ENGL 2335.001 Fall 2013

THEMES-GENRES LIT OF AMERICA
Mr. Tom Murphy, Professional Assistant Professor

Course Information
9:30-10:45 TR RM 106 Center for Instruction (CI) | (CI number 4 on online map)

Contact Information
Office: Room 270 B Faculty Center (FC number 14 on online map).
Phone: 361.825.2452
E-mail: thomas.murphy@tamucc.edu
Class Assistant: Pending
Office Hours: TR 1:30-3:30 & W 10:00-12:00 or by appointment
Course Web Page http://englishwiki.tamucc.edu/wiki/Murphy/Engl5001F13

Course Description

In this Course, we will examine the Americas through 20th and 21st century writings through its cultural texts. We will read from a range of literary genres, as well as exploring other cultural texts (e.g., music and visual art). As we read, we will consider the significant shifts that individuals and groups in the Western Hemisphere have as they rise or fall within cultural constraints. Our goal will be to determine how difference has marked and shaped thinking of the Americas through cultures and literatures of those on the margins. Some of the questions that will guide our study are: how do customs considered unacceptable to society become acceptable? What constitutes difference and where are the marks and shapes today here and now? Why the sacred and the taboo are one in the same? What profound historical, social and cultural connections with our times are in these texts? How do we respond critically through written and oral rhetoric to these texts and connections?

Prerequisites
• English 1301
• English 1302

Student Learning Outcomes
1) Recognize the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts;

2) Respond critically to literary works, including accuracy of knowledge of text and analytical insight.

Core Literature Objectives
1. To examine the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts, by reading texts by authors from a range of cultures and nationalities;

2. To explore the distinctive characteristics of relevant literary periods, genres, and writers;
3. To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts;

4. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing;

5. To use writing as a tool for learning.

Course Grade

- 25% Active participation in class discussion (SLO 1 & 2)
  - (20%) In-class writing assignments
  - (5%) Class Attendance
- 15% Group Video (SLO 1 & 2)
  - (10%) Group Video
  - (5%) Self Assessment
- 15% Take Home Essay #1 (10.17.13) (SLO 1 & 2)
- 10% Midterm Examination (10.22.13) (SLO 1 & 2)
  - Material covered between 9.4.13-10.22.13, including, texts, quizzes, handouts, presentations, movies and music.
  - Midterm Examination 10.22.13
- 20% Take Home Essay #2 Due 12.10.13 (12.10.13) (SLO 1 & 2)
- 15% Final Examination (12.17.13) (SLO 1 & 2)
  - Material covered between 10.22.13-12.10.13, including, texts, quizzes, handouts, presentations, movies and music.
  - Final Examination 12.17.13 8:00-10:30

If you are concerned about a grade, see me during office hours.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Class Participation

- In-class writing assignments are sometimes a group effort or by an individual that concerns material due on that given day. Be prepared to write every day in class that means you need to have paper and a pen/pencil everyday, plus a copy of the text being discussed on that particular day. On review days, students are required to bring all texts included in that particular examination.
- In-class discussion is vital for all students in understanding these texts even if that discussion may take place in the office or through email.
- All cell phones will be turned off, placed upside down in front of you on the desk before each class starts.

Group Video

Every student will prepare and present a group video that either concentrates on the cultural, social, historical or poetic context of the subject.

1. Sign up by 9.12—three people maximum to a topic!
2. Each student will participate in writing the script used to create a 5-7 minute video.
3. Each student will participate in the writing of the Artist Statement that details the reasoning
behind the components of the script and video concerning the topic.

4. Each group will meet with Mr. Murphy at least one week before the presentation due date with a full draft of the script in hand.

5. Each group will be graded by a specific Rubric

6. The video will be uploaded to YouTube and broadcasted in class.

7. A Self Assessment of the preparation of the presentation is due the day of the presentation in which each member will grade themselves and their group mates.

8. HAVE FUN!

Required Texts
You will read each text, so buy them. In most cases, the assigned readings will include materials not covered in class. As such, it is absolutely essential that you read the assignments before class in order to succeed in this course.

• Select materials, available as handouts or online
• In class videos

Turnitin.com
Academic writing differs from other kinds of writing in that it is a conversation with other people who are writing and thinking about your topic. When you write an academic essay you will agree with others, disagree with them, or do a little of both, but above all you will remain in a conversation. If you do not clearly identify their words and ideas from your own, you are not in a position to demonstrate your own critical thinking. Plagiarism, therefore, not only robs others other their proper credit, but it robs you of your ability to respond. To protect the integrity of the course (in this age of the internet) and help you develop the critical thinking necessary to respond to academic arguments, I ask students to submit their out-of-class essays to a plagiarism-checking website called www.turnitin.com. That website, in turn, will generate a report for me and to you. It will also archive your paper. If you would prefer not to have your work checked by this plagiarism website and your work archived in it, that is your right. However, instead of using turnitin.com, you would need to write a 250-word essay in my presence (during my office hours) explaining your objections. After accepting this handwritten essay from you, I would then check your future out-of-class work with other electronic tools that do not archive your work.

