

English 2329-003—American Literature

Spring 2015

MWF: 10-10:50

ARCH 401

Instructor Information:

Professor: Dr. Justin Lerberg

Email: jlerberg@uta.edu

Office: Preston Hall 201

Office Hours: 9-9:45 MWF and by appointment

Course Description:

Concentration on works of American literature with focus on how cultural, geographic, and political issues shape and reflect literature in a particular culture. **This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirements in Language, Philosophy, and Culture. The required objectives of these core courses are the development of students' critical thinking, communication skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.**

Core Objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Communication Skills: To include effective development and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

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.

Required Texts: STUDENTS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING EDITIONS

The Oxford Book of American Short Stories, 2nd/ed, 2013 CY, ISBN: 9780199744398

Access to the films Up and Jaws
Selected Essays available on Blackboard
A notebook for in-class assignments and quizzes

Description of Major Assignments.

Reading/Discussion quizzes. Short 1-10 question quizzes covering reading material or class discussions. Quizzes **cannot** be made up.

Daily Work: Group Discussions. Students will be placed in groups to discuss particular parts/moments/themes/motifs in our readings. Each group will then 'report' to the class on their conclusions, findings. Group discussion work **cannot** be made up.

Other Daily work. Students will do brief in-class writing, answer questions about the readings, and participate in other in-class activities. Daily work **cannot** be made up. Daily work (including group projects) gives students an opportunity to practice and hone the analytical and writing skills required for the major essay assignments and exams. Daily work will be grade on a "5-0" point scale, where 5 points is excellent execution of the assignment and 0 point is failure to execute the assignment. Daily work is cumulative and will be totaled at the end of the semester for a single, overall grade. Students must attend and participate in the entire class the day in which the assignment is due in order to receive credit.

Essay 1—Literary Analysis (02/23): 3-5 page analysis paper.

Essay 2—Research Essay (03/23): A 5-7 page analysis essay covering one of the long texts, a short reading, and two outside sources.

Essay 3—Historical Essay (04/20): A 3-5 page essay examining the historical and cultural context surrounding the publication of a text.

All Essays must follow MLA requirements. If you are unfamiliar with MLA conventions, ask the instructor, visit the UTA Writing Center, or visit the MLA or online writing center websites.

Drafts. The revision process is an important component to writing. While drafts of the major essays are not required, I will be happy to read over a draft(s). However, students must bring a paper copy and meet with me in my office no later than 48 hours before the final essay is due. I will not accept email drafts.

Midterm Exam (03/04): The exam will cover primary readings, supplemental readings, classroom discussions.

Final Exam (5/11, 8-10:30 a.m.): The exam will cover primary readings, supplemental readings, classroom discussions since the midterm.

Attendance: 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, I recognize that the best way to engage in critical conversations about literature and

the context for writing stems from intellectual exchange, and this cannot happen if students do not attend class; however, the level of your engagement in the class is entirely up to you. I will not take attendance each day; however, there will be daily in-class assignments/quizzes and other participatory activities that will receive grades. Students should expect to participate in class. These daily activities **cannot** be made up and there will be no extra credit or supplementary means to obtain points in this course. Excused absences include official university activities, military service, and/or religious holidays. Students must inform the instructor in writing at least one week in advance of an excused absence. I will not supply what you miss by email or phone. It is your responsibility to conference with a peer to get this material or make an appointment to see me in person.

Assignments and Grade Calculation:

Categories of Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Daily Assignments	20%
Weekly Quizzes: Short 1-10 question quizzes of short answer and short essay responses.	15%
Daily Assignments: Group Discussions/In class writing: In-class activities including in-class writing and group work.	05%
Essays and Projects	55%
Essay 1—Literary Analysis	15%
Essay 2—Research Essay	25%
Essay 3—Historical Essay	15%
Exams:	25%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	15%
TOTAL	100%

Scale for final course grades:

- A 90 to 100 percent (90 to 100)
- B 80 to 89.99 percent (80 to 89.99)
- C 70 to 79.99 percent (70 to 79.99)
- D 60 to 69.99 percent (60 to 69.99)
- F 0 to 59.99 percent (0 to 59.99)

All major essay projects must be completed to pass the course. If you fail to complete an essay project, you will fail the course, regardless of your average. **Keep all papers** until you receive your final grade from the university. You cannot challenge a grade without evidence.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. Instructor will make all grades available to student; however, instructor will not calculate grade for student during the semester.

