

[Version 1, Jan. 5., may be revised]

ENGL 3333. DYNAMIC TRADITIONS IN LITERATURE: *OCEANS*



Dr. Stacy Alaimo
Professor of English

Spring 2018
TuTh 12:30-1:50
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Office Hours: T/TH: 2-3 and by appointment

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Course Description:

This new course, 3333, offers an introduction to literary study that focuses primarily on changes over time to a movement, genre, or motif. This section of 3333 will focus on oceans as they have been depicted in literature. We will read a diverse range of literature, including a play, poetry, novels, a graphic novel, speculative fiction, and literary criticism, from Homer and Shakespeare to graphic novels and AfroFuturist SF.

Course Goals

- 1) To read and discuss literature and practice different modes of literary interpretation.
- 2) To trace how the ocean has been represented in literature from the Western classical period to the present, reflecting on meaning, significance, and implications.
- 3) To improve students' skills, more generally, in reading, writing, critical thinking, research, use of library resources, and public speaking.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students should demonstrate an in depth knowledge and understanding of the literature included in the course, as well as the questions, themes, and methods of analysis and interpretation.
- 2) Students should be able to formulate original, illuminating comparisons, analyses, and interpretation of the texts, in class discussions, papers, and exams.
- 3) Students should be able to express their ideas in clear, logical, organized, concise, and persuasive ways, in both written and oral forms.
- 4) Students should be able to conduct research and incorporate that research into a

- coherent research paper that develops and supports an original thesis.
- 5) Students should make valuable and consistent contributions to class discussions and give clear, substantial presentations.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials

- Homer (and Robert Fagles), *The Odyssey* [Penguin Classics, ISBN-13: 978-0140268867]
- Shakespeare, *The Tempest* [Signet Classics, ISBN-13: 978-0451527127]
- Jules Verne, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* [Simon and Schuster Enriched Classic, ISBN-13: 978-1416500209]
- Linda Hogan, *People of the Whale* [Norton, ISBN-13: 978-0393335347]
- Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, *Iep Jaltok: Poems from a Marshalese Daughter*,
- Nnedi Okorafor *Lagoon*
- Nick Hayes, *The Rime of the Modern Mariner*
- PDFs available at Blackboard
- Access to a computer and internet, access to a stapler

Requirements/Grading

You must complete all the required work in order to pass the course. Grades will be calculated based on letter grades from F to A+ on a 0-12 scale. Students should keep track of their own grades; they won't be posted in Blackboard.

Daily Participation: 10% (based on quality and quantity)

One short paper: 15%

First Exam 20%

Research Paper: 25%

Small Group Presentation: 5%

Second Exam: 25% (No final exam)

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

Exams

The exams will contain some short-answer and identification questions, but most of the points will be from essay questions. Bring greenbooks and pens for the exam.

Papers

One short paper and one longer research paper will be required. For the research paper, students will be able to determine their own topics, within the broad topics-- that the class determines. Each student will present something from their research paper as part of a coherent small group at the end of the semester (All papers are due at the very beginning of the class and will be marked down one grade for every day that they are late.)

Mechanics: All papers must be "typed," stapled, and have a significant title. Please do NOT use plastic folders for your paper—a staple is sufficient. Standard form: double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins. Papers must be submitted to Safe Assign on Blackboard and handed in as paper copies.

Please Note: plagiarism is a serious offense and will be punished to the full extent, according to university procedures. You must always give people credit for their intellectual property by citing them properly—this includes ideas and language.

- Resources on plagiarism : <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/>; <http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342054>.
- Please take this tutorial before writing any papers for this class: <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

****Participation/Attendance/Punctuality****

This is a real-time, face to face, discussion class. Your active, informed participation is crucial to the success of the course. Carefully prepare for each class period by doing the reading in a rigorous and inquisitive manner. Every day that you come to class you should have something valuable to say. I will grade on actual participation, rather than on mere attendance. However, if you miss class five times, your course grade will be lowered and if you miss six classes you will fail the course. Everyone gets four absences; use them wisely. You do not need to tell me why you were absent—that is your own private business--just don't miss more than four classes. There are NO excused absences. If you come in after I have marked the rolls, that will count as an absence—so come to class on time. If you can't come to class or you can't get here on time you will need to drop. Everyone is required to attend class during the final small group presentations.

