English 2370.002—Introduction to Literary Studies
“From Innocence to Experience”
Fall 2019
T/R 3:30-4:45 p.m.
CS-112

Instructor: Dr. Dale Pattison
Office: Faculty Center 255
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:50-1:50; Friday 10:50-11:50
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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, naiveté 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
Sandra Cisneros, The House on Mango Street. ISBN: 9780679734772
Ta-nehisi Coates, Between the World and Me. ISBN: 9781925240702
Marie Howe, What the Living Do. ISBN: 9780393318869

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. Films are available either 1) Through the TAMU-CC Library Research Database “Kanopy;” or 2) Through Blackboard, under “Films”

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.
4. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.
5. 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
- Final Exam: 300 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. All reading assignments are due on Tuesday of that week.

**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**

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).

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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 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 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. November 8 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

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
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.

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.

**Blackboard 9.1:** To log into Blackboard, go to: [http://bb9.tamucc.edu](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](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.

**Literary Dictionary Wiki Entries:** Over the course of the semester, students will contribute entries to an online dictionary of literary terms that will be available to them throughout their undergraduate career. For each entry, students must provide (1) a definition of the assigned term, (2) at least one example of this term in use in a contemporary popular culture context, and (3) several sentences of analysis discussing how the term operates in the example provided. Examples may include song lyrics, film dialogue, published prose, or any other contemporary pop culture source. The course’s wiki site can be accessed at [http://litdictionary1.wikispaces.com/](http://litdictionary1.wikispaces.com/)

**Course Calendar**

**UNIT ONE—Literary Studies in and Beyond the Classroom**

Week One (August 27, 29)
- Syllabus Overview
- Introductions
- *The Squid and the Whale* (Dir. Noah Baumbach, 2005)

Week Two (September 3, 5)

**CAREER WORKSHOP**
- Find one article on Liberal Arts Education and the Workplace and post to Blackboard Group File Exchange **DUE Tuesday 1:00 p.m.**
- Online Job Hunt
- E-Portfolio
- Introduce WIKI Assignment

**UNIT TWO—Poetry**

Week Three (September 10, 12)
- *Wiki Entry #1 Due Tuesday 1:00 p.m.*
- Marie Howe, *What the Living Do*

Week Four (September 17, 19)
- *Wiki Entry #2 Due Tuesday 1:00 p.m.*
- Marie Howe, *What the Living Do*
Week Five (September 24, 26)
  o Marie Howe, *What the Living Do*
  o **Poetry Explication Due Thursday 1 p.m.**

Week Six (October 1, 3)
  o Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*
  o **Wiki Entry #3 Due Tuesday 1 p.m.**

Week Seven (October 8, 10)
  o Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*
  o **Wiki Entry #4 Due Tuesday 1 p.m.**

UNIT FOUR—Film as Literature

Week Eight (October 15, 17)
  o *Moonlight* (Dir. Barry Jenkins, 2016)
  o Bring ONE film review of *Moonlight* to class
  o **Critical Analysis Essay #1 Due Thursday 1 p.m.**

UNIT FIVE—Narrative Nonfiction

Week Nine (October 22, 24)
  o Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*
  o **Thursday:** Bring ONE book review or scholarly article on *Between the World and Me* to class

UNIT SIX—The Novel

Week Ten (October 29, 31)
  o Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*—Prologue and Chapters 1-4

Week Eleven (November 5, 7)
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 5-9
  o **November 7: CLASS WILL BE HELD ONLINE—SEE BLACKBOARD**

Week Twelve (November 12, 14)
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 10-15
  o Bring to class TWO scholarly articles on *Invisible Man*. Use Bell Library Research Databases

Week Thirteen (November 19, 21)
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 16-21

Week Fourteen (November 26, 28)
  o *Invisible Man*—Chapters 22-Epilogue
Thursday: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week Fifteen (TUESDAY, December 3)
  ∗ Peer Review Workshop (Bring 4 hard copies of your essay to class)

Critical Analysis Essay Due Thursday, December 7, 10 p.m.
(Upload to Blackboard)

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 12 1:45 p.m.