

Contemporary Literature: Stephen King's DOCTOR SLEEP
Fall Semester 2022 ENGL 4953 x10 Online Course

SHORT SYLLABUS

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OFFICE HOURS: MTWRF 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM. If you can, let me know by email that you are dropping by. Also: I can make in-person and ZOOM appointments. Afternoons are best for me.

Course goals

- Read Stephen King's novel *Doctor Sleep*.
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision.
- Utilize credible supporting sources in our essays according to MLA citing.
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

I take attendance through D2L's login history and class progress. Be sure to log into our course at your earliest opportunity and click on our modules. That way you will be counted PRESENT.

LATE WORK

The THREE essays may be submitted to their drop box after the due date and time, but they are marked late. The late penalty is capped at 10 points out of 100. The last day for late work is before 11:59 PM Thursday December 8.

DUE DATES & PERCENTAGE VALUE OF SEMESTER GRADE

Note: the DROP BOX will mark the ESSAYS late after 11:59 PM the night of the due date. Threads must be posted before 11:59 PM of the date specified. I will reply to late threads, but they cannot receive point value.

D2L Post rough draft as THREAD – for a 50	Monday Sept 12
D2L Post rough draft as THREAD – for a 60	Monday September 19
D2L Submit RELATIONSHIPS essay to DROP BOX – 20%	Monday October 3
D2L Post rough draft as THREAD – for a 70	Monday October 10
D2L Post rough draft as THREAD – for an 80	Monday October 17
D2L Submit MEANT TO BE essay to DROP BOX – 30%	Monday October 31
D2L Post rough draft as THREAD – for a 90	Monday November 14
D2L Post rough draft as THREAD – for a 100	Monday November 21
D2L Submit SHINING essay to DROP BOX – 40%	Monday December 5
D2L THREADS – 10% (1 is worth the grade of 50; 2 = 60; 3 = 70; 4 = 80; 5 = 90; 6 = 100).	

Required Text:

Stephen King, *Doctor Sleep*. 2013. Scribner (Simon & Schuster), 2013.
This is the original hardback edition. ISBN 978-1-4767-2765-3.

THE THREE ESSAYS

RELATIONSHIPS in DOCTOR SLEEP (20 percent) – due in drop box Monday October 3:

Stephen King has remarked (in ON WRITING: A MEMOIR OF THE CRAFT) that he is SITUATIONAL. Yes, he is deep into his characters. But he only learns about them by putting them in a situation. The type of situation that most concerns us is the RELATIONSHIP the characters have with one another including ANTAGONISTIC relationships and/or relationships with minor characters or even a vague public-at-large. This essay should be THREE pages double-spaced. Prompt: What dynamic or principle brings people together in *Doctor Sleep*? [Our book is the only source for this essay.]

THINGS MEANT TO BE in DOCTOR SLEEP (30 percent) – due in drop box Monday October 31:

In *Doctor Sleep*, Stephen King--compared to his early books from the 70's--is very immersed in the motif of THINGS MEANT TO BE. A word we might use is FATE. In other words, at every turn in DOCTOR SLEEP what seems like random chance may not actually be random chance. Everything seems to happen for a reason and those reasons may be manifold. This paper should be FIVE pages double-spaced. Prompt: What purpose or principle--and we are doubtless talking about more than one dynamic--motivates or instigates the unfolding of events in *Doctor Sleep*? [Requires ONE other source besides *Doctor Sleep*.]

The SHINING in DOCTOR SLEEP (40 percent) – due in drop box Monday December 5:

The most important thing in DOCTOR SLEEP is how this thing--the SHINING--works in people's lives. I almost said "people's fates" because the SHINING is a supernatural gift that ANTICIPATES what is going to happen to people (and not just the person who possesses the gift). The SHINING is a dynamic force of super nature. This paper should be SEVEN pages double-spaced. Prompt: How does the shining work in *Doctor Sleep*? [Requires TWO other sources besides *Doctor Sleep*.]

THREADS (10 Percent):

THREADS are a great opportunity to rack up points towards 10 percent of the semester grade being a 100. There are SIX opportunities. Students are posting an incomplete rough draft of their upcoming essay—they do so TWICE before the essay is due revised and finished in the DROP BOX. The THREAD postings are NOT awarded points on the basis of their current polish or quality. Students receive the points simply for posting something irrespective of its present stage of development. If students don't participate by posting their work-in-progress in THREADS, they risk a low grade for 10 percent of the semester grade. If they post nothing the whole semester, that's a "0" for 10 percent of the semester grade.

DROP BOX due dates – before 11:59 PM Mondays October 3, 31, and December 5:

After the two THREADS—and the essay is ready—it must be submitted to the drop box in order to count and be grade. Click on ASSESSMENTS; then click on ASSIGNMENTS—you will see the drop box.

GRADES ARE NOT ROUNDED UP - D2L Final Calculated Grade is the semester grade.

Here is are the numeric-letter values: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C), 69-60 (D), 59-0 (F). NOTE: An 89.9 is a B; 79.9 is a C; 69.9 is a D; and 59.9 is an F.

DESCRIPTION

The THREE ESSAYS should make good use of specific description in the student's own words. As much as possible paint a picture, use action words, and otherwise immerse us in the experience.

OTHER SOURCES [We use MLA citing – See Purdue Owl online.]

The FIRST essay only uses *Doctor Sleep*—that's all. The second essay uses ONE other source. The third essay uses TWO other sources besides *Doctor Sleep*.

OPTIONS FOR OTHER SOURCES (they must be QUOTABLE):

Use other stories or books by Stephen King.

Use stories by OTHER authors, which relate to Stephen King.

Use books or articles ABOUT Stephen King or fantasy, horror, mythology, or science fiction.

Dialogue/narration from movie, videogame, or YouTube video ABOUT a videogame.

Plagiarism

Any use of a non-documented source as if it were a student's original work is academic dishonesty. The grade will be a "0" (no points) for the assignment and the student can no longer attend the course. The course grade is F. The student will be removed with a WF; offenders will be reported to the Chair of the Department. NOTE: Students have the right to appeal an alleged incident of Academic Dishonesty. More

information about this policy and appeal procedure can be found on page 55 of the *Student Handbook* https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf

Language too close to source

Students sometimes borrow the phrasing of the play or their scholarly sources as if it were their own. Students certainly can use key words from their sources, but they must use their own phrasing—not the source's.

Readability & Originality

The rubric has a category devoted to legibility and originality. Student writing must be readable and original. Students should NOT adapt material from either the instructor's models or the paragraphs other students submit in a THREAD.

Students with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees reasonable accommodation. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Writing Proficiency Requirement: All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) completed 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive courses, or passing English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the [Writing Proficiency Office website](#) or call 397-4131.