ENGL 2370.002: Introduction to English Studies
Professor: Dr. Molly Engelhardt
Office: FC 277. Office hours: MW 1 – 2; T 1 - 4
Phone: 825-3793
Email: molly.engelhardt@tamucc.edu

Awakenings
Fall 2015, MW 2 – 3:15, OCNR 133

Course Description:
ENGL 2370 is designed to equip new majors and minors with the tools necessary for successful engagement in the field of English studies. We will read some wonderful literature from a range of literary genres—poetry, short story, novel, essay, drama—as we explore the theme of awakening, that in-between space of spiritual, personal, and political consciousness that has preoccupied the imaginations of writers since as far back as Plato. While studying the what of literature is high on our list, we will also think about how we read and write, the assumption being that the meanings we draw from literary and cultural texts and how we respond to them are variable and shift depending on the political, historical, personal location of the writer and the reader.

Required Texts:
Chopin, Kate. The Awakening (Harper Press)
Johnson, James Weldon. The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man
Joyce, James. “The Dead” (Penguin)
Sophocles. “Oedipus the King”
Weir, Peter, dir. The Truman Show
Winterson, Jeanette. Oranges are not the Only Fruit

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): By the end of the semester students will be able to
1) identify and use literary terms and concepts and recognize the conventions of genre—short story, novel, poetry, drama, and film;
2) analyze literature in written forms;
3) create an argument about a text or context using library resources to produce a documented research paper;
4) demonstrate understanding of the conventions of MLA style;
5) identify the various fields in English studies.

Requirements:
• **Attendance:** I expect everyone to be in every class. I do realize, of course, that things sometimes happen that compete with academic responsibilities, such as accidents, illness, family emergencies. While I do not “excuse” absences, I have made allowances for you to miss three classes, without penalty, to compensate for that unexpected emergency. After three absences, however, your final numerical grade will be lowered two points for each additional absence—a 95 average with six absences becomes 89, a B; an 80 with four absences becomes an 78, a C. In the event you must miss class, you should make arrangements with a classmate to share notes and relevant information with you. In other words, I will not respond to “what did I miss?” emails.

• **Group Presentation:** Working collaboratively with two classmates, you will conduct outside research on a text[s], context, and/or author—I will give you a list of topics to sign up for early in the semester—and present your findings to the class. Your task is to extend our learning of the course content, which might include historical, political background, close readings (analysis) of texts, information about the debates surrounding the topic, discussion questions for the class. But please, no reading of long, involved power points and no tedious lectures; the best presentations are those that are organized, coordinated, and engaging (interesting, creative, and correct). More on this to come.

• **Writing Assignments:** You will write two short analyses of a chosen literary text (3 – 4 pages each), a personal memoir about an awakening experience (3 – 4 pages), and a longer research paper (6 – 8 pages) that incorporates outside scholarly sources to deepen/substantiate your argument. This is a writing intensive class, so expect informal, impromptu writing assignments through out the semester.

• **Literary Handbook:** You will create your own literary handbook (paper, not electronic) for use during the course as well as your entire tenure as an English major. I will give you a list of literary terms and concepts at the beginning of class that I expect you to expand upon and know by the end of the semester. Your job will be to incorporate these terms/concepts into your handbook as they are learned/encountered during the semester—the more terms added on your own the better. Your finished handbook should include definitions, examples (drawn from the readings in class, discussion/lectures, or from your own independent study), and it should be user-friendly. You might consider using sections, alphabetical ordering, and indexes. Your handbook will be turned in twice: at mid-term for check-up purposes, and at the end of the semester for the grade.

• **Final Exam:** The final will cover terminology (yes, you may bring your own personal handbook to the exam), analytical skills based on the readings of the course, and understanding of MLA documentation style.

**Grade Evaluation:**
Class work (impromptu writings, quizzes) 10%
Group Presentation: 10%
Three formal essays: 30%
Literary Terms handbook 15%
Research Essay: 20%
Final: 15%

A = 90-100 points; B = 80-89 points; C = 70-79 points; D = 60-69 points; F = below 60 points

Additional Info:

Prerequisites: You must have successfully completed English 1301 and 1302, and English 2332, 2333, 2334, or 2335 to be eligible for this class.

Late work policy: I do not accept late work unless you have contacted me at least two days ahead of time with an explanation and a late plan. This allowance is only good for one assignment. I do not accept work electronically; however, I will accept an assignment electronically if turned in at the correct time; but I will only grade your work once I have a hard copy in hand.

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.

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. Friday, November 6 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism, “the presentation of work of another as one’s own work,” is only one form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism also includes falsification (the intentional alteration of information), fabrication (the intentional invention of information), multiple submission (using the same material for two separate assignments or courses without permission from the instructors), and abuse of academic materials (the intentional destruction of resource materials.) Sometimes students commit unintentional plagiarism (by not citing sources properly, for example) because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Because plagiarism is such a dirty word on college campuses, please see me if you have a question about violations, however minor. Any incident of academic misconduct will result in a zero on the assignment and a referral to Judicial.
Affairs. A second offense will result in an F for the course, and a referral to Judicial Affairs with a recommendation for disciplinary action.

