Course Objectives

- Understand the lives and literary accomplishments of the Bronte sisters
- Become intellectually adaptable by exploring major themes in the literature of the Bronte sisters
- Position the novels of the Bronte sisters within the religious, political, gender, and social class issues of nineteenth-century England
- Develop a scholarly vocabulary and voice for discussing and writing about literature
- Acquire skills in close reading, synthesizing information, textual analysis, research, bibliography that will advance a professional career
- Write scholarly arguments about Bronte novels
- Use MLA style in formatting papers and documenting information from sources
- Find relevant critical texts in the library and in databases
- Read criticism of the Bronte sister novels and insert one’s own argument into a critical discussion.
- Produce a writing sample for a portfolio.

Texts and Other Material

The Bronte Sisters: Three Novels
Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, and Agnes Grey
2010; Penguin ISBN: 9780143105831

The Professor Charlotte Bronte

The Brontes Patricia Ingham

Scantrons – green kind (882-E): will need 5

Bluebooks for midterm and final exam

Also see study guides and guidelines on Blackboard.

Course Policies

- Attendance is important. Roll will be taken in every class. Missing a class (for any reason) results in a 5-point deduction from class participation points (See “Class attendance” below for ways to make up points lost.)

- Dropping the course by the specified UTSA deadline is the responsibility of the student. Students who do not drop before published drop dates will receive a grade in the course, even if they have quit attending. Students should check for drop dates at myutsa/ASAP/Class Schedules/Academic Calendar for the semester.

- Support services, including registration assistance and equipment, are available to students with documented disabilities through the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS). MS 2.03.18. Students are encouraged to contact that office at 458-4157 early in the semester. Also see http://www.utsa.edu/disability/students.htm

- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in an F for the course. Plagiarism consists of cheating on an exam, copying another student’s work, copying a paper off the internet; not documenting the ideas and opinions of other writers—even when not quoting them directly. To access the UTSA scholastic dishonesty policy, go to the following site and scroll down to Section 203: http://www.utsa.edu/info/guide/appendices/b.html

- You may use a laptop, but please sit on the back row or the sides of the classroom. If you do not use a laptop and do not want the distraction of laptop screens, sit in the front or middle of the classroom.

- All students are expected to take the final exam on the scheduled date.

- The course is over after the final exam. Turn in assignments and do the work during the semester.

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.

Roadrunner Creed

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!

Grades

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ = 98-100  A = 92 – 97  A- = 88 - 91
B+ = 86 - 87  B = 82 – 85  B- = 78 - 81
C+ = 76 - 77  C = 72 – 75  C- = 68 - 71
D+ = 66 - 67  D = 62 - 65  D- = 60 – 61  F < 60
### Grade Points on GPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+ = 4.00</td>
<td>A = 4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>A- = 3.67</td>
<td>B = 3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+ = 3.33</td>
<td>B- = 2.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>B = 3.00</td>
<td>C+ = 2.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>C = 2.00</td>
<td>C- = 1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+ = 1.33</td>
<td>D- = 0.67</td>
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### Course Requirements

- **Class attendance** is important in the learning process.
- **4 quizzes averaged (best 4 out of 5)**: 20%
- **Midterm exam – in class essays**: 15%
- **Final essay – in class essays**: 15%
- **Paper #1**: 15%
- **Term Paper**: 25%

Students begin the semester with 100 points for class participation and attendance. Each absence, regardless of reason, results in a loss of 5 points. Students can make up the lost points by doing the following:

- Participate in a panel discussion: 5
- Write a review of a literary event: 5

Students may do two panels and attend three events. Details are listed in Blackboard — Assignments. The maximum points averaged into the final grade for class attendance and participation is 100.

Quizzes will be given at the beginning, middle, or end of the class periods designated below on the Reading and Assignment Schedule. Five quizzes are scheduled, but the best 4 out of 5 quizzes will be averaged into the course grade. If a student misses a quiz and receives a zero for the quiz, that zero will be dropped.

#### The midterm exam

The midterm exam will be taken in class and will contain brief identification, short essays, and long essays.

#### The final exam

The final exam will be given during the time scheduled by UTSA. It will be similar to the midterm exam but will primarily focus on readings after the midterm.

Paper #1 and the term paper are formal arguments that present a clear thesis and support. Relevant scholarly secondary sources are required, and information from sources must be documented using MLA style in-text citations and a works cited page. Paper #1 page length = 4 pages. Term paper page length = 10 pages. See Blackboard Assignments for more detail on the assignment and see Guidelines for Writing an Argument about a Literary Text in Course Content.

Late papers are excused from point penalties if a student verifies in writing an incapacitating physical illness or death in the family. Students who will be absent for religious reasons or to conduct official University business should make arrangements with the instructor before the absence in order to avoid late point penalties.

Unexcused late work penalties

Less than 24 hours late = 5 point deduction
24 – 48 hrs late = 10 point deduction; over 48 hrs late = 15 pts

See cut-off dates for assignments on Blackboard.

