**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

**American Literature**

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| **Professor: Bethany Shaffer**  |   |
| **Email:****bshaffer@uta.edu**  | **Office Hours:** Tuesday's from 7:00-7:30am and by appointment. |
| **Office: 209 Carlisle Hall** |   |

**Texts and Materials:**

·   Course material will be available online and accessed through Blackboard.

·   You should have access to Power Point, MS WORD, AdobeReader, Java and other software necessary to view all aspects of the ENGL 2329 Distance Education course.

**Course Description:**

Consideration of significant American works with a focus on ideas and the ways in which they reflect cultural and aesthetic values; emphasis on critical methods of reading, writing, and thinking; at least three genres and six authors considered.

**Course Goals:**

·   To encourage students to see that literary studies matter and to foster enjoyment of literature, as students engage with ideas and beliefs in ways that extend beyond English classes.

·   To help students recognize that literature does not occur as isolated literary events, but as complex dialogue within cultural and historical contexts.

·   To develop students' ability to read critically by studying a variety of literary elements.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

·   Students should be able to demonstrate their understanding of and their ability to analyze literary texts both in writing and in online written discussion.

·   Students should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of a variety of literary terms and elements.

·   Students should be able to identify a variety of literary elements within literary texts.

·   Students should be able to conduct research using the internet and UTA Library resources.

·   Students should be able to demonstrate ability to utilize technology in a variety of forms.

**Assignments and Grade Calculation:**

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| **Categories of Assignments** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| **Daily Assignments:** | **20 %** |
| * Quizzes:

o    These brief quizzes are objective and serve to check your reading. These are timed and are to be taken independently without assistance from a book, online information, notes, or other people. The Research Report for Visual Essay also counts as a quiz grade. | 15% |
| * Discussion posts

o    In order to receive  points, your discussion post should address the lesson prompt. Your comments must be thoughtful and based on your careful analysis of the text, but also demonstrate that you are aware of what others on the discussion board have written.  | 10% |
| **Essays** | **45%** |
| * Artistic Response to War
 | 10% |
| * Short Story Essay
 | 10% |
| * Poetry Essay
 | 10% |
| * Visual Essay
 | 15% |
| **Exams:** | **35%** |
| * Short Story Exam
* Poetry Exam
 | 15% |
| * Final Exam
 | 15% |
| **TOTAL** | **100%** |

**Scale for final course grades:**

90 to 100 percent        A

80 to 89 percent          B

70 to 79 percent          C

60 to 69 percent          D

0 to 59 percent            F

**Course Policies:**

You must complete all assignments and quizzes by the due dates. No late work is accepted.Computer malfunctions do not constitute excuses for missing work or turning in work late. All due dates for the assignments and quizzes are listed in the course schedule. College students are expected to work independently and to complete assignments on time. It is important to look ahead in order to understand when major assignments are due. Most successful students mark due dates on a planner or calendar.

All course information, videos, web links, and audios are required “readings” for all students. Most lessons include a quiz that not only assesses understanding and comprehension of the literary texts, but also poses questions found in the historical context readings and the video/audio selections. Quiz questions have been tested in several previous classes. Before questioning the viability of an answer, please review course material for that quiz. Then contact your instructor if you have a question.

Your instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 hours.  Course work will be graded and returned in a timely manner. Assignments and discussion wil generally be evaluated within 10 days after due date. Major essays and exams will be evaluated within two weeks after due date. Your instructor will notify you if unexpected delays in grading do occur.

**Participation:**

You should read/watch all assigned material and complete all assignments carefully and thoughtfully. As you read, think critically about the material in order to generate ideas and questions from your analysis. It is expected that students in this course will actively and appropriately engage in online discussions and participate online in collaborative learning situations.

**E-Culture Policy:**

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success.  In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email. All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at [www.uta.edu/email](http://www.uta.edu/email).  New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses.  There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington.  Students are responsible for checking their email regularly. Keep in mind that tone is often lost in an email. Please be professional and courteous in all correspondence and in all discussions.

  You must be proficient in MS Word, MS Power Point and other basic personal computing skills to be successful in this course. We do not provide training on basic computer use or internet access issues.

**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](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/kulesz%40exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=5233293095be4711b2fe005629e117a6&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.uta.edu%2fresources) for more information.

**Academic Integrity:**

Your work is to be your own, and it is to be prepared originally for this course. It is considered academic dishonesty to present work done by someone else and to claim it as your own. It is also inappropriate to hand in a paper or portions of a paper written for another class--including high school and college courses you have taken or in which you are currently enrolled. Any borrowed information (from books, websites, and other sources) should include the correct documentation to identify it as originating elsewhere. Academic dishonesty of any type (plagiarism, cheating, preparing work for others, someone else doing yoru work, etc.) is unacceptable even if you do it accidentally. All instances of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to UTA policy and procedures, and I will send a copy of questionable work to the Office of Student Conduct to be kept on file. I also reserve the right to award zeros on assignments and/or an F in the entire course to any student who engages in any type of 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, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

**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.   Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in Room 102 of University Hall, or call them at (817) 272-3364.

**The Writing Center:**

The English Writing Center, is located in Room 411 Central Library.  Hours are Mondays-Thursdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Students must register first at [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl). Choose the <Register> tab on the left and choose <Click Here> for first visit. Once the registration form is complete, students may schedule appointments online at [www.uta.edu/owl/appointments](http://www.uta.edu/owl/appointments) or [http://uta.mywconline.com](http://uta.mywconline.com/).

Face-to-Face and online appointments begin on the hour and are scheduled for 45 minutes. Writing Center consultants assist with any aspect of writing, from understanding an assignment, brainstorming, revising an early draft, to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; consultants will not correct grammar or rewrite assignments.

In addition to our regular consultations, the Writing Center will offer **Quick Hits,**which will allow students a five minute session to ask a question about citations, spelling, or other grammar or style concerns without making an appointment in advance. Clients will be assisted on a first-come, first served basis as walk-ins only.  Hours are variable and limited. For more information, please see our website.

**Drop Policy:**

If you choose to withdraw from the course for any reason, you must follow University procedures.  I cannot and will not drop anyone for any reason from this course. However, I may strongly recommend that you drop if you are significantly behind on completing the required assignments.