

ENGL 2303:010: Topics in Literature
Banned Books and Literary Controversy
TR 11-12:20pm
TH 200

Professor: Dr. Desiree Henderson
Office: CAR 603
Email: dhenderson@uta.edu
Phone: English Department Main Office 817-272-2692
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm 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 literature. 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 literary terms and concepts.

- 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.
- Develop “they say, I say” arguments employing secondary criticism.
- Use correct MLA documentations of primary and secondary sources.

Required Books:

- 1) Alice Walker. *The Color Purple*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Co. ISBN-13: 9780156028356
- 2) Sherman Alexie, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Little, Brown, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780316013697
- 3) Gerald Graff and Cathy Berkinstein, *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 3rd edition. Norton, 2014. ISBN-13: 9780393935844

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:

Group Presentation 10%
 Test 1 20%
 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.

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 & Research Assistance: University-level research requires university-level sources. Appropriate sources include scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, and credible news magazines and newspapers. The UTA Library <http://library.uta.edu/> offers a plethora of resources and subject specialists to help you select and locate appropriate sources. Find library staff at the Service Zone on the first floor of the UTA Central Library, by phone at (817) 272-3395, by text at (817) 727-8395, email at AskUs@uta.edu, or the chat widget on the library's homepage, <http://library.uta.edu/>. For a list of useful guides to help you start your research, visit: <http://libguides.uta.edu/>.

Your librarian is Diane Shepelwich, dianec@uta.edu. Diane is available through email, individual or group meetings, or phone appointments. If you need help getting started with your research or course assignment or have questions along the way, please contact Diane for personalized research assistance.

The English Writing Center (Central Library room 411): The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services

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://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). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. 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 or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *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.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, 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 outside and down the stairs. 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 <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

ENGL 2303 Reading & Assignment Schedule

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

BB = Available on Blackboard

8/25	Introduction
8/30	Poetry Close Reading Questions due Dickinson, "The Shut me up in Prose" and Whitman, selection from "Song of Myself" (BB: available on Blackboard as Dickinson-Whitman-poems.pdf).
9/1	Whitman, "Song of Myself" (BB). Read first 20 pages OR read and listen to the poem online: http://www.laits.utexas.edu/leavesofgrass/
9/6	"Song of Myself," finish reading
9/8	"Song of Myself" discussion continued
9/13	Ginsberg, "Howl" (BB), read section I
9/15	"Howl," finish reading
9/20	"Howl" discussion continued
9/22	Class cancelled
9/27	Test
9/29	Walker, <i>The Color Purple</i> , p. 1-75 (letters 1-34)
10/4	Citation Homework due <i>The Color Purple</i> , p. 76-154 (letters 35-61)
10/6	<i>The Color Purple</i> , p. 155-225 (letters 62-79), plus in-class thesis writing workshop
10/11	<i>The Color Purple</i> , read to end, plus in-class essay outline workshop
10/13	Essay 1 due <i>Alexie, Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> p. 1-66

10/18	<i>Absolutely True Diary</i> p. 67-129
10/20	<i>Absolutely True Diary</i> p. 67-129
10/25	<i>Absolutely True Diary</i> p. 130-196
10/27	<i>Absolutely True Diary</i> p. 197-end
11/1	Essay 2 due Graff & Berkinstein, <i>They Say/I Say</i> , Parts 1 and 2
11/3	"They Say" Summary 1 due Groups will read ONE of these essays (both on Blackboard): Wall, "Lettered Bodies and Corporeal Texts" Williams, "Trying to Do Without God"
11/8	"They Say" Summary 2 due Groups will read ONE of these essays (both on Blackboard): Elsley, "Nothing can be sole or whole that has not been rent" Leder, "Alice Walker's American Quilt"
11/10	Gurdon, <u>"Darkness Too Visible"</u> Alexie, <u>"Why the Best Kid Books are Written in Blood"</u>
11/15	"They Say" Summaries 3 & 4 due Groups will read TWO essays (all on Blackboard): 1. Either (choose one): Bird, "The Exaggeration of Despair" OR Owens, "Through an Amber Glass" 2. Either (choose one): Coulombe, "The Approximate Size of His Favorite Humor" OR Evans, "Open Containers"
11/17	Children's Literature Workshop: Reading provided in class
11/22	Essay 3 due Children's Literature Workshop cont.
11/24	Class cancelled -- Thanksgiving Holiday
11/29	Children's Literature Workshop cont.

12/1	Group Presentations
12/6	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. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381