

# Writing About Literature Syllabus

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## **RWS 1302: Introduction to Writing about Literature**

**Fall 2017**

**Wednesday 3:00 to 4:20 p.m. Hudspeth Hall Rm. 100**

RWS: 1302 CRN: 14760

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Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., or by Appointment.

### **Texts**

*Literature: A Portable Anthology*

978-1-319-03534-1

*Digging into Literature*

Joanna Wolfe and Laura Wilder

978-1-4576-3130-6

### **Course Overview**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the genres of poetry and the short story.

Some of the questions we will be asking and answering throughout the semester are:

- How does the literary discourse community use conventions and genre to create arguments that are debatable, productive, and valuable to the discourse community's conversation?
- Through literary and 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 recognize rhetorical choices made by

## Writing About Literature Syllabus

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authors and how these choices persuade and inform the audience through use of tone and language structure.

- 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 through close reading and deconstruction.
- Students will improve their writing skills in organization and structuring of their argument and thus strengthening logos in their writing.
- Students will learn how to introduce textual evidence and explicate why their chosen textual evidence advances the scholarly conversation.
- Students will learn how to use secondary sources to help their ethos in creating a substantive argument.
- Students will learn how to use and recognize rhetorical devices used by scholars in literary discourse communities to understand and strengthen their own arguments.

*\*Please note that some of the texts we will be reading in this course contain violence, derogatory language, and imagery that may be upsetting. Literature is a reflection of society, a mirror of humanity, and many of these issues are still with us today. This is a college course and we are all adults, if you do not wish to read these texts-then please drop the class.*

### Course Requirements

- In order to answer the above questions, Students are required to submit *Digging into Literature* exercises and/ or weekly reading responses due every Wednesday at the start of class. These weekly reading responses will address writing prompts or interpretations the student may have about a particular reading. The reading responses must have a word count of 300 words or more. These responses should be thoughtful and display academic professionalism. **Reading Responses cannot be turned in after due date.**
- 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. Class attendance is required. Each class missed, the student loses 10 points from their participation grade.

## Writing About Literature Syllabus

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- Students will write one 5 to 6 page Literary Analysis paper in the first half of the semester. The student will provide a solid thesis (argument) while using textual evidence to substantiate the argument. Each Student will be allowed to revise the 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. Revisions must be turned in by week 14.
- Students will be required to create a literary website in which they publish and reflect on their writing process throughout the semester. Students will present their website to the class at the end of the semester for their presentation.
- Students will complete an annotated bibliography consisting of six secondary sources which will be used in their Research Paper.
- Students will complete a Research Paper using the sources from their annotated bibliography along with one primary text. The Paper must be between 8 to 9 pages and follow MLA formatting.
- 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/ DIG Exercises 10 x10 points = 100 points

Literary Analysis Paper = 150 points

Literary Analysis Draft/Outline= 50 points

Class Participation = 100 points

Annotated Bibliography = 150 points

Research Paper = 200 points

Literary Website = 150 points

Presentation = 100 points

**Total Points Possible 1000**

### Grade Break Down

900-1000 = A

800-899 = B

# Writing About Literature Syllabus

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700-799 = C

600-699 = D

599 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 after the due date and time, will be accepted but will be docked 30 points for papers and 5 points for weekly writing responses; 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. The font must be 12 pts and in Times New Roman. 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. All written work should be in MLA format.

## Writing About Literature Syllabus

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- All Papers are due by 11 p.m. on Wednesday. You will need to submit your paper through Black board under the Assignment's turn in Section.
- 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 once a week, I will allow students 3 unexcused absences. At the fourth 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.**

### Important Dates for this Semester:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| August 28      | First day of class  |
| September 4    | Labor Day Holiday—University Closed                             |
| September 13   | Census Day  |
| October 25     | Freshmen mid-term grades due                                    |
| November 3     | Withdraw course deadline  |
| November 23-24 | Thanksgiving Holiday<br>University Closed                       |
| December 7     | Last day of classes and complete withdrawal from the University |
| December 8     | Dead Day  |
| December 11-15 | Final Exams Check the UTEP finals week calendar for your course |

# Writing About Literature Syllabus

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December 19

Instructor Submits Final Grades