ENG 2013.015: Introduction to Literature: For Love of Words
Instructor: Roberta Hurtado
Class Time and Location: TR 12:30 – 1:45p.m., MH 2.02.22
Office Location, Hours, and Email: MB 2.308; TR 11-12 and upon request; roberta.hurtado@utsa.edu

Course Description:
In this course, we will explore different literary formats, genres, and styles to gain better understandings of why we study literature and its larger cultural value. To assist us in this endeavor, we will explore poetry, drama, novels, and short stories from different eras and geographies. We will ask questions such as: What roles do authors perform? Do literary works provide insight into human experience? Why do we need literature to express and communicate, if at all? Why are words important, and how do meaning and intent change the value of words? In order to more thoroughly engage these questions, students will write online reading responses via blackboard, participate in class and small group activities, write a 3 page midterm paper, and complete an original and self-reflective final paper of 5-8 pages. In order to promote lively and engaging discussions, students must complete all reading assignments prior to class. Students must have completed the Core Curriculum requirement in rhetoric to enroll. This course is reading and writing intensive.

Course Objectives:
✓ Master discourses and terminology pertinent to Literary Studies
✓ Develop critical literacy skills to analyze and engage literature
✓ Explore scholarly and creative writings to discern themes, motifs, and trends in this field

Course Reading List:
✓ Poe, Edgar Allan. The Tell Tale Heart and Other Tales. ISBN: 0-553-21228-1
✓ Soyinka, Wole. Death and the King’s Horseman. ISBN: 0-393-32299-8

Assignments:
✓ Online Reading Responses 25% (100 points)
✓ Class Participation/Quizzes 25% (100 points)
✓ Midterm Paper (3 pages) 25% (100 points)
✓ Final Paper (5-8 pages) 25% (100 points)
Total: 100% (400 points)
Grade/Point Distribution:

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*Grades will not be given over the phone or internet. Extra Credit Assignments may be made available.

Attendance: Participation is key to a successful course. As such, students are permitted 2 unexcused absences. Additional absences will result in a lowering of their final grade by one third of a letter grade per absence. Tardiness, or habitual lateness (arriving more than 5 minutes after class), is strongly discouraged. Six late arrivals will be counted as one absence. Arrival more than ten minutes after class can result in not being allowed access to class. Arrival more than 15 minutes after class will result in an absence for the day. If you do arrive within the allowed five minutes, please choose the nearest open seat to the door.

Classroom Policies: Our classroom should be a zone free from racist, sexist, homophobic, and other forms of derogatory language and conduct. We should all aim to create a space where students feel comfortable to speak and participate. As well as following the Student Code of Conduct, outlined in the UTSA Course Catalog, we are all expected to treat one another with respect and courtesy. In this light, cell phones should be turned off prior to entering class—only students who request special allowances due to pressing circumstances will be allowed to have cell phones out and on, but they must be set to vibrate mode. Students are also required to come to class prepared and ready to learn. You are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to class and have all hand-in assignments ready for submission. Late work is not accepted. Guests are only permitted in class if pre-approved by the faculty.

Professionalism in the Classroom: The Provost’s statement on “Civility in the Classroom” states that “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.” While diversity of opinion is encouraged in this class, we must also seek to engage one another respectfully and professionally. In this light, all members of class should refrain from disruptive behaviors such as persistent ringing of cell phones or beepers, inappropriate challenges to the professor’s authority, excessive tardiness or leaving class early, making offensive remarks, missing deadlines, prolonged chatting, reading newspapers during class, sleeping, talking out of turn, dominating discussion, shuffling backpacks and notebooks, and overt inattentiveness are discouraged (all examples listed in the Provost’s statement on “Civility in the Classroom”).

Electronic Technology in the Classroom: Cell phone use is not permitted in class. If you need to use your cell phone, please leave the classroom to do so. If you have extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor and you will be allowed to have your phone set to vibrate but must leave the classroom to take the call—texting is distracting and therefore discouraged in these special circumstances. Laptops are
permitted only for in-class use such as taking notes. Web-surfing, checking emails and Facebook, and instant messaging are not permitted in class. If you plan to use a laptop in classroom, please notify the instructor of record and make your computer screen easily visible to the instructor during class. Use of laptops for non-class work can result in restricted use of laptops in the future.

**Plagiarism:** According to Section 203.6 of the UTSA Code of Conduct Handbook, “Scholastic dishonesty” is any form of cheating or plagiarism that violates the Student Code of Conduct. Scholastic Dishonesty or academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. Any instance of plagiarism that is found will result in an immediate “F” for the assignment, potentially a failing grade for the course, and judicial action. If you are concerned at any point in the semester that you might be broaching one of these areas, please speak to me prior to handing in your work so that we can determine how to remedy the situation.

**Disabilities**

Students who require special accommodations for in-class work must register with Disability Services. Please visit [www.utsa.edu/disabilities](http://www.utsa.edu/disabilities) for more information.

