**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

**ENGL 2329:  American Literature     Fall 2017**

**Professor: Dr. Erin Murrah-Mandril**

**Email: erin.murrahmandril@uta.edu (email returned within 24 hours on week days after I receive them from students)**Office: Carlisle Hall **612  
Office Hours: available by apointment  
  
Texts and Materials:**Course material will be available online and accessed through Blackboard.

* You should have access to Power Point, MS WORD, AdobeReader, and other software necessary to view all aspects of the ENGL 2329 Distance Education course.

**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.  Examines at least three genres and six authors. Emphasis on critical thinking, reading, and writing**.**

**Course Objectives under the Core Curriculum**

This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirements in Language, Philosophy, and Culture.

* Students will develop their critical thinking by learning to read literary texts closely, pay attention to relevant details, and organize their observation into cogent arguments.
* Students will develop their communication skills by discussing literature orally in class and by articulating their findings in written arguments.
* Students will develop their sense and practice of personal responsibility by learning to engage with and incorporate secondary sources into their writing.
* Students will develop their understanding of social responsibility by tracing the way that literature shapes and addresses urgent social questions, both historical and contemporary; students will do this in class discussion and most pointedly in the Signature Assignment (see below).

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 description 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.

**Description of Signature Assignment:**

The signature assignment addresses all four of the course 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.

[Click here to see the full assignment: Signature Assignment (Lesson 14)](https://elearn.uta.edu/bbcswebdav/courses/master_engl_2329_ap_8wk/master_engl_2329_ap_8wk_ImportedContent_20141111015355%281%29%281%29/Final%20Essay%20Assignment%202329%20online.doc" \t "_blank) **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.

**Assignments and Grade Calculation:**

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| **Categories of Assignments** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| **Daily Assignments:** | **25%** |
| **Quizzes:** These brief quizzes are objective and serve to check your reading. These are timed and are to be taken independently without assistance from a book, online information, notes, or other people. The Research Report  also counts as a quiz grade. |  |
| **Discussion posts:** in order to receive  points, your discussion post should address the lesson prompt. Your comments must be thoughtful and based on your careful analysis of the text, but also demonstrate that you are aware of what others on the discussion board have written. |  |
| **Essays and Projects** | **45%** |
| Artistic Response to War Project | 15% |
| Poetry Essay | 15% |
| Signature Assignment Essay (Social Issue/Short Story) | 15% |
| **Exams:** | **30%** |
| Short Story Exam | 15% |
| Poetry Exam | 15% |
| **TOTAL** | **100%** |

**Scale for final course grades:**A   90 to 100 percent  (90 to 100)      
B   80 to 89 percent (80 to 89.9)       
C   70 to 79 percent   (70 to .79.9)         
D   60 to 69 percent  (60 to 69.9)         
F    0 to 59 percent      (0 to 59.9)       **Course Policies:**You must complete all assignments and quizzes by the due dates. **No late work is accepted**.Computer malfunctions do not constitute excuses for missing work or turning in work late. All due dates for the assignments and quizzes are listed in the course schedule. College students are expected to work independently and to complete assignments on time. It is important to look ahead in order to understand when major assignments are due. Most successful students mark due dates on a planner or calendar.

All course information, videos, web links, and audios are required “readings” for all students. Most lessons include a quiz that not only assesses understanding and comprehension of the literary texts, but also poses questions found in the historical context readings and the video/audio selections. Quiz questions have been tested in several previous classes. Before questioning the viability of an answer, please review course material for that quiz. Then contact your instructor if you have a question.  
Your instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 hours.  Course work will be graded and returned in a timely manner. Assignments and discussion will generally be evaluated within 10 days after due date. Major essays and exams will be evaluated within two weeks after due date. Your instructor will notify you if unexpected delays in grading do occur.

**Please read the entire syllabus content area for information on communication, interaction with classmates and professor, and policies about electronic or internet issues.**

**Participation:**You should read/watch all assigned material and complete all assignments carefully and thoughtfully. As you read, think critically about the material in order to generate ideas and questions from your analysis. It is expected that students in this course will actively and appropriately engage in online discussions and participate online in collaborative learning situations. **You are expected to participate in all course activities. Failure to do so results in a lowered grade.**

**Discussion Board Posts:**

In order to earn a PASSING grade, the initial discussion post (where you answer the prompt) should be at least 200 words. However, to earn higher grades, the post must do more than merely fulfill a word count.

