

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

LIT2000 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE
SYLLABUS
Fall 2017

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructors	Dr. Dror Abend-David Mr. Jacob Sickerman
Office	Pugh 337
Phone	(352) 486-3845
Office Hours	M 5; W 4-5 – By Appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Time	T 5-6; R 6
Location	CSE E221

COURSE PRE-REQUISITE: ENC 1101

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the unique and changing role literature has played in individuals' lives and in society. It is centered on three deceptively simple questions: What is literature? Why do we write literature? And why do we read literature? It introduces students to a range of literary genres, from different countries and historical periods.

Among the primary aims of this course is to help students develop the critical skill of analysis and interpretation. Students will also learn how formal and stylistic elements as well as historical context shape the meaning and significance of literature. By becoming more skillful readers of literature and its contexts, students become better readers of the worlds that literature addresses, develop their ability to decipher meaning from language, and better understand their own interactions with science, technology, media, commerce, and politics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In addition to gaining a deeper appreciation of the expressive potential of language and the varieties of literature, students will develop a broader cultural literacy and an understanding of the changing definition and role of literature in society.

Therefore, by the conclusion of the course it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the

- structures and conventions of different literary genres.
2. Produce original, critical readings of literary texts, using different methods of interpretation and analysis, while identifying and interpreting formal and genre-related elements in the texts.
 3. Critically assess the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the human experience.
 4. Draw connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich. *Plays*. London: Penguin Publishing, 2002.
- Curthoys, Ann. "Harry Potter and the Holocaust: Reflections on History and Fiction," 6th Annual Lecture presented by the ANU Archives Program and the Friends of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre at the Australian National University, September 28, 2007. (http://www.anu.edu.au/discoveranu/content/podcasts/harry_potter_holocaust/)
- Forché, Caroline. *The Country between Us*. US: Harper Perennial, 1982.
- Jackson, Shirley. *The Lottery*. Logan, IA: Perfection Learning, 2007. (https://sites.middlebury.edu/individualandthesociety/files/2010/09/jackson_lottery.pdf)
- Kafka, Franz. *In the Penal Colony*. US: Createspace Independent, 2011. (<http://www.kafka.org/index.php?aid=167>)
- Kosinski, Jerzy. *The Painted Bird*. Grove Press, 1995.
- Munthe, Axel. *The Story of San Michele*. London: John Murray, 2004.
- Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*. 1st American ed. New York, NY: Pantheon Books, 2004.
- Shakespeare, William. *The Merchant of Venice: Authoritative Text, Sources and Contexts, Criticism, Rewritings and Appropriations*. Edited by Leah S. Marcus. 1st ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 2006.
- Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels: Based on the 1726 Text: Contexts, Criticism*. Edited by Albert J. Rivero. 1st ed. New York: Norton, 2002.
- Walcott, Derek. *Omeros*. 1st ed. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1990.
- Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. Boston, MA: Mariner Books. 2003.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Summary of grading

- Attendance & participation/in-class discussion (10%)
- 4 short response papers (20%)
- 1 Close Reading of a literary text or passage (15%)
- 1 Critical Analysis paper (25%)
- A Midterm and a Final Essay (15% each—30%)

1. Attendance & Participation (10%)

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll or sign-up sheet. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for every unexcused absence.

Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

For an excused absence: **Please do not contact the instructor.** Contact the office of the Dean of Students at umattter@ufl.edu. The office of the Dean of Students will alert your instructor (and your other instructors) for the relevant dates.

Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class. **Do not write to the instructor: “Did I miss anything important”?** Please assume that you did.

Participation: Students are expected to review the assigned readings before class. Consistent participation in class discussions, demonstrated knowledge of the assigned readings will also contribute to this portion of the final grade.

2. Close Reading Assignment: 750 words, 15%

This assignment will test student skills in close reading, especially as that skill pertains to works of poetry and short fiction. Students will be expected to analyze a text carefully and develop an argument regarding the whole of the text through a close reading. No outside sources may be used for this assignment.

The Close Reading assignment is due during the 4th week of the semester

3. Critical Analysis Paper: 1,500 words, 25%

This assignment asks students to combine close reading skills with critical concepts or historical information introduced in one of the supplemental readings. The goal is for students to produce a strong conceptual argument supported by textual and contextual evidence.

The Critical Analysis assignment is due during the 6th week of the semester.