**Description of Assignments:**

**Class Participation:** In order to create lively and unique class discussions, all students are expected to assist in creating a positive environment conducive to learning. Your input is valuable to every discussion, and we should all plan to speak at least once per class. However, negative behavior and/or derogatory comments will negatively impact your grade. Please review “Classroom Policies” and “Notes on Professionalism” for further information on behavior/commentary guidelines. All reading assignments should be completed by the day they are listed in the syllabus schedule. Group activities will be given throughout the semester. In addition, quizzes might be given at any point in the semester. These quizzes are your chance to show your knowledge of the texts, the characters, motifs, scenes, and knowledge of important passages.

**Online Responses:** By 10AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all students are required to submit a 50-100 word response on Blackboard about the readings for that day. You might choose to discuss a theme, motif, or character you find interesting. You might also wish to provide a close reading of a passage/scene/line/etc. You are also permitted to creatively engage one of the texts to discuss something you find interesting. You are required to use quotes from the assigned reading selection in your response, but the quote itself cannot substitute an actual response. Each response is worth 4 points.

**Midterm Paper:** In this 3 page paper, you have the opportunity to provide a close reading of a selected poem and demonstrate your mastery of terminology and analytical technique. This paper must be written in MLA format, including 1 inch margins all around, size 12 Times New Roman font, and no extra spacing between paragraphs. Your paper must be stapled. The paper handout will be given out 1-2 weeks prior to the due date, and will not be posted online. Paper Due October 11, 2012 by the end of class.

**Final Paper:** In this 5-8 page paper, you will critically analyze any of the texts we have discussed and grappled with this semester. Your paper should demonstrate your own creative engagements with these texts and incorporate appropriate terminologies and discourses. This is your chance to construct an original and provocative thesis regarding anything that has piqued your interest or curiosity over the semester in regards to literature, literary studies, and/or the literature we study. The paper must be written in MLA format, including 1 inch margins all around, size 12 Times New Roman font, and no extra spacing between paragraphs. Paper Due December 12, 2012 by 1pm.
Schedule

08/30 – Welcome to Class! Overview of course and Introductions


09/06 – Donne: Holy Sonnets-ALL


09/18 – Soyinka: Act 1, 2, and 3

09/20 – Soyinka: Act 4 and 5

09/25 – Nievez-Powell: 1-34 (stage direction: Alicia sits down)

09/27 – Nievez-Powell: 34-finish

10/02 – (handout) Egerton: “A Cross Line”

10/04 – (handout) Egerton: “Now Spring Has Come”

10/09 – Waugh: Pages 1-54

10/11 – Waugh: Pages 54-101

10/16 – Waugh: Pages 105-155

10/18 – Waugh: Pages 155-204

10/23 – Waugh: Pages 205-255

10/25 – Waugh: Pages 259-Finish

10/30 – Walker: Pages 1-57

11/01 – Walker: Pages 58-116

11/06 – Walker: Pages 117-173

11/08 – Walker: Pages 174-224

11/13 – Walker: Pages 225-Finish

11/15 – CLASS REFLECTION and WRITING DAY

11/20 – CLASS REFLECTION and WRITING DAY

11/22 – NO CLASS- NATIONAL HOLIDAY


11/29 – Poe: “Murders in the Rue Morgue,” “Pit and the Pendulum,” and “Eleanora”

12/04 – Poe: “The Fall of the House of Usher” and in-class viewing of The Raven

12/06 – Poe: “The Black Cat,” and “Silence” and in-class viewing of The Raven

FINAL EXAM (FINAL PAPER DUE): Wednesday December 12, 2012 10:30-1pm
The University of Texas at San Antonio is a community of scholars, where integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, respect, collaboration, and innovation are fostered.

As a Roadrunner,
I will:

- Uphold the highest standards of academic and personal integrity by practicing and expecting fair and ethical conduct;
- Respect and accept individual differences, recognizing the inherent dignity of each person;
- Contribute to campus life and the larger community through my active engagement; and
- Support the fearless exploration of dreams and ideas in the advancement of ingenuity, creativity, and discovery.

Guided by these principles now and forever, I am a Roadrunner!

The University of Texas at San Antonio Academic Honor Code

A. Preamble
The University of Texas at San Antonio community of past, present and future students, faculty, staff, and administrators share a commitment to integrity and the ethical pursuit of knowledge. We honor the traditions of our university by conducting ourselves with a steadfast duty to honor, courage, and virtue in all matters both public and private. By choosing integrity and responsibility, we promote personal growth, success, and lifelong learning for the advancement of ourselves, our university, and our community.

B. Honor Pledge
In support of the ideals of integrity, the students of the University of Texas at San Antonio pledge:

“As a UTSA Roadrunner I live with honor and integrity.”

C. Shared responsibility
The University of Texas at San Antonio community shares the responsibility and commitment to integrity and the ethical pursuit of knowledge and adheres to the UTSA Honor Code.

EGERTON Handouts also available at the following Link:
http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?view=image:size=100:id=nyp.33433074930334;page=root;seq=1
*cover image: http://www.utep.edu/border/mur.html
*This Syllabus is Subject to Change