

ENGL 2329.005: **American Literature**
Spring 2015
TR 9:30-10:50
Life Sciences 102

Professor: Dr. Desiree Henderson
Office: CAR 603
Email: dhenderson@uta.edu
Phone: English Department Main Office 817-272-2692
Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-4:30pm and by appointment

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 why authors engage with controversial material.

UTA Core Curriculum Requirements: This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirements in Language, Philosophy, and Culture. The required objectives of these courses are the development of students' critical thinking, communication skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility. Many elements of this course foster development of these objectives, which are explicitly addressed in the "Signature Assignment" (or Essay 2). The Departmental general guidelines for sophomore literature can be found by typing "sophomore literature" in the "Search UT Arlington" box on the University website: <http://www.uta.edu/uta>.

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 the English classroom.
- To help students recognize that literature does not occur as isolated literary events, but as a complex dialogue with cultural and historical contexts.
- To develop students' ability to read critically by studying a variety of literary elements such as form, structure, and style.
- To enable students to demonstrate their understanding of literary texts and their ability to analyze such texts in writing, in online discussions, and through class discussions.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, students should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate their knowledge of a variety of literary terms and elements.
- Identify a variety of literary elements within literary texts.

- Explain and analyze how context shapes the composition, reception, and interpretation of texts.
- Demonstrate their ability to discuss literature using textual evidence to support assertions.
- Conduct research using the UTA Library resources.
- Use correct MLA documentations of primary and secondary sources.

Required Books:

- 1) Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*. Perennial. ISBN: 0060930187
- 2) Sherman Alexie, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Little, Brown. ISBN: 978-0-316-01369-7
- 3) Gerald Graff and Cathy Berkinstein, *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 3rd edition. Norton, 2014.

Additional reading materials will be provided through Blackboard.

E-Book Policy: Students may use e-book readers or tablets in class – but not laptops or cellphones. If you access the required reading in electronic format, you are expected to have the same edition of the books as listed above. Other editions will not have the same supplementary material or page numbers, greatly hindering your ability to complete assignments and participate in the class discussion.

COURSE POLICIES

Grade Policy/Requirements:

Theater Assignment 5%
 Group Presentation 10%
 Test 1 15%
 Essay 1 20%
 Essay 2 20%
 Essay 3 (Signature Assignment) 30%

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates: This course has one test (In-class essay) and three Essays: Essays 1 and 2 will be 2-3 pages; Essay 3 will be 4-6 pages. Due dates are indicated on the Reading and Assignment Schedule below. All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Theater Assignment: Students will be expected to attend the on-campus production of *The Vagina Monologues* on April 3 or 4. Additional details will be provided in class. Students who are unable to attend this play will be given an alternate assignment.

Attendance Policy: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, my policy is as follows:

Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. I will take attendance in every class.

Perfect Attendance	Students who attend every class (have 0 absences and no late arrivals) will have 2 additional points <i>added</i> to their final course grade. Any absences, including excused absences, will exclude the student from these bonus points.	
Allowed Absences	Students are granted 3 unexcused absences during the semester without penalty.	
Unexcused Absences	Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. <i>Points will be deducted from the student's final course grade.</i>	
	# of Unexcused Absences	Points Deducted
	1-3	0
	4	3
	5	5
Excused Absences	<i>DO NOT claim excused absences until you have exceeded your 3 allowed absences.</i> In order to claim an excused absence, you must submit written confirmation (copy of doctor's note, written excuse, etc.) that clearly states your name and the date(s) you were absent. Do not submit absence paperwork over email. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.	
Excessive Absences	Excessive Absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.	

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional nine hours per weeks of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Late Policy: All essays will be accepted late with a deduction of 5 points per class day and 10 points per weekend. A missed test can only be made up with evidence of a family or medical emergency.

Electronics Policy: Students are expected to behave responsibly and respectfully during class, which means that everyone turns cell phones off before class and refrains from texting or other disruptive behavior during class. E-book readers and tablets are allowed in class only for the purpose of displaying the assigned readings. Laptops and cellphones are not allowed during class, unless specifically announced. Violation of this policy can affect your course grade and may result in an Academic Dishonesty investigation.

Library Resources: Our Subject Librarian is Jody Bailey. Her contact information is: jbailey@uta.edu Ph: 817.272.7516 <http://libguides.uta.edu/profile/jodybailey>

Writing Center: The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at www.uta.edu/owl/.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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/aao/fao/>).

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

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.

UT Arlington faculty members 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.

Electronic Communication: 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 Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online 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 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.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located down the hallway. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: 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.

ENGL 2329 Reading and Assignment Schedule

All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

BB = Available on Blackboard

1/20 Introduction

1/22 Dickinson, "The Shut me up in Prose" and Whitman, selection from "Song of Myself" (available on Blackboard as Dickinson-Whitman-poems.pdf). Poetry Close Reading Questions should be completed for class.

1/27 Whitman, "Song of Myself" (BB), read first 20 pages

1/29 "Song of Myself," finish reading

2/3 "Song of Myself" continued

2/5 Ginsberg, "Howl" (BB), read section I

2/10 "Howl," finish reading

2/12 "Howl" continued

2/17 Test #1

2/19 Plath, *The Bell Jar*

2/24 *The Bell Jar*

2/26 *The Bell Jar*

3/3 *The Bell Jar*

3/5 Essay 1 due

Spring Break March 9-13

3/17 Alexie, *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

3/19 *Absolutely True Diary*

3/24 *Absolutely True Diary*

3/26 *Absolutely True Diary*

3/31 *Absolutely True Diary*

4/2 Essay 2 due

4/7 Theater Assignment due
Graff & Berkinstein, *They Say/I Say*

4/9 Reading TBA

4/14 Reading TBA

4/16 Reading TBA

4/21 Reading TBA

4/23 Children's Literature workshop, reading provided in class

4/28 Essay 3 (Signature Assignment) due
Children's Literature workshop cont.

4/30 In-class work on presentations

5/5 Group Presentations

5/7 Group Presentations

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.
