

your needs as soon as possible.

Attendance: This course assumes an interactive approach in its structure and presentation. Participation is required. Students are expected to attend every class. Assignments will often be made in class, and it is your responsibility to find out what is expected of you. Being absent in no way excuses being unprepared for the following class. In-class writing assignments can not be "made up." Valid excuses for missing class include documented medical reasons, authorized university activities, and days of special concern (religious holidays (see below), established days of cultural importance, crucial family events, etc.). More than four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. For the purposes of enforcing this policy, being more than 10 minutes tardy shall constitute an absence. If you want your absence excused, you'll need to provide a substantive reason. It is the instructor's prerogative whether or not to count an absence as "excused." Religious Holidays: Students unable to attend classes on particular days because of sincerely held religious beliefs shall, without penalty, be excused from such classes and be given meaningful opportunity to make up examinations, graded activities or assignments provided the instructor is notified of their needs within the first two weeks of the term.

Late Papers/Assignments: Late assignments will be marked down one letter grade. If a student is absent the class period an assignment is due, his/her work will be marked down two letter grades.. (In other words, do not skip class to finish an assignment or simply to save on embarrassment.) This policy does not apply to quizzes, which cannot be taken after-the-fact.

Classroom Conduct: The following is taken from the Provost's statement on "Civility in the Classroom":

"Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To assure all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class."

This policy is equally applicable to on-line discussions that take place on WebCT. Many of us will undoubtedly have divergent interests, approaches, ideologies, politics, academic experience, personal backgrounds, and more. The success of this class requires we engage these differences from intellectually open and informed perspectives, and that all participants refrain from engaging in disruptive behaviors. First and foremost, it is your responsibility as a participant in this class to show your classmates due respect and consideration. Toward maintaining an environment that fosters mutual respect, please do not:

1. Use a cell phone for any purpose during class. This means you are to silence (or preferably, turn off) all cell phones and beepers before entering the classroom. This also means that you shall not under any circumstances check phone messages or read/reply to text messages during class. Should you forget to silence your phone and it rings, do not answer it in class. If it's an emergency and you must answer, please exit the classroom to do so and take your belongings with you. Otherwise, silence the phone with as little fuss as possible.
2. Come to class tardy or leave class early. Naturally, if you have a legitimate reason for being late or leaving class early, you should inform me in advance so we can make arrangements.
3. Chat during lecture or class discussions. Even in whispers. Even if about the topic at

- hand.
4. Talk out of turn or dominate conversation. Only one person should be talking at a time.
 5. Pass notes during class.
 6. Read newspapers or other irrelevant material during class.
 7. Sleep during class.
 8. Surf the internet, check e-mail or use your laptop or any other electronic device for any other purpose than to take notes during class.
 9. Shuffle, zip or unzip backpacks, shuffle papers, slam notebooks or otherwise make the sort of racket associated with preparing to leave the classroom before class is dismissed.
 10. In any way unnecessarily distract fellow students from their purpose for being in class.

If you have concerns about the course, the instructor, or other students, you are invited to express your concerns in a proactive manner to me. I am open to suggestions at any point in the semester about modifying the course to best suit the students' needs and interests.

Plagiarism and Collusion: The University of Texas at San Antonio defines “scholastic dishonesty” as including but not limited to, “cheating on a test or other class work, plagiarism (the appropriation of another's work in one’s own written work offered for credit), and collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing course work offered for credit). Should a student be accused of scholastic dishonesty, the faculty member may initiate disciplinary proceedings.” *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., provides a detailed discussion of “Forms of Plagiarism” and “Other Issues,” including the impropriety of submitting the same paper to more than one instructor or in more than one class by the same instructor.

**Grade
Distribution**

Class Participation (25%): This will include any in-class writing assignments (including quizzes), the student’s overall contribution to class discussions (including assigned WebCT discussions), and also her/his contributions as “discussion-leader” as assigned.

Short Writing Assignments 📄 (30%): These will consist primarily of 1-2pp responses to assigned readings and one or two 3-5pp responses to specific prompts (including at least one poem parody).

Case Study/Annotated Bibliography (20%): Students will be expected to analyze a minimum of 5 articles relating to one of the poets we read in class. These articles should represent a range of critical perspectives. Students will be expected to provide photocopies of the articles they analyze, a 200-300 word summary of each article, and a two- to three- page assessment of the critical debates that these sources as a group address.

Final Paper (25%) This 7-10pp analytical paper in proper MLA format should address one of the texts from this course. Note: You will be asked to submit a prospectus of your paper for approval.

For the purposes of determining grades on individual assignments and for overall course grades, I shall use the following scale: 90-100 A; 80-89 B; 70-79 C; 60-69 D; ≤59 F.]

Disclaimer: The professor reserves the right to amend or revise this syllabus in any manner he determines beneficial for the class.