

**Introduction to Writing about Literature 1313 Spring 2016**  
**Hudspeth Hall Room 300 / 8:30 to 9:20 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**

English 1313

Aarin K. Walston

Office: Worrell Hall Room 309

Phone:

Email: akwalston@utep.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesdays 12p.m to 2p.m, Tuesdays 3p.m to 4p.m. or by appointment.

**Texts**

*The Norton Introduction to Literature* by Kelly J. Mays

978-0-393-92339-1

*The Way to Rainy Mountain* by N. Scott Momaday

978-0-8263-0436-0

**Course Overview**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the genres of poetry, the short story, the novella/memoir, and drama. Some of the questions we will be asking and answering throughout the semester are:

- How does literature shape the way we think about humanity?
- Through critical analysis, how does literature influence the way we approach conflict and create a resolution?
- How can writing about literature make us better thinkers and writers?
- How do we enter into conversation with the text while forming a cohesive and solid argument?

**Course Objectives**

- Students will leave the course with an understanding of poetic terms and how they function in the analytical process.
- Students will be able to explicate a poem by using both formalist techniques and analysis of imaginary language.

- Students will be able to pinpoint arguments from secondary sources and how to enter into the discussion with their scholarly peers.
- Students will improve their writing skills in organization and structuring their argument in completing a solid paper for each unit.
- Students will learn how to introduce textual evidence and explicate why their chosen textual evidence advances the scholarly conversation.

### Course Requirements

- In order to answer the above questions, Students are required to submit weekly reading responses due every Friday. These weekly reading responses will address writing prompts or interpretations the student may have about a particular reading. The reading responses should have a word count of 300 words. These responses should be thoughtful and display academic professionalism. At the end of the Semester, I will drop 2 reading responses from the final grade. The reading responses dropped will be the two with the lowest grades.
- Each Student is required to participate in daily class discussions; our learning process for this course is a group effort and each of you brings a unique perspective to the texts.
- Students will write four 4-5 page papers throughout the semester in which you will provide a solid thesis (argument) while using textual quotes to provide evidence for your argument. Each Student will be allowed to revise one paper for a higher grade. For this revision process, the Student must attach the original paper with my comments to the second draft in order to receive credit.
- The midterm and final will be administered in class in essay format. Each student will be required to bring in 1-2 bluebooks for these exams. A writing workshop to determine revision strategies for the final draft of the response papers will be held in class before the paper is due. **Attendance at these workshops is required; failure to attend any paper workshop, complete draft in hand will lower the final grade on the paper by a full grade.**
- Extra Credit-I will offer a value of only 40 extra credit points throughout the semester. These will be offered throughout the semester at particular times.

### Assignments and Grade Values

Reading Responses	12 x10 = 120 (2 will be dropped)
Papers	4 x 100 = 400
Midterm	100
Final	200
Class Participation	100

**Total Points Possible 900**

### Grade Break Down

810-900 = A

720-809 = B

630-719 = C

540-629= D

539 and Below = F

**Accommodations Statement: If a student needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the CASS Office (Center for Accommodations and Support Services) at 747-5148 or [atcass@utep.edu](mailto:atcass@utep.edu) or go to Room 106 Union East Building. The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions. Requested accommodations must be made 5 working days before an examination or other assignment.**

**Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information, ideas, or exact wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information, idea, or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.**

### Course Policies

- **Deadlines – Assignment due dates are well marked on the syllabus and, unless a scheduling adjustment is made by me prior to the deadline, they are firm. Work handed in during class, but after the initial collection of papers at the beginning of the period, will**

be accepted but will be docked 30 points; unless prior arrangement is made, work cannot be emailed, slipped under the door of my office, or placed in my department mailbox for credit.

- All work for the course must be completed in good order and on time in order to pass the course. In other words, you cannot simply skip an assignment, take the F, and expect to pass. Students must make every effort to submit each assignment, even if it is late. **Late papers will not qualify for a rewrite.**
- Papers must be typed and double-spaced, with 1" margins. Papers should have your name, the course number, and the date in the upper left hand corner. The title should be centered below this and the first paragraph should begin, indented, below the title. Papers should be fastened with a paper clip or staple in the upper left hand corner. All written work should be in MLA format. No title page or fancy folder is necessary.
- Please turn off cell phones for the duration of class. Students are required to remain in the classroom once the class has begun, except in a real emergency. I reserve the right to count you absent if you cannot comply with this policy.
- **Attendance to class is necessary to passing *any* class. Since we meet 3 days a week, I will allow students 4 unexcused absences. At the fifth unexcused absence, the student will lose all 100 participation points. I also expect you to be here on time. Each time you are late to class you will lose 5 points from your participation points total.**
- I do not drop students-that is your decision. If you feel you need to drop the class, the process will be entirely up to you. But please keep in mind, I am here to help you succeed, if you are having problems please come and see me before you take this action.
- **Please use your UTEP email to contact me. I do not open emails from students using an email outside of the UTEP system. If you have never used your UTEP email, please contact the technology department and have them set you up with one.**
- When sending an email, please include a subject matter and use professionalism in the language and tone.