4. Midterm and Final (15% each—30%)

Students will be asked to address an assigned topic in a six page paper, demonstrating the knowledge and methods that they acquired in class. These assignments will be graded for content, writing and presentation.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- **Makeup Policy:** Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>), there will be no make-up option for missed exams or late assignments. Assignments cannot be resubmitted for a higher grade.
- **Late Policy:** A class roll will be passed around at the beginning of class. If a

student is late, he or she will have to sign the roll after class. Such lateness distracts other students and the instructor and will affect the student's final participation grade. Students will lose 0.5% from their final grade each time they arrive late.

- **Cell phone policy:** Students must turn cell phones to silent before coming to class. Each time a student's cell phone rings or each time that a student texts during class, 1% will be deducted from that student's final grade.

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93 (4.0)	92-90 (3.67)	89-87 (3.33)	86-83 (3.0)	82-80 (2.67)	79-77 (2.33)	76-73 (2.0)	72-70 (1.67)	69-67 (1.33)	63-66 (1.0)	62-60 (0.67)	59- (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Academic Honesty: Students are required to be honest in their coursework, may not use notes during quizzes or exams, and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of the assignment in question and/or the course.

For University of Florida's honor code,

see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352 392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Students should note that the schedule is a guideline and may change

UNIT I - WHAT IS LITERATURE?

- WEEK 1 **INTRODUCTION:** Literature – Purpose and Methodology.
Begin reading course materials.
- WEEK 2 **Drama**
Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
- WEEK 3 **Epic**
Derek Walcott, *Omeros*, Book 1, chapters 1-2 & Book 3
- WEEK 4 **Poetry**
Caroline Forché, *The Country between Us*
- WEEK 5 **Short Story:**
Franz Kafka, “The Penal Colony”
(<http://www.kafka.org/index.php?aid=167>)
- WEEK 6 Unit summary – Discussion, Class Activity and instruction for forthcoming assignments.

UNIT II - WHY DO WE WRITE?

- WEEK 7 **Self-Expression/Self-Construction:**
Jerzy Kosinski, *The Painted Bird*
- WEEK 8 **World Making (Cosmopoiesis)**
Axel Munthe, *The Story of San Michele*
- WEEK 9/10 **Shaping Citizens: Moral Instruction**
Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*
- WEEK 11 Unit summary – Discussion, Class Activity and instruction for forthcoming assignments.

UNIT III WHY DO WE READ?

- WEEK 12 **Exploration & Discovery:**
Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*

- WEEK 13 **Moving Beyond the Self**
Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, *Plays*
- WEEK 14 **Finding New Selves**
Jackson, Shirley (2007). *The Lottery*. Logan, IA: Perfection Learning
(https://sites.middlebury.edu/individualandthesociety/files/2010/09/jackson_lottery.pdf)
- WEEK 15 **New Ways of Seeing**
Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*
- WEEK 16 **Conclusion: Where to now?**
Ann Curthoys, "Harry Potter and the Holocaust: Reflections on History and Fiction."
(http://www.anu.edu.au/discoveranu/content/podcasts/harry_potter_holocaust/)

Fall 2017 Calendar – Introduction to Literature

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk I	08.21	08.22	08.23	08.24	08.25
Wk II	08.28	08.29 1st Response Paper Due	08.30	08.31	09.01
Wk III	09.04 Labor Day	09.05	09.06	09.07	09.08
Wk IV	09.11	09.12 <i>Close Reading Assignment Due</i>	09.13	09.14	09.15
Wk V	09.18	09.19	09.20	09.21 Rosh HaShana	09.22 Rosh HaShana
Wk VI	09.25	09.26 <i>Critical Analysis Paper Due</i>	09.27	09.28	09.29 Yom Kippur
Wk VII	10.02	10.03	10.04	10.05	10.06 Homecoming
Wk VIII	10.09	10.10 2 nd Response Paper Due	10.11	10.12	10.13
Wk IX	10.16	10.17	10.18	10.19	10.20
Wk X	10.23	10.24 <i>Midterm Paper Due</i>	10.25	10.26	10.27
Wk XI	10.30 Conference	10.31	11.01	11.02	11.03
Wk XII	11.06	11.07 3 rd Response Paper Due	11.08	11.09	11.10 Veterans Day
Wk XIII	11.13	11.14	11.15	11.16	11.17
Wk XIV	11.20	11.21 4 th Response Paper Due	11.22 Thanksgiving	11.23 Thanksgiving	11.24 Thanksgiving
Wk XV	11.27	11.28	11.29	11.30	12.01
Wk XVI	12.04	12.05 <i>Final Paper Due</i>	12.06		