English 2303 Section 0XX: Working Class Literature

University of Texas at Arlington

Spring Semester 2014

Instructor: Bethany K. Shaffer

Classroom and Time: Tuesday 8:00-9:20 and online

E-mail: [bshaffer@uta.edu](mailto:bshaffer@uta.edu)

Office: 209 Carlisle Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday 7:30-8:00, and by appointment

“Class is not simply about how much money you make.  If you earn an hourly wage and a supervisor manages what you do at work every day, if you have a high school diploma but not a college degree, if you believe in hard work and plain talk, then you're probably working class”

-Sherry Lincoln, Director, Center for Working Class Studies, YSU

**Required Texts/Items:**

* *A Place to Stand* by Jimmy Santiago Baca
* *Bastard Out of Carolina* by Dorothy Allison
* *Christ In Concrete* by Pietro di Donato
* *The Street* by Ann Petry
* *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
* *The Portable Guide to Writing about Literature*
* College-ruled paper, writing utensils, and access to a computer.

**Purpose:**

This course has two purposes: to help you develop an understanding of central debates about and themes in American Working Class literature and to help you develop your skills as a researcher of literature in general. To achieve these goals, you will read a number of texts, both literary and critical; discuss the ideas in the texts with your colleagues and your instructor; and pursue a group project exploring the work and developing a thorough presentation about one working-class writer. Class lectures and discussions will focus on ways of understanding and interpreting the works and on locating them in their historical, cultural, and intellectual milieus. Also, one major essay will demonstrate your ability to discuss a text in an academic format.

**Hybrid:**

Please note: ENGL 2303.001 is a hybrid course. A hybrid course combines traditional classroom learning with on-line learning in an effort to offer students the \*best of both worlds.\* The success of the course, as well as the success of each student, depends on 100% participation by each class member. This means arriving on time to each class meeting and submitting all assignments on time. This class will meet every Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. Every Thursday will be a Blackboard/hybrid day. All assignments, with the exception of the quizzes, will be electronically submitted and graded through Blackboard. To access the course, go to: [https://elearn.uta.edu](https://mail.higheredholdings.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=156a180443db419c9ac8385bbe285a64&URL=https%3a%2f%2felearn.uta.edu) enter your Net ID and password provided to you by **UTA**.  This is the same login ID and password that you use to access your MyMav email. Upon login, you should see the course listed.

**Objectives of the Course:**

1. You should be able to actively engage with the text.
2. Learn various techniques to analyze literary works.
3. Be able to make connections from one work to another.
4. Practice critical reading, writing, and thinking.

**Requirements:**

READING –As this is a literature based course, doing the assigned reading is essential to both understanding the material and passing the course.

PRESENTATION- Each student will be responsible for one (1) presentation a selected novel. This presentation will be done with roughly three (3) to four (4) group members. The presentation should last 20 minutes. A separate handout will explain further details.

QUIZZES- Ten (10) times throughout the semester you will be asked take a quiz over the assigned reading material. The quiz will start at exactly 8:00. You will have just five minutes to complete it. Basically, this is ensuring each reading is done and that you come to class on time. Each quiz is worth ten (10) points and cannot be made up.

ESSAY –You will write one major essay for this course. It must be at least six (6) pages in length. Specifics about the essay assignment will come later in the semester. \*\*\***Note**: The essay must be typed in 12pt font, Times New Roman, MLA headings, and 1” margins. Failure to comply with these specifications will result in a failure. A separate handout will explain further details.

DISCUSSION FORUM POSTS-Each week that a reading assignment is due on the second day of class, you will participate in a discussion forum post on Blackboard. Each original post should specifically address the prompt in at least 150 words. You must then respond to two (2) peers in at least 50 words each.

TESTS- There will be two (2) major exams in this class. One will come at the midway point in the semester and one will come on the final day of class. These examinations will amount for forty percent of your entire grade.

**Course Policies:**

PARTICIPATION –You are expected to participate in all aspects of the course. Participation includes: completing all reading and writing assignments on time, talking in and being attentive to class discussion both in class and in Blackboard, reflecting on assigned readings, respecting others’ opinions and their right to express them, and cooperating and collaborating with your peers.

ATTENDANCE – Come to class. Your presence in class is important to the success of the class as a whole. Attending class will only help you sharpen your reading skills which will, therefore, help you become a better scholar. You may miss two classes without penalty. **Each class missed after two will result in the lowering of your grade by five percentage points.** Note: I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. Choose carefully.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS –The syllabus clearly states when each and every assignment is due. Thus, if you do not turn in your assignments on the day they are due, they will not be given any credit. Should you need to make special arrangements concerning assignments, please see me. Please note that there will be no make-up opportunities for the entry paragraphs. If you miss that class, you miss the points. **Note: I will not accept e-mailed papers.**

CELL PHONES –Please turn off your cell phones before class begins. I will not accept frivolous interruptions. This also includes text messages.

**Grading Policies**: There are 1000 possible points for this course.

SCALE: 900-1000 = A

* 1. = B
  2. = C
  3. = D
  4. = F

**Assignments:**

* 10 quizzes (10 points each) = 100 points
* 8 Discussion Forum Posts (25 points each) = 200 points
* Presentation = 100 points
* Essay = 200 points
* Exam One = 150 points
* Final exam = 250 points

**Special Arrangements-** If there are conditions which may affect your performance in this class, and which require special accommodations, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible so that such arrangements can be made. If you require an accommodation based on a disability, I would like to meet with you in the privacy of my office the first week of the semester to be sure that you are appropriately accommodated.

# Student Success Programs- The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate references.

**Academic Integrity-** Academic dishonesty is a serious offense at any university. If I suspect you have presented someone else’s work as your own, I will report you to the Vice President of Student Affairs for disciplinary action, in which case you will be given an incomplete for the course until your case is resolved. Forms of academic dishonesty include: **Collusion**—lending your work to another person to submit as his or her own; **Fabrication**—deliberately creating false information on a Works Cited page; and **Plagiarism—**the presentationof another person’s work as your own, whether you mean to or not. Even if you put someone’s ideas into your own words, you must properly credit the source.

**Library:** You will find online databases for English among the Arts & Humanities databases at <http://www2.uta.edu/library/subjguides/dbEnglish.asp>

**Drop Policy**

If you withdraw from the course you must follow university procedures. It is your responsibility to execute these procedures correctly and within the deadlines.