**\*Please note the Syllabus is Subject to change.**

## Reading and Assignment Schedule

### Unit 1 Poetry

#### Week 1

Wednesday 1/20	Syllabus and Introduction to class		
Friday 1/22	Larkin "Annus Mirabilis" Online on Black Board. <a href="http://www.wussu.com/poems/plam.htm">http://www.wussu.com/poems/plam.htm</a>  Norton "Introduction" Pages 1-9	Reading Response 1	10 points

#### Week 2

Dates	Readings	Criticism	Assessment	Points Possible
1/25 Monday	Poe "The Raven" 601	"Ravel and the Raven" on Black Board		
1/27 Wednesday	Browning's "My Last Duchess" pg.667  Springsteen "Nebraska" 463			
1/29 Friday	Pope "Sense and Sound" 591 Coleridge "Metrical Feet" 596		Reading Response 2	10

#### Week 3

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
2/1 Monday	Dunbar "Sympathy" 536 Turner "Jundee Ameriki" 583 Heaney "Punishment" 614		
2/3 Wednesday	Marlowe "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" 697 Raleigh "The Nymph's		

	Reply to the Shepherd” 708 Discuss the first Paper		
2/5 Friday	Thomas “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night” 636, Bishop “Sestina” 637	Reading Response 3	10

## Week 4

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
2/8 Monday	Keats “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles” 650, Browning “How Do I Love Thee” 650, Millay “I will put Chaos into fourteen lines” 653, Harwood “In the Park” 655.		
2/10 Wednesday	1 Writing Workshop		
2/12 Friday	Introduction to the short story Sedaris’ “Jesus Shaves” pg. 426	Poetry Paper Due at start of class.	100

**Unit 2 The Short Story**

## Week 5

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
2/15 Monday	Oats’ “Where are you going, where have you been?” On Black Board		
2/17 Wednesday	O’Connor “A Good Man is Hard to Find” pg. 404		
2/19 Friday	Tan “ A Pair of Tickets” 179	Reading Response 4	10

## Week 6

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
2/22 Monday	Lahiri’s “Interpreter of Maladies” pg. 335		

2/24 Wednesday	Erdrich "Love Medicine" pg. 280		
2/26 Friday	Chopin's "The story of an Hour" pg. 277	Reading Response	10

## Week 7

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
2/29 Monday	Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" pg. 307		
3/2 Wednesday	Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily" pg. 298	Writing Response	10 Points
3/4 Friday		Midterm Bring a Blue Book to Class.	100 Points

Spring Break March 7 to March 11	No Class Yahoo!!!!!!
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## Week 8

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
3/14 Monday	Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues" pg. 73		
3/16 Wednesday	Olsen's "I Stand Here Ironing" pg. 418 Discuss the second paper		
3/18 Friday	Joyce's "Araby" pg. 321	Reading Response	10

## Week 9

Dates	Readings	Criticism	Assessment	Points Possible
3/21 Monday	Melville's "Bartleby, The Scrivener" pg.			

	372			
3/23 Wednesday		Matteson "A New Race Has Sprung Up" On Black Board	Reading Response	10
3/25 No Class				

## Week 10

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
3/28 Monday	Danticat's "A Wall of Fire Rising" pg. 326		
3/30 Wednesday	2 Workshop		
4/1 Friday	Introduction to Drama	Short Story Paper 2	100 Points

**Unit 3 Drama**

## Week 11

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
4/4 Monday	Hansberry's <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> Pg. 918 Act 1.		
4/6 Wednesday	Act 2		
4/8 Friday	Act 3	Reading Response	10

## Week 12

Dates	Readings	Criticism	Assessment	Points Possible
4/11 Monday	Discuss play paper	Gordon's "Somewhat Like War" On Black Board		
4/13 Wednesday	Watch Play			
4/15 Friday	Watch Play		Reading Response	10

## Week 13

Dates	Readings	Criticism	Assessment	Points Possible
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4/18 Monday	Watch play			
3/20 Wednesday	Workshop 3			
3/22 Friday	Intro to Momaday <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i>	“Sacred Journey Cycles” On Black Board	Play Paper	100

#### Unit 4 The Novella and the Memoir

##### Week 14

Dates	Readings	Assessment	Points Possible
4/25 Monday	Momaday’s <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> Preface-13		
4/27 Wednesday	Momaday’s <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> “The Setting Out”		
4/29 Friday	Momaday’s <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> “The Going On”	Reading Response	10

##### Week 15

Dates	Readings	Criticism	Assessment	Points Possible
5/2 Monday	Momaday’s <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> “The Closing In” And the Epilogue	“Dancing the Page” On Black Board		
5/4 Wednesday	3 Writing Workshop		Reading Response	10
5/3 No Class- Dead Day				

##### Week 16

In Class Final Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 12:45. Bring 2 Blue Books to class.

Final Paper due Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 3p.m. Bring paper to my office and physically hand it in.