

Course Syllabus: Introduction to Reading and Writing about Literature
ENGL 1153 Sections 204 & 254
Spring 2022

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Shelby Ragan
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Course Description

This course will provide students an opportunity to develop critical reading and literary analysis skills in order to achieve deeper understanding of literary texts. Students will explore the various factors informing the production of written texts and learn how to conduct literary research in order to gain experience exploring different perspectives on select literary works and themes. The course will include several opportunities for students to articulate their interpretations and insights in essay assignments, which will be assessed for clarity, insight, and understanding. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Read various literary texts united by a common theme or topic
- Apply knowledge of literary analysis to interpret literary texts
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Write various genres of academic essays
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper
- Use sources ethically, in contextually appropriate ways, following designated style guide
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Literature: A Portable Anthology (5th Edition). Edited by Gardner, Diaz, Lawn, Ridl, Schakel. Bedford/St. Martins. 2021.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact IT or your instructor.

Assignments

The major assignments of this course are: a) a personal essay, b) a literary analysis, c) a researched literary analysis, d) a peer review workshop, and e) a final exam. The course will also include reading materials from the textbook and/or other provided sources, and engagement activities (e.g. discussion board posts, quick-writes, labor logs, reading checks, quizzes, activities, etc.).

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Personal Essay	15
Literary Analysis	15
Researched Literary Analysis	20
<i>Peer Review Workshop</i>	10
Engagement Activities	30
Final Exam	10
Total	100

Grading

This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. In this class, the following numerical equivalents for final grades are used: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0%. Please review the significance of each letter grade (taken from the MSU's Undergraduate Catalogue, p. 73). Essays that meet the basic requirements earn a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn As and Bs, you will have to work harder to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing.

Midterm Grades

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give you an idea of where you stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should make an appointment with me and consider taking advantage of the TASP services (see below).

Writing Proficiency Requirement

All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they've 1) passed the 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement in one of three ways: by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive Courses (only one can be in the core), or passing English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr>, or call 397-4131.

Acceptable Submission Format and Process

All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style guidelines. All formal papers will be uploaded to the D2L Assignment folder and/or the Achieve Assignment folder. By enrolling in this class, the student expressly grants MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The “limited right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Note: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved in advance.

Contacting Your Instructor

Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow 24 hours for a response (48 hours on the weekends).

Late Assignment Policy

All assignments are due on the dates assigned. No late work will be accepted unless specific arrangements have been made prior to the due date. Students falling two assignments behind are subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

Attendance Policy

It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. **Fifteen (15) absences from class (excused or not) will result in an automatic F for the semester grade.** If you need to miss several classes because of personal reasons, you should alert the Dean of Students office and provide them with the necessary documentation so that they can verify the situation for all of your instructors. Please see the MSU COVID webpage for more information should you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms. Student athletes that have to miss class to attend sporting events must come see me at the beginning of the semester.

Appropriate Conduct & Class Policies

In the classroom students are expected to ask and answer questions and participate in discussion. Appropriate conduct also means maintaining a safe learning environment based on mutual respect and civility. Repeated misconduct may result in receiving a grade penalty or being dismissed from the course.

Safe Zone Statement

This class is a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Penalties for plagiarism in this course can include failure of an assignment, failure of the course, and/or a formal university report of plagiarism. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, (940) 397-4140.

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's learning center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Please consult their schedule for more information about times and offerings. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Some departments also provide tutoring. Check the "Tutoring at MSU" tab in the portal for more information about all campus tutoring opportunities. For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7 tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the Distance Education Tutoring course to book an appointment with a tutor. If you are a distance

education student (i.e. you live more than 50 miles from MSU and are in all online courses), but you do not see this course pop up under your courses, please contact Ashley Hurst.

