Syllabus

English 2013 Introduction to Literature

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth MacCrossan  
elizabeth.maccrossan@utsa.edu
Office hours: by appointment

*Catalogue Description:* 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Completion of the core Curriculum requirement in rhetoric. Introductory study of great works of literature with an emphasis on novels, plays and poetry by British and American authors. Designed for non majors.

*Course description, goals, and expectations:* This course is an introduction to the study of literature, and we will touch on the three main genres of literature written by U.S. and British authors. This does not presuppose that these are the only genres and authors worthy of literary studies. We will cover short fiction, poetry, and drama, as well as important theoretical lenses for reading literature. The study of literature is much like the study of life (“biology”), psychology, language and linguistics, philosophy, and writing. The study of literature also teaches important analytical skills, as well as helping us to better understand people, places, and events different from those we know.

This course gives students the opportunity to (further) develop a knowledge of the aesthetic and theoretical principles of literature, to respond crucially to the works covered as individual and human expressions of values and aesthetics within historical and social contexts, and to include this study in an overall understanding of the implications of cultural differences (and similarities) and global issues. Respectful behavior in the classroom and putting forth the effort to learn something new are the most important requirements of this course. This means coming to class on time and prepared, participating in discussions like a scholar, and being professional in your behavior and appearance. This includes turning off cell phone ringers, not surfing the Internet during class, or engaging in any other behavior that distracts others from engaging in the class.

*Grading:* All assignments and exams are due when they are scheduled. Because of the short and intense nature of the summer schedule, no make-ups will be given (before or after scheduled exams). Neither I nor the office staff will report grades by telephone, fax, or e-mail.

*Quizzes:* There will be five “pop” quizzes throughout the semester. The multiple-choice questions will cover any part of the semester’s readings, up to and including that day’s reading. Keeping up with reading and being present in class are the best ways to do well on these quizzes. There will be no make-ups for any quizzes for any reason, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. The average of the four remaining quizzes will be worth 20 percent of your final grade.
Exams: There are four scheduled exams covering the readings since the previous exam and lecture/class discussion. The exams will be mixed format. The average of the four exams will be worth 60 percent of your final grade.

Final exam: The final will be cumulative, covering all quizzes and exams and these will be your best study guides. I advise you to correct quizzes and exams while the information is still fresh! The final is worth 20 percent of your total grade.

I encourage you to use the academic support services available to you through the Tomás Rivera Center (TRC) to assist you with building study skills and tutoring in course content. These services are available at no extra cost. There are several locations on the Main Campus and Downtown. For more information, visit the Web site at www.utsa.edu/trcss.

Please visit http://www.utsa.edu/disability/students.htm for university disability services information.

Please visit http://www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.html (section 203) for university policy regarding scholastic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give you an unfair advantage. Basically this means no cheating, lying, or helping others to cheat and/or lie. It won’t be tolerated…just so we’re clear. For my course, any instance of cheating or helping someone else to cheat will result in a zero on that assignment and possible failure of the course.

Schedule (this is subject to change!)
Friday, July 8—Syllabus and introduction to the course. Pages 1533-1537.
Monday, July 11—Formalism, pgs. 1538-1540; plot, pgs. 69-89.
Tuesday, July 12—Style, tone, and irony, pgs. 283-300.
Wednesday, July 13—Symbolism, pgs. 237-256.
Thursday, July 14—Point of view, pgs. 188-193, 205-234.
Friday, July 15—Exam 1

Monday, July 18—Psychological methods, pgs. 1542-1544; setting, pgs. 162-187.
Tuesday, July 19—Character, pgs. 117-152.
Wednesday, July 20—Marxism, pgs. 1545-1546; theme, pgs. 262-282.
Thursday, July 21—Humor and satire, pgs. 463-497.
Friday, July 22—Exam 2

Monday, July 25—Reading poetry, pgs. 569-605.
Tuesday, July 26—Gender, pgs. 1548-1549; Word choice, word order, and tone, pgs. 622-639.
Wednesday, July 27—Sounds, pgs. 725-751.
Thursday, July 28—Patterns, pgs. 752-772.
Friday, July 29—Exam 3.
Monday, Aug. 1—Humor and Satire, pgs. 984-996.
Tuesday, Aug. 2—Emily Dickinson, pgs. 831-857. (last day to withdraw from course)
Wednesday, Aug. 3—Dickinson, pgs. 858-869.
Friday, Aug. 5—Exam 4.

Monday, Aug. 8—Shakespeare, pgs. 1152-1164.
Tuesday, Aug. 9—Othello, Acts I & II.
Wednesday, Aug. 10—Othello, Acts III & IV.
Thursday, Aug. 11—Othello, Act V.
Friday, Aug. 12—Review and grade check.
**10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 13—Final exam.**