Aside from the first discussion forum post, each post (unless otherwise stated) has two parts: your original post and your responses. For your original post, you will want to use the prompt provided in the description to develop an argument over the reading(s) for that lesson. Make sure that you use the reading/texts as evidence to help develop your argument (meaning you include details or a direct quote). Each argument should contain a thesis statement, which makes a claim and supports it with at least one reason. Your responses to fellow students on the other hand, should attempt to engage the student in a conversation. This means more than simply saying that you "agree" or "disagree" with their argument. It means talking to the other student and providing your own evidence from the story/poem to develop your responses. A full response engages the other student in a discussion around the student's argument, providing points and claims from your own reading of the story.

Remember: an A discussion is exceptional, will include direct quotes which are properly cited using in-text citation (no Works Cited necessary), is thorough, and has a thesis that is adequately supported.  Your peer responses are engaging, thoughtful, and thorough.  A "B" is good, will include details from the text but not necessarily a direct quote, and attempt to support a basic thesis.  Your peer responses go beyond agreeing or disagreeing.  A "C" is answering the prompt without going above and beyond.  Meaning, you've responded to the prompt and given your peers a brief response that basically agrees or disagrees on a rudimentary level.  The grades you earn on the initial discussion forum should not be an indication of how you'll do on future posts. ​

As per the Honor Code, your discussion posts are to be your original ideas not copied or influenced by analysis you read on the internet, in study help sites, or any other sources.

**E-Culture Policy:**The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success.  In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email. All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email.  New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses.  There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington.  Students are responsible for checking their email regularly. Keep in mind that tone is often lost in an email. Please be professional and courteous in all correspondence and in all discussions.You must be proficient in MS Word, MS Power Point and other basic personal computing skills to be successful in this course. We do not provide training on basic computer use or internet access issues.**You are required to check your UTA email and course announcements daily as this is the means by which I communicate with all students.**

**Academic Integrity:**

Students enrolled in  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.

Your work is to be your own, and it is to be prepared originally for this course. It is considered academic dishonesty to present work done by someone else and to claim it as your own. It is also inappropriate to hand in a paper or portions of a paper written for another class--including high school and college courses you have taken or in which you are currently enrolled. Any borrowed information (from books, websites, and other sources) should include the correct documentation to identify it as originating elsewhere. Academic dishonesty of any type (plagiarism, cheating, preparing work for others, someone else doing your work, etc.) is unacceptable even if you do it accidentally. All instances of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to UTA policy and procedures, and I will send a copy of questionable work to the Office of Student Conduct to be kept on file. I also reserve the right to award zeros on assignments and/or an F in the entire course to any student who engages in any type of academic dishonesty.

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) **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, 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)

**Student Support Services:**

The University of Texas at 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. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom hall), contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message at [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or visit [www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php)for more information.

**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>. **The Writing Center:**[Click here for Writing Center Web Page](http://www.uta.edu/owl/" \t "_blank)  
For Quick Hits real time help go to Writing Center Facebook Page  
[https://www.facebook.com/WritingCenteratUTArlington](https://www.facebook.com/WritingCenteratUTArlington" \t "_blank)

**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/](http://library.uta.edu/" \t "_blank) 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](mailto:AskUs@uta.edu" \t "_blank), or the chat widget on the library’s homepage, [http://library.uta.edu/](http://library.uta.edu/" \t "_blank). For a list of useful guides to help you start your research, visit: [http://libguides.uta.edu/](http://libguides.uta.edu/" \t "_blank).

Your librarian is **Diane Shepelwich**, [dianec@uta.edu](mailto:dianec@uta.edu" \t "_blank). 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.**Drop Policy:**If you choose to withdraw from the course for any reason, you must follow University procedures.  I cannot and will not drop anyone for any reason from this course. However, I may strongly recommend that you drop if you are significantly behind on completing the required assignments.

**Course Schedule:**

A note on the schedule: Your weekly module (readings and assignments) will be made available Sunday morning (12:01 am, technically) and assignments will be due by Wednesday and Friday night (11:59 pm). This is meant to give you at least one weekend day with no work (Saturday), and also allow for the varying schedules that online students have, weather you work days, nights, weekends, care for small children or aging parents, or have other scheduling needs. Remember, you can always turn work in before the Wednesday and Friday deadlines. The first week is a little off schedule because UTA has a short  first week.

