English 2329 Good and Evil in American Lit

University of Texas at Arlington

Summer 2018

Instructor: Bethany K. Shaffer

Classroom and Time: Monday-Thursday from 10:30-12:30pm in Preston Hall 210

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Office: 209 Carlisle Hall

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday from 10-10:30, and by appointment

**\*\*\* Read the syllabus BEFORE asking any questions! \*\*\***

**Required Texts:**

* *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
* *Christ in Concrete* by Pietro DiDonato
* *Fledgling* by Octavia Butler
* A variety of short stories that are available for free on Blackboard

**Purpose:**

This course has two purposes: to help you develop an understanding of central debates about and themes in American 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 create a presentation on one example of a good and evil ambiguity in film. 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.

**Blackboard:**

Our course will regularly utilize the use of Blackboard for announcements, online course materials, and discussion forums. We’ll utilize the online discussion forums so that I’m able to hear from each of you at least once per week. Discussions and responses will be due by end of day (11:59 CST). Please check the course schedule for Blackboard Days. Note: we will NOT meet in person on any scheduled Blackboard days.

**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. If you are working on a Discussion forum assignment, make sure you complete the required reading PRIOR to posting/responding. You may purchase the required texts in whatever format you’d like. Everything is available in both digital and print formats. Please note you MUST have access to the text during class, so if you’re reading on your Kindle, the Kindle comes to class with you each day.

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 10:30. 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 15 points and cannot be made up.

GOOD AND EVIL IN FILM REPORT- On the chosen assigned day, each student will deliver a five to seven (5-7) minute presentation of good and evil represented in a single film. In addition to the presentation, each student must upload a 250 word essay explaining their choice of focus and film. Be sure the essay is argumentative rather than a summary of the film. I want to know WHY it’s an important example. Each student must suggest a minimum of three films/dates they would be willing to present on. I will assign your date and film and post these on Blackboard by June 10th.

THE SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT–You will write one major essay for this course. It must be at least four (4) 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- Once each week, you will participate in an online discussion on Blackboard via the discussion forum. 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. 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 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.

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 because there is no reading analysis required.

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 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. If you miss class, **DO NOT** ask me to give you notes or if we did anything important. Ask your peers for notes. Class time is always important. I do always appreciate a heads up that you’re unable to attend class, but it is not mandatory.

**\*\*\*If you add my class late, you are NOT permitted to make up any missed assignments. Class officially begins on Monday, June 4, 2018\*\*\***

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. 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 **not** take attendance. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

TARDINESS – Please arrive on time. I will begin class each day at 10:30 sharp. Arriving at 10:32 on many class days will result in a zero on the quiz. Parking stinks. Traffic stinks. Plan accordingly.

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 quizzes. If you miss that class, you miss the points. **Note: I will not accept e-mailed papers. Second Note: if you register for class late, you are NOT permitted to turn in any missed assignments and will receive zeros for any missed work.**

CELL PHONES –Please turn off your cell phones before class begins. I will not accept frivolous interruptions.

**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 (15 points each) = 150 points
* Five Discussion Forum Posts (30 points each) = 150 points
* Essay = 200 points
* Film Report = 100 points
* Exam One = 150 points
* Final exam = 250 points

**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/>). The final day to withdraw from the course is **Friday, March 31st by 4:00pm**.

**Disability Accommodations:** UTArlington 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](http://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](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://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*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*.*

**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](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](file:///C:\Users\Bethany\Downloads\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>.

**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.

**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](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/learning-center/tutoring/index.php), [major-based learning centers](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/college-based-clinics-labs.php), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/advising.php), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/mcnair/index.php). 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 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](mailto:IDEAS@uta.edu) or call (817) 272-6593.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR)**: [Optional.] 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](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

**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