English 2303 Section 001: Working Class Literature

University of Texas at Arlington

Spring Semester 2016

Instructor: Bethany K. Shaffer

Classroom and Time: Tuesday 8:00-9:20 in Preston Hall 110 and online

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Office Hours: Tuesday 7:30-8:00am, 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
* 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.

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” (see below). 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.

**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 between 11-13 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 a few 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.

THE SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT/NOVEL PROJECT ESSAY –You will write one major essay for this course. It must be at least five (5) 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.

The signature assignment addresses all four of the University prescribed objectives. **Personal responsibility**: This essay includes the integration of outside sources; it, therefore, requires students to demonstrate personal responsibility as they use the words and ideas of other writers in an accurate and ethical manner. Citing sources properly isn’t just a matter of mechanics. It’s a question of personal responsibility (with real consequences for students) that overlaps with students’ responsibility to the academic community of which they are a part. The construction of a clearly articulated thesis statement supported by a careful analysis of textual evidence demonstrates **critical thinking** and **communication skills**. The development of a well-organized essay that demonstrates the correct use of grammar and other writing mechanics and demonstrates an awareness of the how to appeal convincingly to an audience further addresses the communication objective. The critical analysis of the way the selected text engages a significant issue of social responsibility addresses the **social responsibility** outcome.

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.

TARDINESS – Please arrive on time. I will begin class each day at 8:00 sharp. Failure to arrive after 8:02 on many class days will result in a zero on the quiz.

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. The last day to withdraw from the course is April 1, 2016 by 4:00pm. An advisor must withdraw you from the course.

**Course Calendar for Working Class Literature, Spring 2016**

\*\*For face to face class days, assignments are due prior to the start of class.

\*\*For Blackboard days, assignments are due by end of day (11:59pm, Central Time).

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Assignments** |
| **1** | **1/19** | Course Introduction  Policies and Procedures  What is Working Class Lit?  Why are we studying it?  Novel Project explanation |
| **1** | **1/21** | BB Day: Please complete the prompt titled “Intro Discussion” in the Discussion tab on BB. You **MUST** include your top three novel choices in your post for today.  \*If you fail to do so, I choose which novel you read outside of class.\*  **Read:** “What is Working Class?” by Lew Rosenbaum. Article is located in the “Introduction” tab on BB. |
| **2** | **1/26** | 1920’s and 30’s  Background on DiDonato  Novel Group assignments  **Read:** *Christ in Concrete* through the end of “Job” |
| **2** | **1/28** | BB Day: Please complete the discussion prompt titled “*Christ in Concrete*” in the Discussion tab on BB  **Read**: *Christ in Concrete* through the end of “Fiesta” |
| **3** | **2/2** | Getting into the nitty gritty.  **Read:** *Christ in Concrete* through end. |
| **3** | **2/4** | BB Day:  1940’s, Harlem Renaissance, Background on Petry (located in either The Decades or *The Street* tabs on BB).  Please complete the discussion prompt titled “*The Street* #1” in the Discussion tab on BB.  **Read:** *The Street* through Chapter Two and materials on BB in Decades (just the 40’s) and *The Street* tabs. |
| **4** | **2/9** | Close reading practice  **Read**: *The Street* through Chapter Four |
| **4** | **2/11** | BB Day: Please complete the discussion prompt located under the “*The Street* #2” in the Discussion tab on BB  **Read:** *The Street* through Chapter Six |
| **5** | **2/16** | The Hard Stuff  **Read:** *The Street* through Chapter 12 |
| **5** | **2/18** | Beginnings of Poetry  Background on Fell and Hughes  BB Day: Please complete the discussion prompt titled “Poetry” in the Discussion tab on BB **Read:** “The Triangle Fire” by Fell (Located in *Working Classics*) and “Harlem” and “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” by Langston Hughes (links are located within the “Poetry” unit tab). |
| **6** | **2/23** | Poetry and *The* Street wrap up.  Review for Mid-Term Exam  Essay Question for Mid-Term Released  **Read:** *The Street through end* |
| **6** | **2/25** | Study Day |
| **7** | **3/1** | **Mid-Term Exam** |
| **7** | **3/3** | BB Day: **Read:** *A Place to Stand* through Chapter Three (Including Prologue) and the background on Baca (located on BB) |
| **8** | **3/8** | Middle of *A Place to Stand*  **Read:** *A Place to Stand* through Chapter 10 |
| **8** | **3/10** | BB Day: Please complete the discussion prompt titled “*A Place to Stand*” in the Discussion tab on BB.  **Read:** *A Place to Stand*  through end (including epilogue) |
|  | **3/17** | **Spring Break ☺ Finish your outside novel!** |
|  | **3/19** | **Spring Break ☺ Finish your outside novel!** |
| **9** | **3/22** | 1960s and 70s  Background on Allison  **Read:** *Bastard Out of Carolina (BoC)* through Chapter Seven |
| **9** | **3/24** | BB Day: Using your group tab in BB, please complete the handout titled “Major Characters, Setting, and Working Class Themes” located under the “Novel Project” tab on BB. You group may divide up the work however they see fit. |
| **10** | **3/29** | Daddy Glen  **Read:** *BoC* through Chapter 12 |
| **10** | **3/31** | BB Day: Please complete the discussion prompt titled “*Bastard Out of Carolina*” in the Discussion tab on BB.  **Read:** *BoC* through Chapter 17 |
| **11** | **4/5** | The tough stuff  Background on Collins  Dystopian Literature  **Read:** *BoC* through end. |
| **11** | **4/7** | BB Day: Please complete the discussion prompt titled “*Hunger Games*” in the Discussion tab on BB  **Read:** *Hunger Games* through Part I: The Tributes |
| **12** | **4/12** | Why am I reading a YA book?  **Read:** *Hunger Games* through Part II: The Games |
| **12** | **4/14** | BB Day: Using your group tab in BB, please complete the handout titled “Peer Review” located under the “Novel Project” tab on BB for at least **TWO** of your group mates. You must upload your comments into your group tab. |
| **13** | **4/19** | Review for Final Exam  **Read:** *Hunger Games* through Part III: The Victor  **Due: Final Paper must be submitted into BB prior to the start of class. No paper copies accepted.** |
| **13** | **4/21** | BB Day: Using your group tab in BB, please complete the handout titled “Presentation Responsibilities” located under the “Novel Project” tab on BB. You group may divide up the work however they see fit. However, it is important to remember that every member of your group must participate in some way during the presentation. |
| **14** | **4/26** | Review for Final Exam  **Presentations from groups A, B, and C** |
| **14** | **4/28** | **Due:** Groups who presented on 4/22 must submit their reflection essay into BB by end of day. The instructions and submission space are located under the “Novel Project” tab on BB. Groups who did not present today are not required to submit anything. |
| **15** | **5/3** | Review for Final Exam  **Presentations from groups D, E, and F** |
| **15** | **5/5** | **Due:** Groups who presented on 4/29 must submit their reflection essay into BB by end of day. The instructions and submission space are located under the “Novel Project” tab on BB. Groups who did not present today are not required to submit anything. |
| **16** | **5/10** | **Final Exam 8:00-10:30am in our regular classroom.** |