**ENGL 2309-008: Special Topics**

**“Perception, Intoxication, and the Making of Genius”**

**Spring 2016**

**Instructor:** Miriam Rowntree

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**Email Address:** rowntreem@uta.edu **Office Hours:** TR 9:30-11 am and by appt.

**Faculty Profile:** https://www.uta.edu/profiles/miriam-rowntree

**Class Meetings: U**H 09 11 am – 12:20 pm

**Description of Course Content:** The production of literature (among other forms of art) often seems dependent upon substances that expand or loosen the mind. However, some writers and other creative geniuses struggle with addiction that ultimately destroys their careers and personal lives. This course will examine texts that admit an unreliable narrator due to mental illness and/or substance abuse--sometimes that narrator is a fictional character and sometimes the writer herself. We will read works of fiction, poetry and memoir that wrestle with the connection between writing, perception and intoxication.

Some questions to consider throughout the course:

1. How does substance abuse affect the writer and their work?
2. What kinds of narrators do we like or dislike with regards to their addictions?
3. How does intoxication affect our perception, our intellect, our language?
4. How does literature change our understanding of addiction as it is constructed, represented, and proliferated in our culture?
5. Do categories such as gender, normalcy, and time period affect our idea of addiction?

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the semester, students who have successfully completed the assignments should:

1. read a variety of texts that address the concerns of addiction and respond to these texts in a critical manner
2. respond ethically to these texts by considering the perspectives of the author, community, and others
3. consider how various literary forms, concepts of audience, environments, and personal, economic, and cultural backgrounds have influenced and were influenced by addiction and mental illness
4. examine how each author constructs an authorial persona
5. examine the ways in which the literature serves (or undermines) the social programs associated with addiction and mental illness

**ENGL 2309 Sophomore Literature:** 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 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.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

King, Stephen, *Misery*.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*.

**Critical Essays and Other Readings (Blackboard)**

**Recommended Texts**

Graff and Birkenstein, *They Say/I Say,* 3rd edition ISBN:0393935841

**Course Schedule.** See daily schedule. Assignments are due on the day they are listed. *As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Date | Topic | | Reading | Assignments | CRP/Discuss |
| 1 | 1/19 | Introduction/Syllabus  Assign and Discuss CRP | | What is Literature?  (Sartre and Eagleton) |  |  |
| 1/21 | What is an Author? | | “Death of an Author”, Barthes  “What is an Author?”, Foucault | In-Class LOG | N/A |
| 2 | 1/26 | Drug Abuse and Authorship in 19th Century | | “The Pleasures of Opium”, De Quincey  “Narrating National Addictions: De Quincey, Opium, Tea,” Schmitt, *High Anxieties* |  |  |
| 1/28 | Continued | | “The Black Cat”, Poe | Due: LOG #1 |  |
| 3 | 2/2 | Modernism and Alcohol | | Excerpt from “The Thirsty Muse” | Census Date: 2/3 |  |
| 2/4 |  | | The Great Gatsby, Chapters 1-5 | Due: LOG #2 |  |
| 4 | 2/9 |  | | The Great Gatsby, Chapters 6-11 | Due: LOG #3 |  |
| 2/11 | Review for Exam | |  |  | N/A |
| 5 | 2/16 | **Exam 1** | |  |  | N/A |
| 2/18 | Psychedelics and Controlled Substances | | “Under Hashish,”  *The Doors of Perception* (Excerpt), Huxley | Due: LOG #4 |  |
| 6 | 2/23 |  | |  |  |  |
| 2/25 | Gender and Mental Illness | | “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Perkins Gilman |  |  |
| 7 | 3/1 |  | | Ann Sexton and Sylvia Plath |  |  |
| 3/3 | Assign and Discuss SA | |  |  | N/A |
| 8 | 3/8 |  | | “Sonny’s Blues”, Baldwin  “To Keep From Shaking to Pieces: Addiction and Bearing Reality in “Sonny’s Blues”, Norton, *The Language of Addiction* | Due: LOG #5 | N/A |
| 3/10 | No Face to Face Class | |  |  |  |
| 9 | 3/15 | Spring Break | |  |  |  |
| 3/17 | Spring Break | |  |  |  |
| 10 | 3/22 | Characteristics of Criticism | |  | Draft of SA Due by 10 pm | N/A |
| 3/24 |  | |  |  |  |
| 11 | 3/29 |  | | “Cathedral,” Raymond Carver  “Chablis,” Donald Bartheme |  |  |
| 3/31 |  | | Misery | Last Day to Drop: 4/1 |  |
| 12 | 4/5 |  | | Misery |  |  |
| 4/7 |  | | Misery |  |  |
| 13 | 4/12 |  | | Misery | Due: LOG #6 |  |
| 4/14 |  | |  | Due: Signature Assignment 4/16 by 10 pm | N/A |
| 14 | 4/19 | Rehab and Social Responsibility | |  |  |  |
| 4/21 |  | |  |  | N/A |
| 15 | 4/26 | Ethical Responsibility | |  |  | N/A |
| 4/28 |  | |  |  |  |
| 16 | 5/3 |  | | Review for Exam |  |  |
| 5/5 |  | | Review for Exam |  |  |
|  |  | | **Final In-Class Exam May 10: 11-1:30 PM** | | |  |