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### Reading Schedule

**Jan 17 T** – Introduction to the course and to the lives of the Bronte sisters

**Jan 19 Th** – Ingham, Chapter 1, “Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Bronte; watch film, *Bronte Sisters: A Concise Biography* (33 minutes) in Films on Demand (Access via UTSA library database, Lib and Fine Arts, Films on Demand, enter title)

**Jan 24 T** – Watch *The Bronte Sisters* (52 minutes) in Films on Demand (Access via UTSA library database, Lib and Fine Arts, Films on Demand, enter title); we will watch *The Brontes: Three Muses and Their Men* (51 minutes in Films on Demand) in class and take notes on aspects of the lives on the Bronte sisters. We will compare and contrast the representations of the Brontes in the three films.


**Jan 31 T** – *The Professor*, Chapters 1 - 9.

**Feb 2 Th** – *The Professor*, Chapters 10 – 20; panel opportunity

**Feb 7 T** – Quiz 2 – bring Scantron; *The Professor*, Chapters 21 – 25

**Feb 9 Th** – Ingham, Chapter 2, “The Fabric of Society” and Chapter 4, “The Brontes’ Novels and Social Class”

**Feb 14 T** - Ingham, Chapter 5, “Gender, Nationality, and Race in the Bronte’s Novels”; and Chapter 7, “Religion in the Bronte’s Works, pp. 184 – 207

**Feb 16 Th** – Paper #1 due before class in Blackboard Assignments or printed out in class. No reading assignment. Introduction to *Jane Eyre* in class.

**Feb 21 T** – Quiz 3 – bring Scantron; *Jane Eyre*, Chapters 1 – 9

**Feb 23 Th** – *Jane Eyre*, Chapters 10-17; panel opportunity

**Feb 28 T** – *Jane Eyre*, Chapters 18 - 27

**Mar 1 Th** – *Jane Eyre*, Chapters 28 – 30; panel opportunity

**Mar 6 T** – *Jane Eyre*, Chapters 31 - 38 (end); watch film, *Charlotte Bronte: Jane Eyre* (31 minutes) in Films on Demand before coming to class

**Mar 8 Th** – Midterm exam; bring blue book

**Mar 13 and 15** – Spring Break!!

**Mar 20 T** – Ingham, Chapter 3, “The Literary Context” and Chapter 5, pp 141-146, “Eastern Femininity and *Jane Eyre*

**Mar 22 Th** – *Agnes Grey*, Chapters 1- 12; panel opportunity

**Mar 27 T** – Quiz 4 – bring Scantron; *Agnes Grey*, Chapter 13 – end
How to make an “A” or “B” in the class:

- **Commit yourself to the class.** The most determined and committed students make the high grades.
- **Buy the books.** Although, some of the readings assigned are available online, you will struggle without the books.
- **Come to every class.** Do not lower your course grade with a low class attendance score. If you miss a class, then earn the lost points back by signing up for a panel discussion or attending an approved literary event.
- **Come to class on time.** Important information about tests, quizzes, and the papers often will be announced at the beginning of the class.
- **For each class session do three things:** 1) spend a minimum of one hour reading and studying the assigned texts, 2) listen, participate, and take notes in class, and 3) review your notes and the readings after the class.
- **Be present and part of the class.** Do not surf the web, play with your phone, or send text messages in class. Most often students who earn high grades are sitting in front, taking notes by hand, asking questions, and participating in discussions.
- **Ask questions** in class when you do not understand a lecture, discussion or a writing assignment.

- **Familiarize yourself with material available on Blackboard,** including study guides, writing assignments guidelines, and other material.
- **Study the requirements for the two papers,** which are a major part of your grade. Do not lose points because you do not meet the requirements for the assignments. See Blackboard Assignments for the paper details.
- **Study Guidelines for Writing an Argument about a Literary Text.** See Course Content in Blackboard. The Guidelines are a detailed outline of the skills you need for success on the two papers.
- **Take advantage of The Writing Center at UTSA.** Check out the web page and see what information and services might help you in your paper writing.
- **Turn in the two papers on time.** Do not lose points because you submit the papers late. Do not miss the cut-off date if your paper is late.
- **Commit yourself to producing a writing sample.** This will mean your paper is excellent and earns a high grade.
- **Begin reading, studying, and working on the papers immediately.** Some students wait until mid-semester before they get serious. Others wait until the end of the course and beg for mercy (i.e., “I'll do anything to make a good grade.”) All students take the same course. There are no extra assignments for pulling up low grades.
- **Develop a study strategy for preparing for the midterm and the final exam.** Do not wait until the night before and start cramming.
- **Do not miss the quizzes.** The lowest quiz score out of the 5 quizzes will be dropped. You will earn a zero when you miss a quiz. Making up a second missed quiz will happen only in rare circumstances.
- **Check your grades posted in Blackboard** and make certain they are correct. There could be a clerical error.
- **Visit the professor** during office hours, make an appointment, or phone when you need extra help or have a crisis that makes you consider dropping the class. Get in touch when something happens in class that prevents you from doing your best in the course.