ENGL 2333.002 Western Literature: 1650-Present Spring 2020

*Empathy and Ethics: Katniss Everdeen and Harry Potter*

Mr. Tom Murphy, Professional Assistant Professor

**Course Information Center for Instruction** (CI number 26 on online map)

**TR 11:00-12:15**

**Contact Information**
Office: Room 270 B Faculty Center (FC number 25 on online map).
Phone: 361.825.2452
E-mail: thomas.murphy@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: T 3:30-4:30, W 10:00-1:00, R 12:30-1:30, or by appointment
Course Web Page http://bb9.tamucc.edu

**Course Description**
In this course we will read two texts by Suzanne Collins *The Hunger Games* and *Mocking Jay* and two by J.K. Rowling *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. The emphasis is on a fresh look at these texts and reading them with a close critical eye concerning *empathy* and *ethics*. In these youthful dystopian and fantasy texts are the cornerstone of empathy and ethics that will answer our questions of today’s world. We will read nearly 1,800 pages while discussing these texts characters and their ability to navigate their worlds to write a paper, create a project, conduct daily writing and complete a final exam.

**Course Objectives:**
1. To consider how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience by examining the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts.
2. To use literature to explore ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures and nationalities.
3. To recognize the distinctive characteristics of relevant literary periods, genres, and writers.
4. To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts.
5. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.
6. To use writing as a tool for learning.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in four Core Objectives defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Texas:

**Critical Thinking:**
CT1. Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.

**Communication Skills:**
CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.

**Social Responsibility:**
SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.

**Personal Responsibility:**
PR1. Connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making

**Course Grade**
- 55% Active participation in class discussion (SLO CT1, CS1, SR1 & PR1)
  - (20%) In-class writing assignments
  - (10%) Daily Reading Quiz
(10%) In-class discussion
(5%) Class Attendance

- 10% Essay (SLO CT1, CS1, SR1 & PR1)
  - (10%) Essay (Due 2.27.20)
- 20% Project (creative or essay) (SLO CT1, CS1, SR1 & PR1)
  - (5%) Project Proposal (Due 3.6.20)
  - (15%) Project (creative or essay) (Due 4.30.20)
- 15% Final Examination (5.12.20) (SLO CT1, CS1, SR1 & PR1)
  - Material covered between 1.24.20-5.12.20, including, texts, quizzes, handouts, presentations, movies and music.

If you are concerned about a grade, see me during office hours.
T 3:30-4:30, W 10:00-1:00, R 12:30-1:30, or by appointment

Course Requirements

Attendance and Class Participation
- Attendance: you have two (2) days free to miss for the whole semester including health issues unless sanctioned by the university. For each absence after the second (2) a loss of one percentage point will be deducted from your grade up to ten (10%) maximum.
- If you are ten (10) minutes late or more at the start of class or the start after a break, half (.5) loss to your attendance.
- Reading the texts is a must for this course. If you have seen The Hunger Games or Harry Potter films that is well, but it will not pass you in this course—you must read the texts.
- 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 every day, plus a copy of the text being discussed on that particular day.
- On review day, 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.

Essay 1
Explore a comparative essay on empathy or ethics in The Hunger Games and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone.

Project (Creative or Essay)
Every student will prepare a creative or research essay on empathy and ethics in context of The Hunger Games, Mocking Jay, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone and Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince.

1. Explore a topic!
2. Each Person shall write a proposal (1 page) on what subject they will either do a creative project or a literary essay (due March 6th in class).
3. Creative Project: select a subject from the list or some other suitable creative project.
4. Literary Essay: select a subject from the list or some other suitable subject.
5. Each person will meet with Mr. Murphy to discuss proposal in late March in his office with their project idea in mind.
6. Each person will be graded by a specific Rubric
7. Project is due for grading on April 30th
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
- Class videos

Final Examination
- The Final Examination 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. Materials will be set to the side of the room.
- There will be a Final Examination (5.12.20)
- 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.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

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 an F.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

**Definition:** In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University's OWL: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/), and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

**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.

**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.

**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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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. April 10th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**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 are vital to your success in this class, on this campus, and in the global community.

**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.

**Disability Services**
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.

**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. 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.

*If you are concerned about a grade, see me during office hours.
T 3:30-4:30, W 10:00-1:00, R 12:30-1:30, or by appointment*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>MATERIALS COVERED</th>
<th>GRADED EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td><em>The Hunger Games</em> pages 1-150</td>
<td>In class material</td>
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<td>In class quiz</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td><em>The Hunger Games</em> pages 151-300</td>
<td>In class material</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>In class quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td><em>The Hunger Games</em> pages 301-384</td>
<td>In class material</td>
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<td>In class quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</em> pages 1-150</td>
<td>In class material</td>
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<td>In class quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</em> pages 151-309</td>
<td>In class material</td>
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<td>In class quiz</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Paper 1 due</td>
<td>Paper 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Book Title</td>
<td>Pages</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td><em>Mocking Jay</em></td>
<td>1-200</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td><em>Mocking Jay</em></td>
<td>201-400</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</em></td>
<td>1-150</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</em></td>
<td>151-300</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</em></td>
<td>301-450</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</em></td>
<td>451-600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</em></td>
<td>601-652</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Project due</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Review / Final Examination</td>
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