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

**Attendance Card:** For each class day, each student must bring a 3X5 index card. The card must have the student’s name and the class date. This will be the mark of attendance. The lined side must contain a short, very short, synopsis of the reading for the day. The non-lined side should have at least one question that has come up during the reading. These questions may be used during the class period as potential directions for the class. Cards will be accepted no later than five minutes after the start of class time. After five minutes, even if you have attended class, you will be marked absent for the day.

**Literature Observation Grid (LOG):** There will be six LOGs due over the course of the semester. The primary goal of these grids is to develop strong close reading and note-taking skills. A minimum of ten quotes is required for each LOG. The novels require a LOG on their own but one shorter reading may be selected for the other LOGs. LOGs must be uploaded to BB before class on the date they are due.

**Critical Review Paper (CRP):** During the course of the semester, each student will choose one text and write a 750-word review (MLA formatted: double-spaced, 1-inch margins all around; 12 pt. Times New Roman font). The paper should conduct a close reading of the text in an effort to seriously interrogate/analyze/explore the ways in which an author addresses the main themes of the course—addiction and mental illness. Each paper should discuss and raise questions (posed by you or a classmate) about the ethics or social responsibility the author should have in participating within this discourse.On the day assigned, the student will conduct a discussion facilitation as a continuation of the review. See the assignment sheet for more details.

**Exams** (February 11th and May 10th) Each exam will cover the previous untested material. The class before each exam, a detailed study sheet for the exam will be distributed via Blackboard. Each exam will contain a long-essay portion in addition to short answer questions. Students will be given a list of possible essay topics prior to the exam, on the study sheet, but only one essay exam prompt from this list will be chosen. ***Grading criteria*** for the essay portion willan assessment of the paper’s ability to (1) focus arguments on the exam questions, (2) construct logical arguments, and (3) support claims with relevant examples from the text(s). Although your “mechanical/editorial” writing skills will be taken into account, they will be examined more closely on the critical analysis papers and the signature assignment than on the in-class essays.

**Signature Assignment** (Due April 16th) The signature assignment addresses all four of the course 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. In addition, 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 related to scientific knowledge, its construction, and its influence on other subjects both human and nonhuman addresses the **social responsibility** outcome.

**Major Assignments/Grade Distribution:**

Critical Review Paper (CRP)

and Discussion Lead 15%

Exam 1 20%

Exam 2 20%

Signature Assignment Paper 30%

Class Participation 15%

Final grades will be calculated as follows: A=89.5-100%, B=79.5-89.99%, C=69.5-79.99%, F=69.4% and below; Z=see the Z grade policy above.

**Grades.** Grades are A, B, C, D, and F. All projects must be submitted to Blackboard before the project’s stated deadline. **Keep all papers** until you receive your final grade from the university (this is also how you will keep track of your grade throughout the course). You cannot challenge a grade without evidence.

The Z grade is reserved for students who attend class regularly, participate actively, and complete all the assigned work on time but simply fail to write well enough to earn a passing grade. **This judgment is made by the instructor and not necessarily based upon a number average.** The Z grade is intended to reward students for good effort. While students who receive a Z will not get credit for the course, the Z grade will not affect their grade point average. They may repeat the course for credit until they do earn a passing grade.

