ENGL 2335.002 Spring 2014

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

Course Information
5:30-6:45 MW RM 205 Bay Hall (BH) | (BH number 1 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: MWF 11:00-12:00 & M 3:30-4:30 W 7:00-8:00 or by appointment
Course Web Page http://englishwiki.tamucc.edu/wiki/Murphy/engl2335_002S14

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% Team Video (SLO 1 & 2)
  - (10%) Team Video
  - (5%) Self Assessment
- 15% Take Home Essay #1 (3.3.14) (SLO 1 & 2)
- 10% Midterm Examination (3.5.14) (SLO 1 & 2)
  - Material covered between 1.22.14-3.5.14, including, texts, quizzes, handouts, presentations, movies and music.
- 20% Take Home Essay #2 Due (5.5.14) (SLO 1 & 2)
- 15% Final Examination (5.14.14) (SLO 1 & 2)
  - Material covered between 10.22.13-12.10.13, including, texts, quizzes, handouts, presentations, movies and music.

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 1.29—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 7371082 Password gompville 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:
  - 3.3.14 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.)
  - 5.5.14 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 (3.5.14) and a Final Examination (5.14.14)
- 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**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade
appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**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 April 5th 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.

**Notice to 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 call or visit
Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. You can also visit their website at http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/ and contact them via e-mail at disability.services@tamucc.edu. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

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
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Reminder to English Majors
As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.

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

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Part IV Chapters 1-6  
Part V | 2/13 | 2/14 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2/17 | The Hawkline Monster  
Book I-Hawkline Manor 1-68 | 2/19 | 2/20 | The Hawkline Monster  
Book II-Miss Hawkline-Book III The Door 71-116 | 2/21 | 2/22 |
| 6 | 2/24 | The Hawkline Monster  
Book III Meanwhile, Back in the Jar-Lake Hawkline 170-216 | 2/27 | 2/28 |
| 7 | 3/3 | Midterm Review  
Take Home Essay #1 due | 3/4 | 3/5 | Midterm | 3/6 | 3/7 |
| 8 | 3/17 | What Now My Love  
Chapters 1-2 1-40 | 3/18 | 1/19 | What Now My Love  
Chapters 3 41-53 | 3/20 | Cristina Garcia Reading 7-8 PM BH 104 |
| 9 | 3/24 | What Now My Love  
Chapters 4-5 54-95 | 3/25 | 3/26 | What Now My Love  
Chapters 6 96-104 | 3/27 | 3/28 Make up midterm |
| 10 | 3/31 | What Now My Love  
Chapters 7-8 105-154 | 4/1 | 4/2 | People of the Whale  
Prologue-Octopus 9-25 | 4/3 | 4/4 |
| 11 | 4/7 | People of the Whale  
Deathless-Dark River:  
1988 26-85 | 4/8 | 4/9 | People of the Whale  
Hunt 86-100 | 4/10 | 4/11 DROP DATE |
| 12 | 4/14 | People of the Whale  
Dark Houses- Out There  
101-180 | 4/15 | 4/16 | People of the Whale  
Discussion | 4/17 | 4/18 |
| 13 | 4/21 | People of the Whale  
Light-Years 181-206 | 4/22 | 4/23 | People of the Whale  
Red Fish: Human-Home  
207-239 | 4/24 | 4/25 |
| 14 | 4/28 | People of the Whale  
The Wall: The Names-  
The Day of Tranquility  
240-281 | 4/29 | 4/30 | People of the Whale  
The Man Who Killed  
The Whale-Stirrings Underneath 282-301 | 5/1 | 5/2 |
| 15 | 5/5-Last Class! Review  
Take Home Essay #2 due | 5/6 | 5/7 | Reading Day  
No office hours | 5/8 | Finals Begin |
| 16 | 5/12 | 5/13 | 5/14 | Final Examination  
4:30 PM – 7:00 PM | 5/15 |