Contacting the Instructor: The best way to contact me is through email: alaimo@uta.edu. Please do not contact me through Facebook regarding anything having to do with this class. I do not accept emailed or faxed papers.

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment, 2-3. Office: 411 Carlisle

OFFICIAL UTA POLICIES THAT UTA REQUIRES BE INCLUDED IN THIS SYLLABUS.

“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://www.uta.edu/ao/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/> **[NOTE FROM DR. ALAIMO: IF I SEE A GUN IN CLASS OR IN MY OFFICE I WILL CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY]**

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 \[insert a description of the nearest exit/emergency exit\]](#). 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.

[As you see, this section requires faculty members to be fully aware of the exits nearest their classrooms, even before the semester begins. Evacuation plans may be found at http://www.uta.edu/campus-ops/ehs/fire/Evac_Maps_Buildings.php. In the case that you are unable to ascertain this information in time for your syllabus, you must be sure to explain to your students on day one how best to exit the building. Inclusion of this verbiage as well as a brief discussion on the matter with your students at the beginning of the term is mandated by UT Arlington Procedure 7-6: Emergency/Fire Evacuation Procedures (http://www.uta.edu/police/Evacuation_Procedures.pdf)

[Should you learn that your class roster includes students with physical/sensory disabilities, you should arrange to meet *in private* with each of these students to discuss their needs for assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation.]

Students should also be encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at <https://mavalert.uta.edu/> or <https://mavalert.uta.edu/register.php>

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>.

University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction (Ransom Hall 205): UTSI offers a variety of academic support services for undergraduate students, including: 60 minute one-on-one [tutoring](#) sessions, [Start Strong](#) Freshman tutoring program, and [Supplemental Instruction](#). Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information visit www.uta.edu/utsi or call 817-272-2617.

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. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

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.

Dr. Alaimo's classroom policy:

Class time is valuable and important! Please actually be here when you are here. If you are here but not here you are not here.

1. **TURN OFF** all pagers, cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices while in class! You may not text message or read email or engage in any other electronic activities during class. You may not use laptops in class; the only exception is the use of laptops for accessing the PDFs, the OED or other materials in the course. [Anyone who is looking at anything other than our class materials on line will be counted absent that day and will be asked to leave the class.] See: "Laptops are Great. But Not During a Lecture or Meeting" <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/22/business/laptops-not-during-lecture-or-meeting.html> "Your Brain on Computers," http://topics.nytimes.com/top/features/timestopics/series/your_brain_on_computers/index.html



2. Arrive to class **ON TIME**. It is distracting to both the professor and the students to have someone come in late. If you come in late, you will be marked absent.
3. Always arrive **PREPARED** to work. Every day we will have work to do in class. Some days we will work in small groups. If you are not prepared then you will not be able to contribute to the class or to your small group. You may be asked to leave class if you are not prepared. Also, remember that for English classes you **MUST BRING** whatever **TEXTS** we are discussing that day to class.
4. Treat your classmates with **RESPECT**. Learn to disagree without being disagreeable. We will discuss controversial, volatile topics, so everyone needs to learn how to disagree with someone's views, beliefs, or perspectives while maintaining a sense of civility—or even compassion! Civil discourse is important for an educated, humane, democratic society.

Respect your fellow students! Respect your brain! Seize your education! Focus! Be here



As the instructor, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule. Dr. Alaimo

Always come to class prepared to discuss the readings, bringing your own interpretations, comparisons, analyses, and questions. Always bring the books or other readings, which should be all marked up by your active, inquisitive reading practices.

- Books that you need to purchase are marked with a *
- PDF = PDFs available on Blackboard. Please print them out or at least download them and mark them up. Blackboard or the internet may be not be reliable.

Introductions

Week One. Jan. 16 & 18.

Tuesday: No class. Time to buy books and orient yourself in ocean history, by reading three timelines and an introductory essay.