**The Writing Center**: The writing center is a free service for students at TAMUCC to improve their writing skills. Writing consultants work one-on-one with writers at all stages of the writing process to help them find ideas, organize their thoughts, and formulate a thesis. You can get help with grammar and general mechanical problems too. The Writing Center is located in the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) in the Glasscock Building. Both drop ins and scheduled appointments are welcome. [http://critical.tamucc.edu/wiki/WC/Home/](http://critical.tamucc.edu/wiki/WC/Home/)

**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**: 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.

**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.

---

**SCHEDULE**

Wed. Aug. 26: Introductions

Mon. Aug. 31: **Allegory and theme**

    Readings: “Allegory of the Cave” (Plato), “Story of an Hour” (Chopin)

**Spiritual/Imaginary Awakenings**
Wed. Sept. 2: **Persuasive Appeal in Religious Rhetoric**
Readings: Acts 9.1 – 19; Corinthians 13:8 –13 (*Bible, Conversion of Paul*)
“Sinners at the Hands of an Angry God” (Jonathan Edwards)
“Nathan Cole Hears the Preaching of George Whitefield and is Born Again”
“Joseph Smith Explains how an angel guided him to Found the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)”

Mon. Sept. 7: Labor Day, no class

Wed. Sept. 9: **Poetry: Figurative Language**
“I wandered lonely as a cloud” (Wordsworth), “Ode to a Nightingale” (Keats), “Ode to Autumn” (Keats)

Mon. Sept. 14: **Poetry: Tone, irony, Imagery**
Emily Dickinson poems: “I’m Nobody, Who are You?”, “I Could not Stop for Death,” “I felt a Funeral in my Brain”
Group Presentation: Emily Dickenson

Wed. Sept 16: **Essay #1 draft due.**
Analysis workshop

**Personal Awakening: Gender, Sexuality, Race**

Mon. Sept. 21: **Poetry: Rhythm and Versification in poetry**
from *Sonnets of the Portuguese*—#22, #43, #44 (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

Wed. Sept 23: **Writing the Self**
“Blood, Bread, and Poetry: The Location of the Poet” (Adrienne Rich)
*Orange is not the only Fruit*

Mon. Sept 28: **Fiction: Plot and Story**
*Orange is not the only Fruit*
**Essay #1 due**

Wed. Sept 30: *Orange* (to end)
Group Presentation: Coming-out Narratives

Mon. Oct. 5: **Fiction: Character**
*Autobiography of an Ex-colored Man*

Wed. Oct 7: **Fiction: Narrative Point-of-View**
*Autobiography*
**Group Presentation:** Harlem Renaissance

Mon. Oct. 12: *Autobiography*  
*Essay #2 (memoir) due*

**The Dangers of Waking Up**

Wed. Oct 14: *Narrative poetry, dramatic monologue*  
“Lady of Shalott,” “Ulysses” (Tennyson)  
*Group Presentation*

Mon. Oct 19: **Imagism in Fiction**  
*The Awakening* (Chopin)

Wed. Oct 21: *The Awakening*  
Literary Terms Handbook—bring to class for check-up

Mon. Oct. 26: *Awakening*  
*Group Presentation*

Wed. Oct. 28: **Modernism**  
“The Dead” (James Joyce)  
*Group Presentation: Modernism*

**Required Appointments with Dr. Engelhardt (Thurs. Oct 29 – Tues. Nov. 3)**

**Political Awakenings**

Mon. Nov. 2: **Post-Modernism**  
“The Truman Show” (watch out of class)  
*DRAFT of essay #3 (close reading) due*

Wed. Nov. 4: **Rhetoric of 60s radicalism**  
From *The Politics of Ecstasy* (Timothy Leary)  
From *The Only Dance There Is* (Ram Dass)  
Interview with Abbie Hoffman  
“Break on Through to the Other Side” (The Doors)  
*Group Presentation*

Mon. Nov. 9:  
“Where are you Going, Where Have you Been?” (Joyce Carol Oates)  
“It’s All Over Now, Baby Blue” (Bob Dylan)  
*Essay 3 due*  
Research paper discussion

Wed. Nov. 11: **MLA Workshop**  
Proposal and annotated bibliography due
Mon. Nov. 16: Presentations about English minors

   Literary Terms Handbook due

Wed. Nov. 18: Drama

   Trifles (Susan Glaspell)

Mon. Nov. 23: Oedipus the King (Sophocles)

   Research paper draft due

Wed. Nov. 25: Research/argumentation workshop

Mon. Nov. 30: Class presentations

   Research portfolio due

Mon. Dec. 7, 1:45 – 4:15: Final