

**Catalog Entry**

Narrative Techniques (3-0) Analysis of techniques, methods, and theories employed in the making of fiction and/or non-fiction. Writings may include critical reflections and short exercises in style. Prerequisites: CRW 3362 with a grade of “C” or better.

**Course Description**

This course will explore the craft of young adult (YA) literature, specifically the novel in verse. Students will initiate their own projects in a genre that handles coming-of-age narratives in a complex lens which explains its popularity in the U.S. Students will consider different forms of poetry in order to examine, experiment and understand the narrative possibilities of poetry in YA literature. Students will be exposed to work from a wide range of YA authors such as Justin Reynolds, Safia Elhillo and Thanhha Lai, among others. The course will feature lecture, class discussions, and workshop components.

**Course Outcomes**

- Throughout this course, students will
- Discuss and examine YA stories in verse and novels in verse.
  - Discuss and apply literary devices used in fiction and poetry.
  - Provide and receive professional criticism from peers.
  - Produce a final portfolio with a critical preface and revised work.

This course is also designed to promote your overall success, inside and outside the classroom. The coursework will help you improve in key areas such as communication, confidence, and critical thinking.



## Course Delivery

The course will be delivered face-to-face and it will make use of Blackboard. For this purpose, students must have access to a computer and the internet. This is not a self-paced class; the course is organized by weeks with corresponding assignments and deadlines.

## Course Materials & Technology Requirements

Course materials are available through Blackboard. Four YA novels in verse (TBD) will be discussed starting Week 5: *Home Is Not a Country* by Safia Elhillo, *The Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds, *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai and *Ultraviolet* by Aida Salazar. Please go to the Homepage on Blackboard to consider booksellers, prices, etc. to order a copy promptly.

Ensure your UTEP email account is working and that you have internet access and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser. You will need to have access to a computer/laptop.

The following software is recommended: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat Reader. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course. If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

## Course Assignments

CRW 3374 is graded on a scale of 0-1000. The course assignments are outlined below. Please note that specific instructions will be provided on Blackboard and in class.

**Syllabus Scavenger Quiz:** You will fill out a quiz testing your knowledge about the course requirements and the design of your Blackboard shell. This activity ensures you read the syllabus carefully—instead of discussing it during the hectic first week of class— and navigate Blackboard at your own pace. Due date: Mon 9/2 by 1:30 pm. 30 points

**Reading Journals (RJs):** The purpose of this weekly assignment is to process the material by yourself to then engage in conversation with your classmates and instructor. To write mindful reading journals please read the materials carefully before class, think about what you read and how it made you feel, then answer the prompts as best as you can—there are no right or wrong answers (only unsubstantiated, underdeveloped ones!). There are two types of RJs:



**Communication:** Maintaining constant, open lines of communication between students and instructors is key to a productive and enjoyable learning experience. For this reason, it is vital that you communicate with me as soon as possible about extenuating circumstances that affect your performance. I'm committed to help you navigate the course and succeed, but you must reach out and keep me updated.

There are several ways in which communication will take place:

**Email:** Contact me at [anarvaez2@utep.edu](mailto:anarvaez2@utep.edu) using your UTEP email. My response time for emails sent Monday through Friday 12-5pm is 48 hours; for emails sent on weekends, I will respond until the next day of business (i.e. Monday). Please **do not use Blackboard messages**. Note: As a UTEP alumna, I used to have a student email with the domain @miners.utep.edu, which was recently erased; however, to prevent any issues, the first time you write to me, please type my email as given and don't rely on the automatic feature of the electronic directory.

**Announcements:** I will send weekly communications through the Announcement tool in Blackboard. Please check your UTEP email often, for that is where Blackboard announcements are sent instantly. You can also read my announcements by going to "Announcements" on Blackboard's left-side menu.

**Office Hours:** Mondays 4-6pm at my office in University Towers 510 F. If you wish to visit me virtually, please let me know. For appointments outside these hours, please email me with at least one week of notice to set up a meeting (you may also approach me after class 😊).

**Assignment Feedback:** I will provide you with personalized commentary—written or recorded—on selected assignments through Blackboard, so make sure to check "My Grades." My response time for grading and feedback is within 1 week for short assignments and up to 2 weeks for longer assignments.

**Late Work:** I do not accept late work, unless there are extenuating circumstances, and only if the student contacts me through email within 48 hours before or after the assignment deadline.

Please keep in mind that technology is fallible. For this reason, avoid posting or uploading assignments at the last minute. As stated previously, if you encounter technological issues, please contact UTEP's [Help Desk](#) as soon as possible. If the issue is not fixed, then email the assignment as an attachment to [anarvaez2@utep.edu](mailto:anarvaez2@utep.edu) to protect your grade.

**Withdrawals:** Each semester has a drop date beyond which an instructor can no longer drop a student with a "W." Students who fail to fulfill assignments after the drop date must necessarily receive an "F." However, in the event of exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the instructor of the course and the academic dean, a grade of "W" may be obtained. The student is responsible for supplying written documentation to support the request for a "W." Acceptable reasons for a "W" include: personal or family emergencies, death of a family member, military leave,



**Tech Etiquette:** As a courtesy to your classmates and instructor, please refrain from using cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. for recreational purposes while class is ongoing. Creative writing courses are taught in small classrooms, not in large auditoriums where non-academic use of technology goes unnoticed.