Schedule

Note: Changes in the course syllabus or schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

DBP = Discussion Board Post

Week	Date	Day	Reading **before class**	In-Class	Assignments
1	1/10/22	M		Introduction	
1	1/12/22	W	Ch. 1, pp. 3-5	Reading & Writing about Literature	
1	1/14/22	F	Ch. 1, pp. 5-7	Reading & Writing about Literature	DBP #1 due at 11 PM
2	1/19/22	W	Ch. 2, pp. 8-9, 11-12, 15	Good Reading	
2	1/21/22	F	Ch. 2, pp. 19-25	Good Reading	DBP #2 due at 11 PM
3	1/24/22	M	Ch. 2, p. 14 Ch. 6, pp. 84-85	Writing about Poems	
3	1/26/22	W	"El Salvador" p. 821	"El Salvador"	
3	1/28/22	F	"Black Girl Magic" pp. 799-800	"Black Girl Magic"	DBP #3 due at 11 PM
4	1/31/22	M	Ch. 6, pp. 86-94	Writing about Poems	
4	2/2/22	W	"The Clerk's Tale" pp. 773-75	"The Clerk's Tale"	
4	2/4/22	F	"Autism Screening Questionnaire" pp. 790-92	"Autism Screening Questionnaire"	DBP #4 due at 11 PM
5	2/7/22	M	Ch. 3, pp. 43-48, 49-50	The Writing Process Intro to Personal Essay	
5	2/9/22	W	Ch. 4, pp. 55-57	The Writing Process	
5	2/11/22	F		Workday	Personal Essay due Sunday 2/13 at 11 pm

Week	Date	Day	Reading **before class**	In-Class	Assignments
6	2/14/22	M	Ch. 5, pp. 74-77 Ch. 2, p. 10	Writing about Stories	
6	2/16/22	W	Ch. 5, pp. 77-79	"The Story of an Hour"	
6	2/18/22	F	Ch. 5, pp. 80-83	"The Story of an Hour"	DBP #5 due at 11 PM
7	2/21/22	M	Ch. 3, pp. 26-31	Writing about Stories	
7	2/23/22	W	"A Thousand Years of Good Prayers" pp. 518-29	"A Thousand Years of Good Prayers"	
7	2/25/22	F		"A Thousand Years of Good Prayers"	DBP #6 due at 11 PM
8	2/28/22	M	Ch. 3, pp. 31-35	Writing about Stories	
8	3/2/22	W	"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" pp. 398- 403	"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"	
8	3/4/22	F		"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"	DBP #7 due at 11 PM
9	3/7/22	M	Ch. 3, pp. 36-39, 48-49, 51-53, 60-65	Writing about Stories Intro to Literary Analysis	
9	3/9/22	W		Workday	
9	3/11/22	F		Workday	Literary Analysis due Sunday 3/20 at 11 pm

Week	Date	Day	Reading **before class**	In-Class	Assignments
10	3/21/22	M	Ch. 2, p. 16 Ch. 7, pp. 98-100	Writing about Plays	
10	3/23/22	W	<i>A Doll's House</i> pp.	<i>A Doll's House</i>	
10	3/25/22	F	<i>A Doll's House</i> pp.	<i>A Doll's House</i>	DBP #8 due at 11 PM
11	3/28/22	M	<i>A Doll's House</i> pp.	<i>A Doll's House</i>	
11	3/30/22	W	<i>A Doll's House</i> pp.	<i>A Doll's House</i>	
11	4/1/22	F	<i>A Doll's House</i> pp.	<i>A Doll's House</i>	DBP #9 due at 11 PM
12	4/4/22	M	Ch. 8, pp. 105-110	Writing a Researched Literary Analysis Intro to Research Literary Analysis	
12	4/6/22	W		Selecting a play/Start reading	
12	4/8/22	F		Reading day/Thesis	DBP #10 - Thesis due at 11 PM
13	4/11/22	M	Ch. 8, pp. 110-114	Writing an RLA	
13	4/13/22	W		Research Day	
14	4/18/22	M	Ch. 8, pp. 114-116	Writing an RLA	
14	4/20/22	W	Ch. 8, pp. 116-119 Ch. 3, pp. 50-51	Writing an RLA	
14	4/22/22	F	Ch. 8, pp. 119-124	Workday	

Week	Date	Day	Reading **before class**	In-Class	Assignments
15	4/25/22	M	Ch. 8, pp. 124-133	Workday	
15	4/27/29	W	Ch. 8, pp. 133-138	Workday	Email RLA draft by 5 pm THURSDAY 4/28
15	4/29/22	F		Peer Review	RLA due <u>Sunday 5/1</u> at 11 pm