The F grade, which does negatively affect GPA, goes to failing students who do not participate actively in class, and/or do not complete assigned work.

**Please note that the signature assignment must be completed to pass the course** and it is advised that the CRP be completed in order to successfully pass this course**.** If you fail to complete the signature assignment, you will fail the course, regardless of your average. ***Completion means that something is turned in as a “final draft.” I will not accept late papers, but I will accept an “incomplete” or “unfinished” paper if submitted by deadline. It is better to submit something and receive a poor grade than nothing and receive a zero.***

**Turning in Assignments to Blackboard:** Your major assignment (signature assignment) and your CRP for this course will be submitted to Blackboard. **I will not accept any assignments via e-mail**. All assignments submitted to Blackboard must be saved as a .doc or .docx file to ensure that I am able to open them on my computer. It is your responsibility to ensure that all of your work is saved in this way and submitted in the correct format. If you submit work in the wrong format, then you will receive a zero for the assignment.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** For every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc.

**Late Enrollment Policy:** Though I realize that at times 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 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.

**Late Assignments.** I do not accept late assignments for any reason, especially the two major assignments in this course (the CRP and the signature assignment). Exams will begin promptly at beginning of class; do not arrive late or you may not be permitted to sit for the exam. In-class work – including discussion small discussion groups – will constitute your daily grade/participation grade. Students cannot make this work up so regular attendance is strongly advised.

**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. If you feel your situation constitutes a clear or significant exception to this rule, you must discuss this with me prior to the due date of the first draft.

**Participation Policy.** Improvement in writing is a complex process that requires a great deal of practice. Successful college students come to class and participate regularly. 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 in order to receive an alternative daily grade/participation grade assignment***. In terms of lecture notes, should you miss class (even with 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.

**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 will take attendance each class period by collecting attendance cards at the beginning of each class period. Please note that failure to attend may result in a lowering of the student’s grade due to missed work.

I will not allow students to make up work for absences except in special circumstances and with sufficient evidence of extenuating circumstances (i.e. hospitalization, death in the family, university activities, religious holidays, etc). Should you be eligible for an excused absence (i.e. athletic event, religious holiday), please ***submit it to me in writing at least one week prior to the planned absence*** so that we can make alternative arrangements for you to fulfill the assignment. Although there is no “attendance” grade in this course, students will be given a participation grade. You will have 25 participation grades throughout the course of the semester, all of which are connected with attendance cards and in-class activities. Note that there will be more than 25 of these assignments but that only 25 will be counted as 100%. These will be calculated as completion grades, though failure to participate will result in the loss of the grade. I will calculate your daily grade based on this key:

25 = 100%, 23 = 92%, 21 = 83%, 19 = 75%, 17 = 67%, 15 = 58%, 13 = 50%, 11 = 42%, 9 = 33%, 7 = 25%, 5 = 17%, 3-1 = 8%

These daily grades **cannot** be made up, so again, attendance and participation is important. Failure to attend class may affect the overall grade as students may fail to complete and/or submit class activities and assignments.

**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 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.

**Grade Grievances**: An appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. For undergraduate courses, see <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext>

**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.

**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://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations: UT** 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), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).** Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671.

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](http://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 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*. For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://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. 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.

**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.

**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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR):** The English Writing Center is located in Room 411 Central Library.  Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Students must register and can make appointments online at [http://uta.mywconline.com](http://uta.mywconline.com/). Face-to-Face and online appointments for undergraduate students are scheduled for 20, 40, or 60 minutes at the student’s discretion. Be judicious! For instance, 20 minute Quick Hits appointments are specifically for “quick” or minor concerns such as grammar, citations, or thesis construction. Longer appointments are for higher order concerns such as organization, structure, cohesion, or even just brainstorming and assignment comprehension. Know what you want to work on prior to your appointment and choose your time slot accordingly. 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](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for more information about services and guidelines.

**Librarian to Contact**: For research assistance, visit or contact the English subject librarian, Diane Shepelwich. Subject Librarian information located at <http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php>

**ENGL 2329-014 Syllabus Contract**

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

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Printed Name Date

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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