Paper Reuse Policy – You are not allowed, under any circumstances, to reuse papers from prior classes in this course or any other course that you have taken at any institution. Reusing papers does not demonstrate any advance in knowledge or skill, and so would not be helpful for you either in terms of your learning this semester, or for me in terms of assessing this learning.

Late Assignments. All major Essays are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified. Assignments turned in after the class has begun will receive a ten-point deduction unless the instructor has agreed to late submission *in advance of the due date*. For each calendar day following, **Not a 24-hour period**, the work will receive an additional ten point deduction. Work is not accepted after three late days (this is for days not class meetings). If you must be absent, the essay is still due on the assigned date. Quizzes, group work, and other daily work **cannot** be made up. Students must attend and participate in the entire class the day in which the assignment is due in order to receive credit.

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 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. This time may be extended for students who are particularly slow readers, or who have not yet sharpened their writing skills to college standards.

Grade Grievances: The English Department has a set of procedures that students must follow in order to contest a final grade. First, the student must communicate with the instructor in an attempt to resolve any matter in question. Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate / graduate catalog. For these procedures, please see http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#10.

Late Enrollment Policy: Though I realize that sometimes enrolling in a course after the start date is unavoidable, please be advised that you will be held responsible for the class periods that you have missed even if you were not enrolled in the course. I will not allow you to make up attendance, missed opportunities for participation points, or any other assignments that occurred before you enrolled. If you enroll in class after the start date it is your responsibility to contact your peers in order to get caught up on the schedule and any announcements that might have been delivered in your absence. This policy also applies to students who drop and add.

Classroom behavior: Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away when entering the classroom; all earpieces should be removed. Store materials from other classes, reading not related to this class, bulky bags, and other distractions so that you can concentrate on the ENGL2329 readings and discussions each day. Bring book(s) and e-reserve readings (heavily annotated and carefully read) to every class. Students are expected to participate respectfully in class, to listen to other class members, and to comment appropriately. I also expect consideration and courtesy from students. Professors are to be addressed appropriately and communicated with professionally.

According to *Student Conduct and Discipline*, "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that is intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or that in fact obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any instructional,

educational, research, administrative, or public performance or other activity authorized to be conducted in or on a University facility. Obstruction or disruption includes, but is not limited to, any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, or computer equipment, software, or networks" (UTA Handbook or Operating Procedures, Ch. 2, Sec. 2-202). Students who do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students' learning may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Classroom Visitors: Only students officially enrolled in this section are allowed to attend class meetings. Students may not bring guests (children, spouses, friends, family) to class unless an academic request has been submitted and approved by the instructor well in advance of the proposed class visit. Children are not allowed in class as visitors at any time

Intellectual Property: All course materials and course content are the intellectual property of the instructor. As a result, recording audio or video of the class, as well as the duplication of or forwarding of e-mail and Blackboard postings is prohibited without written permission. This means, for example, that you may not post materials from the class, audio of lectures, or video of the class to personal web pages, Facebook, YouTube or any other electronic or print medium without the written consent of the instructor. Students may, however, request permission from the instructor to record course lectures for personal academic use.

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.

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)

You can get in trouble for plagiarism by failing to correctly indicate places where you are making use of the work of another or colluding with another to prepare assignments. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the conventions of citation by which you indicate which ideas are not your own and how your reader can find those sources. Read your textbook and/or handbook for more information on quoting and citing properly to avoid plagiarism. If you still do not understand, ask your instructor. All students caught plagiarizing or cheating will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

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.

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.

Writing Center. The English Writing Center is located in Room 411 Central Library. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Noon to 5:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Students must register and can make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Face-to-Face and online appointments for undergraduate students are scheduled for 40 minutes. Writing Center consultants assist with any aspect of academic 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 during our long sessions. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for more information about services and guidelines.

