of the poetry of Walt Whitman. Drawing upon a range of critical approaches, including material book history, gender and sexuality studies, critical race studies, and popular culture studies, we will explore Whitman's poetic innovations, how his poems were received, the political valences of his writing, the prevailing trends in Whitman Studies, and his influence on contemporary poets. Throughout, we will also discuss strategies for teaching poetry, in general, and Whitman's poems, in particular.

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

- Identify the main critical debates within Whitman Studies.
- Identify and explain the historical, literary, or social/political context(s) of assigned texts.
- Explain and analyze how context shapes the composition, reception, and interpretation of texts.
- Critically analyze Whitman's poetry within historical, cultural, or literary contexts.

**Grading Policy/Requirements:**

Poetry Explications (4)	10%
Guided Discussion/Presentation	20%
Pedagogy Assignment	30%
Research Essay	40%

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:** Weekly 2 page poetry explications, one "oral presentation" (leading discussion of a poem), Pedagogy

Assignment (details TBA, 3 pages minimum) and a traditional Research Essay (10 pages minimum). Due dates are provided below.

**Attendance & Participation:** Attendance is mandatory. Excessive absences will result in an “F” for the course. Be sure to talk to Dr. Henderson if you must miss class. Participation is a very important part of every class, as well as a crucial element of the learning process. Graduate students are held to a high standard in this regard. You are expected to complete the assigned reading by the day of class and come prepared to discuss the issues and questions of the course.

**Late Policy:** Explications will not be accepted late. Presentations may be rescheduled only if the absence is excused. Pedagogy Assignment and Research Essay will only be accepted late with evidence of medical or family emergency. Assignments will not be accepted over email unless specified in advance by the professor. Assignments submitted over email are not considered “turned in” until a hard copy has been submitted.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**Academic Dishonesty:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

**Americans With Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability). Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them 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. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

**Electronic Communication Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. *Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.* Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

**Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at 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. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources) for more information.

## ENGL 5324 Reading & Assignment Schedule

All Whitman poems are in the *Norton Critical Edition of Whitman's Leaves of Grass*.  
MS = MavSpace

NOTE: All assignment prompts and some assigned reading (marked by MS below) will be available through the course MavSpace folder. Hard copies will not be provided; students are responsible for printing anything they require in hard copy. Students are expected to bring all reading to class on the day it is assigned, either in print or electronic form.

Go to: [https://mavspace.uta.edu/xythoswfs/webui/\\_xy-3990591\\_1-t\\_ZAetXhAB](https://mavspace.uta.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-3990591_1-t_ZAetXhAB)

Password: XXXXX

7/10	Introduction (bring Whitman and Wolosky books)
7/12	Explication #1 due.  Whitman, 1855 edition of <i>Leaves of Grass</i> : begin with 1855 preface (616-636) and then the text of the poems (662-751)
7/17	Guest: Dr. Kulesz on "Song of Myself"  Whitman, "Song of Myself" 1891-2 edition (26-78); letters between Whitman and Emerson (636-646); skim early criticism (starts p. 793) "Introduction" to Norton Critical Ed. (focus on xxvii-xxxvi, xlvi-l) Folsom, "Whitman Making Books" (online) <a href="http://whitmanarchive.org/criticism/current/anc.00150.html">http://whitmanarchive.org/criticism/current/anc.00150.html</a>
7/19	Explication #2 due.  Whitman, "Children of Adam" and "Calamus" (all poems); "The Sleepers" Erkkila, "Whitman and the Homosexual Republic" (MS)
7/24	Peter Coviello, "Intimate Nationality: Anonymity and Attachment in Whitman." <i>American Literature</i> 73.1 (March 2001): 85-119.
7/26	Explication #3 due. Guest: Dr. Morris on "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"  Whitman, "Sea Drift" (all poems); "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"; "This Compost"; "Song of the Redwood-Tree"  Outka, Paul. "(De)composing Whitman." <i>ISLE</i> 12 (Winter 2005): 41-60.

	Killingsworth, M. Jimmie. "As if the beasts spoke': The Animal/ Animist/ Animated Walt Whitman." <i>Walt Whitman Quarterly Review</i> 28 (Summer/ Fall 2010): 19-35.
7/31	Whitman, "Drum Taps" and "Memories of Lincoln" (all poems) Thomas, "Fratricide and Brotherly Love" (MS)
8/2	Explication #4 due.  Folsom, "Lucifer and Ethiopia" (MS)
8/7	Pedagogy Assignment due Reading TBA
8/9	Poem Presentations (wrap up)
8/13	Research Essay due