English 2370.001—Introduction to English Studies
“From Innocence to Experience”
Spring 2016
TR 12:30-1:45 p.m.
BH-207

Instructor: Dr. Dale Pattison
Office: Faculty Center 255
Office Hours: TR: 1:50-3:20; W: 10:00-12:00
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Course Description

This course equips students with the basic skills and terminology for the study of literature. Emphasizing major literary forms, including drama, the novel, film, the short story, and poetry, the course will help students to become more critical and analytical readers of literary texts. In addition to developing these skills, students will examine literature that explores the journey from innocence to experience. The course will offer texts that, from a variety of perspectives, describe the movement from youth to adulthood, naivety to knowledge, and ignorance to enlightenment. Following this centuries-old narrative formula, students will learn to confront growth and change as concepts inextricably embedded in the foundations of narrative.

Required Texts


Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man. ISBN: 9780679732761

Students must purchase hard copies of the texts listed above. E-books are not permitted in this class. In addition to the above texts, students will access supplemental texts available either through links provided on the syllabus or through our Blackboard course page.

Films

You are required to watch all films on your own time. I've provided links to Amazon Instant Video, where you may rent each film for a limited time. You may also choose to purchase the films or stream them on Netflix.

- Winter's Bone (Dir. Debra Granik, 2010) (http://tinyurl.com/hv7n2un)
- Beasts of the Southern Wild (Dir. Benh Zeitlin, 2012) (http://tinyurl.com/jy5kab3)
- The Graduate (Dir. Mike Nichols, 1967) (http://tinyurl.com/nhu29lv)
Course 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 develop a vocabulary of basic literary terms and concepts and to use this vocabulary for the study of literature.
3. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.
4. To use writing as a tool for learning.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete ENGL 2370 will be able to:
1. Recognize the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts;
2. Respond critically to literary works.
3. Utilize the vocabulary of literary studies to discuss and examine literary works

Course Grading

The course will be structured on a 1000-point scale. The scores you receive on your assignments, exams, blackboard postings, draft workshops, and participation will be totaled at the end of the semester, and your final grade will be calculated based on this score. The points will be distributed as follows:

- Poetry Explication: 150 points
- Critical Analysis Essay #1: 150 points
- Critical Analysis Essay #2: 200 points
- Midterm Exam: 150 points
- Final Exam: 150 points
- Literary Dictionary Wiki Entries: 100 points (25 points each)
- Participation: 100 points

Participation will be calculated based on class attendance, participation in class discussions, and preparedness for class discussions. Reading quizzes may be factored into this grade as well. If a student is absent for a class period, he/she is not participating. Students will be expected to bring their text to class every day, having read the assignment due for that day.

Class Policies

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct
or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in severe disciplinary action.

**Classroom/professional behavior**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**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.

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**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Policy on class attendance:** Students are allowed a maximum of four (4) absences. All absences count equally, irrespective of the cause, and students who exceed four absences will be penalized fifty points on their final grade for every absence over the limit.

- If you are unable to attend class, you do not need to email me to explain the circumstances. You should contact another student in class and copy his/her notes.

**Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or
wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**If I am absent:** If I need to cancel class because my car broke down, or if I am ill, etc., I will try to get someone to post a sign. I also will try to email you all before class. However, if you come to class and I am not here by the time 15 minutes has elapsed (from when class is to start), please assume that class is canceled.

**Late Writing Projects:** All papers are due on the date listed on the syllabus. Students submitting their papers after this time will lose one letter grade for every class period that the paper is late. Students must submit their assignments via the link provided on Blackboard.

**Blackboard Grade Center:** You will see grades for assignments, exams, and blackboard discussion postings appear on Blackboard during the semester. While these scores may be useful in tracking your grade throughout the semester, they should NOT be used to calculate your final grade. Several point categories will not appear on Blackboard (such as Participation and Reading Quizzes), and only I will have access to these scores. If you are ever concerned about your grade, visit me in my office and we can discuss the issue in person.