Quick Hits: A Writing Center consultant is available in the Writer's Studio, 413b, to help students find answers on citation, style, minor editing, punctuation, and other quick questions that require 5 to 10 minutes. Although students must register with the Writing Center, Quick Hits walk-ins are welcome and students are assisted on a first-come, first-served basis. These are not one-on-one sessions. Quick Hits is available Mondays Noon-3:45 p.m., Wednesdays Noon-4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-8:15 p.m. Students also may post short questions to our Facebook page during these periods at www.facebook.com/WritingCenteratUTARlington. QH Consultants will not make corrections, but will point clients to the answers.

Workshops: The Writing Center offers three series of workshops: grammar, ENGL1301/02, and graduate students. A detailed list with descriptions is available at the start of each semester online at www.uta.edu/owl.

Library Research Help for Students in the First-Year English Program. UT Arlington Library offers many ways for students to receive help with writing assignments: All First-Year English courses have access to research guides that assist students with required research. To access the guides go to <http://libguides.uta.edu>. Search for the course number in the search box located at the top of the page. The research guides direct students to useful databases, as well as provide information about citation, developing a topic/thesis, and receiving help. Other helpful information may be found at links provided below:

Library Home Page..... <http://www.uta.edu/library>
Ask A Librarian <http://ask.uta.edu>

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.

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>.

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, [as discussed on the first day of class](#). 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 handicapped individuals.

Electronic Communication Policy. All students must have access to a computer with internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through Blackboard. I am happy to communicate with students through email, but you

must include the course name and number in the subject line ENGL2329-017 in each and every email you send. Even then, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. Make sure you have consulted the syllabus, class notes, and classmates for answers before you send me an email. Remember, I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day. I check it periodically during the school week. I will attempt to respond to email within 48 hours; however, if the subject line does not include the mandated course information, this response may be considerably delayed. If you have missed a class and need to know what material we covered, or what might be due during the next class period, please consult the syllabus or your classmates.

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.

Conferences and Questions: I have regularly scheduled office hours each week. This time is reserved for students to drop by or to make an appointment to discuss course assignments, grades, or other class-related concerns. I will be happy to make other appointment times for you if your class schedule conflicts with regular conference times or if I am not available on certain days. If you receive a grade on an assignment or quiz about which you have questions, please wait twenty-four hours before discussing it with me. This gives you time to process the assignment comments and to think about how your course work meets the requirements set forth for each assignment. You must be prepared to demonstrate how the work met the goals in specific ways in order to support a grade change. I do not discuss individual student issues in the classroom before, during or after class.

Syllabus and Schedule Changes. Instructors try to make their syllabuses as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester I may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies/assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary. Students will be informed of any major changes in writing, via email and announcements on Blackboard. Students should check their email and Blackboard daily.

Course Schedule. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are listed. Late assignments will not be accepted.

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.

ENGL 2329 Syllabus Contract

I have read and understood the syllabus, and I agree to abide by the course policies.

Print Name

Date

Signature

Date

Permission to Use Student Writing

Student's Name_____

Class Number and Section_____

Instructor Name_____

I give my permission for my writing to be used as an example of student work and/or as a teaching tool for future classes. I understand that my name will be removed from my work before it is shared with others.

Student's signature_____

UTA ID_____ Date_____

ENGL 2329-003 Course Schedule. Assignments are due on the day they are listed. Schedule subject to Revision. Revisions will be sent to students via email and will be posted as an announcement in Blackboard