Turnitin.com has video tutorials on how to upload your papers, and it has tutorials on how to understand proper citation. I urge you to create an account as soon as possible by viewing the three (3) student training videos found at http://www.turnitin.com/static/support_video_gallery.html. These videos will tell you how to create a student user profile, enroll in a class and submitting a paper (as you would with an attachment) and have it checked. It's a fairly easy and painless process, but you must create the user profile first (giving your email address, creating a password, etc.). You will do this only once. Save your password! After you create that user profile, you will need to know the class ID and the class password for this class (**ENGL 2335.001**). Here they are: Class ID **6692861**
Password **Monster** This means you will need to have to use your Islander email account, or at least have it connect to your Pop mail account in order to receive and send information, including to the instructor. If you need help, go to http://orientation.tamucc.edu/email.html

**Essays**
You will be required to write (2) take home essays
- A Guide to Writing each essay is outlined here.
- Due dates for each essay:
  - 10.17.13 Essay 1 (15%) Ideas, Imagery and Meaning selection (Write on one of the following topics that address the historical, social and cultural aspects pairing *On The Road* and *The Hawkline Monster: A Gothic Western* texts.)
  - 12.10.13 Essay 2 (20%) Transnational, Race and Feminism (Write on one of the following topics that address the historical, social and cultural aspects of *What Now My Love* and *People of the Whale* texts.)

**Examinations**
All exams are to be taken in blue books (1 per exam). These may be purchased at the university bookstore. Do not, under any circumstances, remove any pages from your blue book before turning it in. All cell phones will be turned off and put away before you will receive each examination.
- There will be a Midterm (10.22.13) and a Final Examination (12.12.13)
- Each exam will include definitions (40%), and short answer questions (60%).
  - The definitions questions will be drawn from the lectures and a list of identifications from the readings, presentations & other materials.
  - The short answer questions will be drawn from the lectures and a list of identifications from the readings, presentations & other materials.

**Course Policies**

**Make-up Work**
All make up work must be previously arranged or it will not be accepted.

**Make-up Midterm Examination**
For students who miss the scheduled midterm, the makeup midterm will be on at 3:00 on November 8th in Mr. Murphy's office FC 270B. You should immediately reserve this date and time on your calendar; if you miss the scheduled exam, this is the time you will take the makeup, so you need to reserve the date and time at the beginning of the semester. The makeup will come from the same materials and review guides as the regular exams. Because of the nature of the course, however, students are strongly advised to take the exams at the originally scheduled times.

**Grade Appeals**
Grade Appeal Process. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may
appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Assistance
Office hours are intended to make this course less forbidding. Feel free to come by and talk with me about your work, or about literature in general, during the office hours listed. If you cannot make these times, ask me for an appointment.

Freedom of Speech
Feel free to raise your hand with a question or comment. Reducing confusion, providing clarification, or responding to student curiosity is an important part of the classroom process and will be undertaken to the extent that time and class size permit. In most cases, if you did not understand something, it is because I did not explain it clearly, so you will be doing your colleagues and yourself a service if you request a clarification. However, all students' using electronic devices that are not in use for course work is deemed Disruptive Behavior and student will be told to leave the seminar.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty Specifically Article III, #1 in the Violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
Cheating or plagiarism on an assignment or test, or failure to complete any of the course requirements, will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question. Our University catalog defines "plagiarism" as "the presentation of the work of another as one's own work." Please note that plagiarizing someone else's work may lead to an F in the course. To avoid any suspicion of plagiarism, make sure that you always cite your sources properly and clearly identify your own work if you study with other students. Cases will be reported to university officials for further action. Also, anyone signing another student's name may lead to an F in the course for all concerned parties.

Dropping a Class
I hope no student needs to drop this course. However, events sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. The University has set November 15th as the last day to drop a course for the semester with an automatic grade of “W.”

Acceptance of Diversity
We are the most diverse campus, in terms of self-declared ethnicity, in the Texas A&M system. This means that we are all meeting and working with people who are different from ourselves in terms of their identities: whether that be defined by their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and/or religion. Respecting and accepting difference is vital to your success in this class, on this campus, and in the global community.
**Student with Disabilities**

Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**The Writing Center**

The Writing Center of Texas A&M Corpus Christi provides free help for students at any stage in the writing process. Writing Center consultants are trained to work with writers one-on-one to help them find ideas, organize their thoughts, cite sources, and succeed at all aspects of the writing task. The Writing Center works closely with faculty across campus to understand the writing projects they assign and to help students meet the expectations of those assignments. The Writing Center is located in Glasscock Center (GSSC) 112, in the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA). Both drop-in and scheduled appointments are available. The Writing Center will be open soon. More information is available at: The Writing Center website.

**Academic Advising**

It is imperative that all students visit regularly with an academic adviser. Each college within the university has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisers to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. To find out how to contact the right adviser, go to: http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/advising.php

Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information, go to: http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac

**If you are concerned about a grade, see me during office hours.**

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