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| **Course Schedule and Due Dates: English 2329 Fall 2017**  **(All times listed are Central Time)** | | | |
| **Dates** | **Lesson** | **Topics/Lessons** | **Assignments Due** |
| Aug. 24 to 27  This week has some overlap with next week because it is so short | 1 | Introduction to American Literature Course | * Read all assigned material * Begin defining and memorizing literary terms for future exams * Post to discussion forum by Mon., 8/28, 11:55 p.m. * Syllabus quiz due by Sun., 8/27,11:55 p.m. * Plagiarism quiz due by Sun., 8/27, 11:55 p.m. |
| Aug. 27 to Sept. 1 | 2 | Overview of Short Fiction | * Read all assigned material * Continue defining and memorizing literary terms for future exams * Take Lesson 2 Quiz by Wed., 9/30, 11:55 p.m. * Post to discussion forum by Fri., 9/1, 11:55 p.m. |
| Sept. 3 to 8 | 3 | "Young Goodman Brown" | * Read assigned material * Take Lesson 3 Quiz by Wed., 9/6, 11:55 p.m. * Post to discussion forum by Fri., 9/8,11:55 p.m. |
| Sept. 10 to 15 | 4 | "A Worn Path" and  "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" | * Read all assigned material * Take Lesson 4 Quiz by Wed., 9/13,11:55 p.m. * Post discussion forum by Fri.,9/15,11:55 p.m. |
| Sept. 17 to 22 | 5 | "The Yellow Wallpaper" | * Read all assigned material * Take Lesson 5 Quiz by Wed., 9/20,11:55 p.m. * Post to discussion forum by Fri., 9/22, 11:55 p.m. * You may want to begin work on the Essay due in the next week's lesson. |
| Sept. 24 To Sept. 29 | 6 | "The Things They Carried" | * Read all assigned material * Take Lesson 6 Quiz by Wed., 9/25, 11:55 p.m. * **1st Essay Due.** Complete Artistic Response to War Essay & post to discussion by Fri., 9/29, 11:55 p.m. * Post discussion forum responses by Sun., 9/30,11:55 p.m. |
| Oct. 1 To Oct. 6 | 7 | "Everyday Use" and  "Two Kinds" | * Read/watch all assigned material * Take Lesson 7 Quiz by Wed., 10/4 11:55 p.m. * Post to discussion forums by Fri., 10/6, 11:55 p.m. |
| Oct.   8 To Oct. 13 | 8 | "What you Pawn I Will Redeem" | * Read/watch/listen to all assigned material * Take Lesson 8 Quiz by Wed., 10/11, 11:55 p.m. * Post to discussion forum by Fri., 10/13, 11:55 p.m. * Take **SHORT STORY EXAM** by Sun., 10/15, 11:55 p.m. |
| Oct. 15 to Oct. 20 | 9 | Introduction to Poetry and  Writing about Poetry | * Read/watch/listen to all assigned material * Take Lesson 9 Quiz by Wed.,10/18,11:55 p.m. * **2nd Essay Due**. Complete Poetry Essay Assignment by Fri.,10/20,11:55 p.m. |
| Oct. 22 to Oct. 27 | 10 | Poetry: Emily Dickinson | * Read/watch/listen to all assigned material * Take Lesson 10 Quiz by Wed., 10/25, 11:55 p.m. * Post discussion forum comments by Fri., 10/27, 11:55 p.m. |
| Oct. 29 to Nov. 3 | 11 | Poetry: Langston Hughes | * Read/watch/listen to all assigned material * Take Lesson 11 Quiz by Wed., 11/1, 11:55 p.m. * Post discussion forum comments by Fri., 11/31, 11:55 p.m. * Take **POETRY EXAM** by Sun., 11/2, 11:55 p.m. |
| Nov. 3 to Nov. 10 | 12 | Introduction to Novella:  *The Awakening* | * Read/watch all assigned material * Take Lesson 12 Quiz by Wed., 11/8, 11:55 p.m. * Post discussion forum comments by Fri., 11/10, 11:55 p.m. |
| Nov. 12 to Nov. 22 | 13 & 14 | *The Awakening*  (Note the extended dates and two quizzes due during this time due to Thanksgiving break.) | * Read/watch all assigned material * Take Lesson 13 Quiz by Wed., 11/15 11:55 p.m. * Post Lesson 13 discussion forum comments by Sun., 11/19, 11:55 p.m. * Take Lesson 14 Quiz by Wed., 11/22, 11:55 p.m. |
| Nov. 26 to  Dec. 1 | 15 | Signature Assignment  Essay Preparation | * Begin work on the Final Essay. * Submit Signature Assignment  Essay Research Report by Fri., 12/1,11:55 p.m. |
| Dec. 3 to  Dec 8 | 15 | Signature Assignment  Essay Due | * Post Lesson 15 Farewell discussion comment by Wed., Dec. 6 * Submit Signature Assignment Essay by Friday., Dec. 8, 11:59p.m. |