

ENG 298: Writing about Literature

This course will introduce you to the English major and provide the tools you will need to succeed in upper-division literature classes. We will cover the basic terms and strategies for effective interpretation of all three major literary genres — poetry, drama, and fiction. We'll also gain practice at writing a variety of types of papers about literature.

Course goals: In this course, you will

- read a diverse array of poems, plays, and short stories.
- discuss these works in class, raising and responding to questions.
- study the three genres of poetry, drama, and fiction from the standpoint of form, learning key terms for discussing such matters as poetic meter, dramatic structure, and fictional point of view.
- write about literary texts both informally and formally, responding to the day's reading in a more informal manner and constructing longer papers that present arguments with clear thesis statements.
- work on all stages of the writing process, from formulating an idea to constructing an argument to revising.

Required texts: (available at bookstore)

The Norton Introduction to Literature, 11th edition, ed. Kelly J. Mays
Citizen: An American Lyric, Claudia Rankine

Course requirements: Three major papers, in-class participation, short response papers, and final exam. Class attendance is mandatory, and more than three unexcused absences will result in a reduced grade. Grading will be weighted as follows: 20% paper one, 20% paper two, 20% paper three, 15% final exam, 10% response papers, 15% participation (including attendance).

Papers: Your final grade for each paper will take into consideration all stages of the writing process, including any drafts or outlines and rewrites. For papers one and two, you will be expected to bring a draft to class to workshop. Paper one must be rewritten, and papers two and three may also be rewritten if you choose.

Responses: You are responsible for writing 10 response papers over the course of the semester.. In your responses, you shouldn't summarize the reading or provide background information; rather, you should focus in on a particular passage you found interesting, a question that the reading raised, a way to connect one or more of the readings, or some other narrowly focused question or problem that will help to generate class discussion. These should be a paragraph or so in length and can be either typed or neatly handwritten. I will comment on these papers but will not assign them a letter grade. No late or emailed response papers will be accepted.

Other class policies:

Academic Misconduct—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when

faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the

course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Library statement:

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

Schedule (all readings from the Norton unless otherwise indicated):

Week one: Introduction to course, in-class writing exercise

Unit one: fiction

Week two: Plot, pp. 82-118 (de Maupassant, Baldwin, Wharton)

Week two: Narration and point of view, pp. 161-180 (Poe, Kincaid, Saunders)

Week three: Character, pp. 181-88, 201-29 (Morrison, Wallace, Nutting) Week
three: Setting, pp. 253-71 (Chekhov); pp. 691-713 (Fitzgerald)

Week four: Symbol, pp. 335-66 (Hawthorne, Byatt); pp. 825-35 (Rushdie)

Week four: Theme, pp. 384-411 (Crane, Márquez); pp. 655-66 (Gilman)

Week five: Genre, pp. 237-48 (Russell); pp. 554-68 (O'Connor); pp. 774-81 (Borges) Week

six: The Longer Work, pp. 475-504 (Melville)

Week six: Bring in rough draft of paper one for workshopping

Unit two: poetry

Week seven: **Paper one due**; Poetry: Reading, Responding, Writing; pp. 846-83

Week seven: Speaker, pp. 884-901; Word Choice and Order, pp. 975-89

Week eight: Visual Imagery and Figures of Speech, pp. 990-1002; pp. 1197-1205 (Yeats)

Week eight: The Sounds of Poetry, pp. 1015-37

Week nine: Internal Structure, pp. 1050-71

Week nine: External Form, pp. 1075-1101

Week ten: Cultural and Historical Contexts: The Harlem Renaissance, pp. 1265-1300

Week ten: *Citizen*, pp. 1-86

Week eleven: *Citizen*, pp. 87-161

Week eleven: Bring in rough draft of paper two for workshopping

Unit three: drama

Week twelve: **Paper two due**; Introduction to drama pp. 1380-93 (Glaspell)

Week twelve: Research methods; meet in Lied Library, Pioche room

Week thirteen: Sophocles, *Antigone*, pp. 2003-38

Week fourteen: Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Week fifteen: Review for final Final exam