**COVID-19 Precautions:** Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your result to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu) so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

**University Policies and Services**

**University Writing Center (UWC):** I encourage you to make use of the UWC during the planning, drafting, and/or revising phases of writing any assignment in this class. The trained writing consultants can help give you a fresh perspective on ideas and help you with things like correctness, formatting, etc. The UWC is located on the main floor of the library, to the right of the elevators and computer lab. This is *especially important for the short story section*, thus, if you know you struggle with grammar, please get help before sharing your work, so we can focus on the content of the story, not its grammatical mistakes.

**Academic Integrity:** An act of plagiarism (or other form of academic dishonesty) will result in an ‘F’ for the course, and may include other University disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion. You should become familiar with the ethical guidelines for conduct spelled out in the [Student Affairs](#) section of the [Handbook for Operating Procedures](#). Additionally, please be aware that you may not submit work for this class that was produced for another class. You must produce your own original work in this class and appropriately identify and portion of your work which is collaborative with others, borrowed from others, or which is your own work from other contexts. Always cite your information. If you have doubts as to whether you are using your own or others’ work legally and ethically, ask me or stop by the UTEP Writing Center. Follow this primary principle: Be upfront and honest.

**ChatGPT Use:** Because of the rapid pace of change represented by ChatGPT and similar programs, it is necessary to set clear standards regarding their use in a creative writing class: *all* assignment submissions *must* constitute original pieces of writing composed by the student-author *without* the assistance of AI text generators. I recognize ChatGPT can be a valuable generative tool, if a writer is experienced, and has a clear idea of how to use it to further their creative goals. At the undergraduate level, however, it’s vital for creative writing students to rely on their original ideas, processes, and creativity to generate work. The same policy applies to reading journals. Use of ChatGPT and similar programs **will affect your grade and result in a report** to the Office of Community Standards.

**ADA:** The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) at (915)747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal. The CASS office is located in Room 106, Union East. Students are responsible for presenting the instructor with any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

**Military Student Success Center:** If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active), consider visiting the Military Success Center at Library Room 205 or online at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/>. Please inform me if you need special accommodations. If you make me aware of a complication, I will work to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you.

**Creative Writing Undergraduate Advising and Resources Webpage:** Click [here](#) to find information about registration, advising, Wellness and Support Services, as well as Health and Covid-Related Services.

**Calendar**

This calendar is subject to change. Attend class and check Blackboard for changes of readings or due dates.

Reading key: BB=Blackboard; ICA=In-Class Assignment


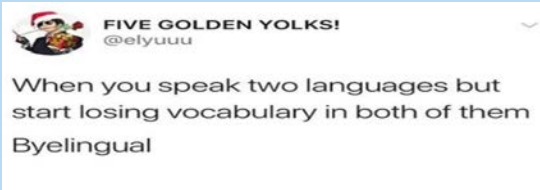
Week 1: Welcome & Young Adult Literature Definition	
Mon 8/26	Meet and Greet Read Syllabus Explore Blackboard
Wed 8/28	Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Young Adult Literature: Growing Up, In Theory" (Karen Coats) + "Point of Departure" (Markus Zusack)</li> <li>• "<a href="#">Against YA</a>" (Ruth Graham)</li> </ul>

**Week 2: Young Adult Literature Definition(s) and Other Topics**







Due on Fri 11/1 @ midnight	Short story or ongoing novel in verse (complete draft) for Class Workshop
<b>Course Drop Deadline: Friday 11/1</b>	
<b>Week 11: Class Workshop</b>	
Mon 11/4	Class Workshop: 3 stories
Wed 11/6	Class Workshop: 3 stories
<b>Week 12: Class Workshop</b>	
Due by Mon 11/11 @ 1:30 pm	Feedback
Mon 11/11	Class Workshop: 3 stories
Wed 11/13	Class Workshop: 3 stories
<b>Week 13: Class Workshop</b>	
Due by Mon 11/18 @ 1:30 pm	Feedback
Mon 11/18	Class Workshop: 3 stories
Wed 11/20	Class Workshop: 3 stories
<b>Week 14: Revision</b>	
Due by Mon 11/25 @ 1:30 pm	Feedback
Mon 11/25 & Wed 11/27	In-class writing & revising
<b>Week 15: Final Portfolio + Class Debrief</b>	
Due by Mon 12/2 @ 1:30 pm	RJ 8 BB
Mon 12/2	Discuss Revision plans Final Portfolio
Wed 12/4	Class Debrief & Goodbye <b>Poetry Factory TBD</b>
<p>Congratulations! You made it this far 😊</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div data-bbox="511 1457 1433 1493" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>For Syllabus Scavenger Hunt Last Question due Mon 9/2 by 1:30 pm</p> </div> </div> <div style="margin: 20px 0; text-align: center;">  </div>	
<b>Week 16:</b>	
<b>Final Portfolio due Monday, December 9 at midnight</b>	