Week	Date	Assignment Due	Class Topic
1	1/21		Discuss Syllabus and course
1	1/23	Read: "Role of Good Reading," Gardner (Blackboard) "The Tell-Tale Heart," Poe	Discuss reading approaches And Poe
2	1/26	Read: "Writing Process," Gardner (Blackboard) "The Wives of the Dead," Hawthorne	Discuss writing essays and Hawthorne
2	1/28	Read: "Peter Rugg, the Missing Man," Austin	Group Work
2	1/30		Discuss Literary Analysis Essay Sample Quiz
3	2/2	Read: "Rip Van Winkle," Irving "Writing About Short Stories" (Blackboard)	Discuss the Writing Process And Irving
3	2/4	Read: "The Ghost in the Mill," Stowe "Cannibalism in the Cars," Clemens Census Date	Discuss Stowe and Clemens
3	2/6	Read: "The Middle Years," James	Discuss James Quiz 1
4	2/9	Read: "A White Heron," Jewett "The Storm," Chopin	Group Work 1
4	2/11	Read: "The Sheriff's Children," Chesnutt	Discuss Chesnutt
4	2/13	Read: "The Yellow Wallpaper," Gilman	Discuss Gilman Quiz 2
5	2/16	Read: "A Journey," Wharton	Discuss Wharton
5	2/18	Read: "A Death in the Desert," Cather	Discuss Cather
5	2/20	Read: "The Strength of God," Anderson	Discuss Anderson Reading Quiz 3
6	2/23	Read: "In a Far Country," London "To Build a Fire," London (Blackboard) Literary Analysis Essay Due	Discuss London Discuss Research Essay
6	2/25	Read: "Rats in the Walls," Lovecraft "Blood-Burning Moon," Toomer	Group Work 2
6	2/27	Read: "An Alcoholic Case," Fitzgerald	Discuss Fitzgerald Reading Quiz 4
7	3/2	Bring: Notes and questions to class	Midterm Review
7	3/4		Midterm
7	3/6	Research Day	Work on Research Essay
8	3/9	Spring Break: No Class	
8	3/11	Spring Break: No Class	
8	3/13	Spring Break: No Class	
9	3/16	Read: "That Evening Sun," Faulkner "Hills Like White Elephants," Hemingway	Group Work 3

		"Red-Headed Baby," Hughes	
9	3/18	Read: "The Man... Almost Wasn't," Wright "A Bottle of Milk for Mother," Algren "Where is the Voice Coming From," Welty	Discuss Wright, Algren, and Welty
9	3/20	Read: "A Distant Episode," Bowles	Discuss Bowles Reading Quiz 5
10	3/23	Read: Poetry Packet 1 (Blackboard) Research Essay Due	Discuss Poetry
10	3/25	Read: Poetry Packet 2 (Blackboard)	Discuss Poetry Discuss Historical Essay
10	3/27	Read: Poetry Packet 3 (Blackboard)	Discuss Poetry Reading Quiz 6
11	3/30	Read: "Battle Royal," Ellison "My Son the Murder," Malamud "The Lottery," Jackson	Group Work 4
11	4/1	Read: "Late Encounter with... Enemy," O'Connor "The Persistence of Desire," Updike	Discuss O'Connor and Updike
11	4/3	Read: "The Mud Below," Proulx Last day to drop classes; submit requests to advisor prior to 4:00 pm	Discuss Proulx Reading Quiz 7
12	4/6	Read: "Are These Actual Miles," Carver "Heat," Carol Oates "The Child Screams...", Banks	Discuss Carver, Carol Oates, and Banks
12	4/8	Read: "Under the Radar," Ford "Hunters in the Snow," Wolff	Discuss Ford and Wolff
12	4/10	Read: "Today Will be a Quiet Day," Hempl	Discuss Hempl Reading Quiz 8
13	4/13	Read: "The Things They Carried," O'Brien "The Reach," King	Group Work 5
13	4/15	Read: "Filthy With Things," Boyle	Discuss Boyle
13	4/17	Read: "Fleur," Edrich	Discuss Edrich Reading Quiz 9
14	4/20	Read: "Children as Enemies," Jin "How to Become a Writer," Moore Historical Essay Due	Discuss Jin and Moore
14	4/22	Read: "Mercy," Benedict "Hell-Heaven," Lahiri	Discuss Benedict and Lahiri
14	4/24	Read: "Edison, New Jersey," Diaz	Discuss Diaz Reading Quiz 10
15	4/27	Read: Film Packet (Blackboard)	Discuss Films as Literature
15	4/29	Watch: <i>Jaws</i>	Discuss <i>Jaws</i>
15	5/1	Watch: <i>Up</i>	Discuss <i>Up</i>
16	5/4	Read: Comic Packet 1 (Blackboard)	Discuss Comic Books as Literature
16	5/6	Read: Comic Packet 2 (Blackboard)	Discuss Comic Books as Literature
16	5/8	Bring: Notes and questions to class	Final Exam Review
17	5/11		Final Exam: 8-10:30 a.m.

