English 200.503 || Introduction to Literature
Spring 2020

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Office: LA 210
Department: English and Creative Writing
Office Hours: MW 9:00 am – 10:00 am and 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

What We Will Do: Readings in literary genres, such as poetry, drama, short story, novel. Prerequisite: six hours of freshman English. For this “crash course” in literature we will read selections from four literary genres: the short story, poetry, drama, and the graphic novel. We will learn about how to read these genres in ways approachable for the non-specialist, with particular attention on reading for character, theme, setting, point of view, and symbolism. The overall goal for this course is to equip you with the basic “tools” to help you read literature in powerful and meaningful ways.

ENG 2341 “Introduction to Literature” (3 credits; fully online) meets online for 15 regular weeks during the semester, and also meets for the final week of the semester for a 2-hour final examination online. Students have theme-based weekly literary readings, including poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, and drama. Students are expected to read and participate in weekly “pre-discussions” based solely on their reading assignments; then, they will read the weekly modules which include notes, outside sources, explanations and provided links to enrich their understanding of the selections; after engaging the material, students will read each other’s responses to the pre-discussion, and by the end of the week, submit “post-discussion” responses in the discussion tool. In addition to the pre- and post-discussions, students will take exams over four thematic units, and will submit two short papers, and one substantial research paper. These activities average at a minimum 8-10 hours of work each week to prepare for and fully participate in this course.

What We Will Read:
• The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid

Required Web Access:
You will need to have access to d2l.sfasu.edu in order to get access to course materials, submit assignments, and take reading quizzes. Please make sure to configure your d2l account as soon as possible. I will accept no lack of accessibility excuses for missing assignments, quizzes, etc. You also need to revise settings so that d2l emails you anytime I make an announcement.

Some of Our Goals:
1. To learn about various literary genres;
2. To learn about specific literary terms and concepts useful in the reading and understanding of drama, poetry, and the short story;
3. To apply one’s knowledge of those terms and concepts in the discussing and writing about the literature;
4. To consider the ways in which cultural and historical contexts inform literature, and in turn how literature informs and shapes cultures and cultural experiences and exchanges;
To explore how personal reactions to literature can enrich our understanding and appreciation of literature; and

To learn about and put into practice basic skills for writing critically about literature in short writing assignments and in the exams.

**General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes**
1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
5. To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the humanities and arts.
6. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

**Crucial Course Objective:**
It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, perspective, and other background characteristics. I encourage your suggestions about how to improve the value of diversity in this course. This course meets the following standards for diversity content and instruction in the following way(s):
1. Course content that includes readings and other materials that address various categories of social difference (gender, nationality, religion, ethnicity, race, age, sexuality, political affiliation, socioeconomic status, ability, linguistic background, etc.) on the course topic.
2. Tying current events and local histories centered on the production of social difference into classroom activities.

**How Your Grade Will Be Calculated:**
The grading standards presented here are general to all the assignments; however, more specific standards (of which you will be made aware) will be attached to each individual assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Category</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Discussions</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Project</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**What You Can Expect from Me**
I will strive to:
- create a challenging and engaged learning environment that will enrich your college career
- encourage you to explore new ideas, to develop your own intellectual abilities, and to strengthen
your critical thinking skills
• encourage you to identify the ways in which our culture influences your lives, your self-identity, and your perceptions of others
• provide you with helpful feedback about your ideas and writing
• meet with you to discuss your work in detail anytime you request guidance

What I Expect from You
During the time spent in this course you should:
• Read and understand all the policies in the syllabus – contact me if you have any questions
• Refer to the calendar attached to the syllabus for any questions regarding deadlines or course requirements
• interact with other students and your professor in a respectful, mature, and thoughtful manner
• read all assigned reading and be prepared to actively participate in class discussion
• keep an open mind; the reading and viewing selections have been carefully considered as works that will contribute to your intellectual development
• feel free to contact me during my office hours if you are having difficulties with the material, or any other issues that might negatively impact your performance in this course
• be prepared to engage with difficult topics

Course Policies:
1. **Communication with your professor**: If you send an email I will answer it that same day if the email was sent between 8am-3pm on weekdays. If your email was sent after those specified times, I will reply the next morning, or after the weekend. Additionally, when you email follow proper email etiquette. I do not check d2l email, so only send emails to this address: lameborsel@sfasu.edu
   
   **Note**: I will not reply to any questions the answer to which can be found by carefully reading the syllabus or the assignment prompts.

2. All Writing Projects **must be typed** and turned in on d2l on the due date and time. I will not accept hand-written projects. No make-up work is allowed on major assignments. **Late work** will not be accepted unless an exception is approved in advance.

3. I will only accept documented excuses for any in-class make-up work: family emergencies, university sanctioned events, and extreme medical issues (hospitalization); I need to be presented with documentation upon your first day of return to the classroom, or within a week of the absence.

4. **An excused absence** does not also excuse major essay deadlines, since these deadlines are given weeks in advance. You must turn in major assignments and homework on time regardless of the excuse, since these due dates are announced at the very beginning of the semester.

5. **Plagiarism**, or turning in work that is not one’s own, runs counter to the most basic purposes and presumptions of higher education. The minimum penalty for plagiarism will be failure of the assignment. In repeated cases, the penalty is failure of the course and filing paperwork with the academic dean. See SFA policy regarding plagiarism.

6. All work needs to adhere to **MLA format** with appropriate documentation – The Little Seagull Handbook has MLA documentation guidelines.

7. You may not use essays or assignments you have previously written.
8. I will not accept emailed assignments.

9. All students will be graded on their ability to: 1. Achieve the goal of the specific assignment 2. Efficiently and effectively communicate through writing 3. Properly format the work and 4. Avoid stigmatized grammatical and syntactical errors. Each assignment will vary, but these four factors will always determine part, or all, of your grade.

What is Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to the SFA website.

AARC:
The Academic Assistance Resource Center offers a free tutoring/writing assistance service to all students at SFASU. You are encouraged to seek help from this center throughout the semester.

Discrimination/Harassment Policy:
No one will be discriminated against or harassed on the basis of gender, age, size, ethnicity/race, religion, disability, or any other categories. If discrimination/harassment takes place (either reported or observed) involved students will be required to conference with me prior to returning to class. More information on this topic can be found here on the SFA website.

Counseling Services: Counseling is a free service for all students at SFA. Mental health and safety is
crucial to everyone’s well-being and success, and if you are having issues with stress, anxiety, panic, lack of focus, or any other issues due to life events, etc., please do not hesitate to contact the counseling office. Below you will find all the pertinent information:

Location: 3rd floor of the Rusk Building  
Phone: 936-468-2401  
counseling@sfasu.edu  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

**MySFA:** Per SFASU policy your SFASU-assigned e-mail address is considered an official method of communication from faculty to students. Thus, it is your responsibility to check, on a regular and frequent basis, for any e-mail messages that I may have need to send regarding this course. Such messages may direct you to the mySFA/Blackboard area of this course for additional materials or instructions. Often, I will post schedule updates or announcements on d2l.sfasu.edu as well. Make sure you check frequently.