**Resources**

**Disabilities Accommodations**

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.

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 at (361) 825-5816.

**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

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Adviser as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**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.

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**Blackboard 9.1:** To log into Blackboard, go to: http://bb9.tamucc.edu. You must have a NET ID (also known as an Active Directory account) to log in. For instructions on how to get this account and more information about using Blackboard, go to: http://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html. If you need additional help at any time to access, download, or print course materials on Blackboard, please contact the Island Online (IOL) Help Desk by telephone at (361) 825-2825 or by email at iolsupport@tamucc.edu.

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**Course Calendar**

**UNIT ONE—The Study of Literature**

**Week One (January 21st)**
- Thursday
  - Syllabus Overview
  - Introductions

**Week Two (January 26th, January 28th)**
- Tuesday
  - *Norton Anthology* Introduction
- Thursday
  - Find articles on Liberal Arts Education and the Workplace
UNIT TWO—Poetry

Week Three (February 2nd, 4th)
- Tuesday
  - William Blake—from Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience
  - Wiki Entry #1 Due 10 a.m.

- Thursday
  - William Wordsworth, “I wandered lonely as a cloud”
  - William Wordsworth, “Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey” (http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/174796)
  - Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Kubla Khan”

Week Four (February 9th, 11th)
- Tuesday
  - Robert Frost, “Home Burial”

- Thursday
  - Sylvia Plath, “Daddy”
  - Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”

UNIT TWO—Drama and the Theater

Week Five (February 16th, 18th)
- Tuesday
  - Arthur Miller, Death of a Salesman, Act One
  - Poetry Explication Due 10 a.m.

- Thursday
  - Wiki Entry #2 Due 10 a.m.
  - Arthur Miller, Death of a Salesman, Act Two

Week Six (February 23rd, 25th)
- Tuesday
  - Susan Glaspell, Trifles

UNIT THREE—Film as Literature

- Thursday
  - Wiki Entry #3 Due 10 a.m.
  - The Graduate (Dir. Mike Nichols, 1967)

Week Seven (March 1st, 3rd)
• Tuesday
  o *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (Dir. Benh Zeitlin, 2012)

• Thursday
  o *Winter’s Bone* (Dir. Debra Granik, 2010)

Week Eight (March 8th, 10th)
• Tuesday
  o **Midterm Exam** (Come prepared with a Blue Book)

**UNIT FOUR—Literary Criticism and Theory**

• Thursday
  o Roland Barthes, “The Death of the Author”
  o Michel Foucault, “What is an Author?”
  o **Critical Analysis Essay #1 Due 10 a.m.**

Week Nine (March 15th, 17th)
  **SPRING BREAK!!!!!!**

Week Ten (March 22nd, 24th)
• Tuesday
  o Bring to class TWO articles from scholarly journals that deal with primary texts on this syllabus

**UNIT FIVE—The Short Story**

• Thursday
  o **Wiki Entry #4 Due 10 a.m.**
  o James Joyce, “Araby”

Week Eleven (March 29th, March 31st)
• Tuesday
  o Edith Wharton, “Roman Fever”

• Thursday
  o Flannery O’Connor, “Good Country People”

**UNIT Five—The Novel**

Week Twelve (April 5th, April 7th)
• Tuesday
  o Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*—Prologue
• Thursday
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 1-3

Week Thirteen (April 12th, 14th)
• Tuesday
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 4-9

• Thursday
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 10-11

Week Fourteen (April 19th, 21st)
• Tuesday
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 12-17

• Thursday
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 18-21

Week Fifteen (April 26th, 29th)
• Tuesday
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapter 22-Finish
  o **First Draft**—**Critical Analysis Essay Due**

• Thursday
  o **Peer Review Workshop**

Week Sixteen (May 3rd)
• Tuesday
  o Last Day of Class
  o **Critical Analysis Essay Due 10 a.m.**

**FINAL EXAM** given during scheduled exam period