- Ocean Exploration Timeline: <http://www.seasky.org/ocean-exploration/ocean-timeline-menu.html>
- Ocean Exploration Timeline: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/ocean-exploration-timeline/>
- Women and the Sea: <https://www.marinersmuseum.org/sites/micro/women/timeline/index.htm>
- "The Blue Humanities: In Studying the Sea, We are Returning to Our Beginnings" <https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2013/mayjune/feature/the-blue-humanities>

Thursday: Anglo Saxon poetry in Translation (around the late 10th century) and echoes: [Please print out the two "Seafarer" poems and "The Whale," and bring them to class.]

- "The Seafarer," [Print] <https://anglosaxonpoetry.camden.rutgers.edu/the-seafarer/> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Seafarer_\(poem\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Seafarer_(poem))
- "The Whale," [Print] <https://anglosaxonpoetry.camden.rutgers.edu/the-whale/>

Ezra Pound, "The Seafarer" (1911) [Print]:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44917/the-seafarer>

Caroline Bergvall, "Drift" [Read before class but no need to print]

- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/56955/from-drift>
- "Get Lost": <http://bostonreview.net/poetry/dana-levin-caroline-bergvall-drift-get-lost>

Homer, *The Odyssey*: Gendered Oceans (8th century BCE, Greece)

Week Two. January 23 & 25.

Tuesday: * Homer, *The Odyssey*, Introduction and books, 1, 2, 4, 5.

Thursday: * Homer, *The Odyssey*, books 9, 12, 23.

Shakespeare's *The Tempest*: Fathoming Strange Seas (1610)

Week Three. January 30 & February 1.

Tuesday: *Shakespeare, *The Tempest*: read short introduction, lxiii-lxxvii; the play itself, p. 1-87; "The Sources of the *Tempest*," p. 91-105.

Thursday: *The Tempest*, continued.

Steve Mentz, excerpt from *At the Bottom of Shakespeare's Ocean*, Preface and 1-13; [PDF];
Dan Brayton, excerpt from *Shakespeare's Ocean*, 51-61 [PDF];

The Deep Nineteenth Century

Week Four. February 6 & 8

Tuesday: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (1798) [PDF]
Look at illustrations here: <http://digital.lib.buffalo.edu/collection/LIB-SC001/>
[Please print poem and bring to class]

Thursday: Selected chapters from Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851), Chapters 32 "Cetology," 55 "Of the Monstrous Pictures of Whales," 53 "Brit," 59 "Squid," 67 "Cutting in," 87 "The Grand Armada" [PDF]

Week Five. February 13 & 15

Tuesday: * Jules Verne, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*

Thursday: continued.. .

Week Six. February 20 & 22

Tuesday: continued. . .

Thursday: No class. Work on papers or study for exam.

Modern and Contemporary Poetry about Marine Life

Week Seven. February 27 & March 1

Tuesday: First Exam

Thursday: Modernist Poetry [PDF]

Week Eight. March 6 & 8

Tuesday: Contemporary Poetry [PDF]

Thursday: **Paper Due:** Flash Talk at the start class : 2-3 minute presentation of title, thesis, and one bit of textual evidence from your paper.

Week Nine. March 13 & 15. Spring Break!

Native American and Pacific Literatures

Week Ten. March 20 & 22.

Tuesday: * Linda Hogan, *People of the Whale*, first half

Thursday: * *People of the Whale*, second half

Week Eleven. March 27 & 29.

Tuesday: Epeli Hau'Ofa, excerpts from *We Are the Ocean* (2008) [PDF]

* Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, *Iep Jaltok*, first half

Thursday:

* Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, *Iep Jaltok*, second half

Afrofuturism and Oceanic Ecologies

Week Twelve. April 3 & 5.

Tuesday: * Nnedi Okorafor, *Lagoon*, Act I

Thursday: * *Lagoon*, Act II

Week Thirteen. April 10 & 12.

[schedule will be revised here]

Tuesday: *Lagoon*, Act III.

Thursday:

Week Fourteen. April 17 & 29.

Tuesday: * Nick Hayes, *The Rime of the Modern Mariner*

Thursday: **Second Exam**

Research Papers and Group Presentations

Week Fifteen. April 24 & 26.

Tuesday: Peer Editing of Research Papers

Thursday: Hand in Research Papers, Plan Presentations

Week Sixteen. May 1 & 3. Group Presentations.
Schedule TBA.

Tuesday:

Thursday:

Please complete online evaluations of the course.

