

ENGL 3000.004 Analysis and Interpretation

Fall / TR 11:10-12:30 / LANG 210

Instructor: J. Foertsch / foertsch@unt.edu

Office: LANG 409-D

Hours: W 1:30-4:30 (via Zoom or in-person) and by appt.

Course Objectives: In this course, we will interpret texts from the major genres of literature in English – poetry, fiction, and drama – with respect to form (e.g., style, word choice, tone) and content (e.g., plot, theme, symbol, character, setting). We will familiarize ourselves with a variety of key terms and spend many sessions closely reading literary passages for their rich and multiple meanings. The course will be writing-intensive, with three 4- to 6-page essays required. In addition we will take mid-term examination (objective, skills-testing) and a final examination (essay format).

Course Texts: Kennedy and Gioia, *Backpack Literature*, 6th edition

Rieger, ed. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Papers/Requirements:

Three essays (4-6 pages each) – 45% (15% each)

Midterm Exam - 15%

Podcast Assignment 10%

Final Examination (essay format) – 10%

Class Participation (writing and discussion) - 20%

Please note how heavily weighted class participation will be in this course. By this I mean frequent, on-topic, spontaneous contribution to class discussion (either in the form of comment or questions); regular class attendance; and compliance with all course requirements. I give big points to students who take their roles as members of this class seriously, regardless of ability to speak or write at the “A” level. Be prepared, follow directions, pay attention in class, and you'll earn much credit. Office conferencing - especially over drafts of the essay assignments - is another way to maximize your class participation grade. E-conferencing is also an option for both earning participation points and improving one's essay drafts. A word, however, re: e-mail etiquette: please use courteous forms of address and signature, and correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation when writing.

Attendance/Technology Policy: Excessive absences (more than five) may lead to reduction in the final grade as follows:

6-8 classes: 10%

9-12 classes: 20%

13-16 classes: 40%

17-20 classes: 60%

21-25 classes: 80%

26-30 classes: 100%

UNT recognizes absences only for certain religious observances and authorized school activities; thus for other reasons (illness, job conflict) please do not approach me before or after class or via e-mail regarding your upcoming or recent absences, as these are your own business, your own decision, and your own funeral when they become excessive. Please also note: **mental as well as physical presence** is required. Lack of preparation (e.g., no book brought to class, repeated late arrival, late assignments, internet use/texting in class, getting up during class to take or make phone calls) will count as absences with reductions in final grade. **No laptops open in class** – pls. take notes, as need be, with paper and pencil. (Students with special needs requiring laptops, pls. see me.) **No AI for essay-writing.**

Students with Disabilities: I am happy to accommodate students with physical or learning

disabilities with respect to room scheduling, seating arrangements, test time, tape recording, etc., once necessary documentation from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) is produced. If you need to obtain these documents, or would like to be tested or counseled for a disability, please contact the ODA at Sage Hall, Ste. 167, 565-4323.

POLICIES RELATED TO COVI/FLU/RSV:

Face coverings: Face coverings – mouth and nose – are recommended in all UNT facilities whenever experiencing COVID or flu-related symptoms. Please consider using one of your four automatic absences if experiencing respiratory or GI distress.

Absences: While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. UNT also asks that you contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Live Recordings: Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be streamed and recorded for students to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are reserved for use only by students in this class for educational purposes. The recordings should not be shared outside the class, or outside the Canvas LMS, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Final Examination:

Due 10 December 12:30 p.m.

Course Schedule

Week of Aug. 18:	Introduction: Talking and Writing about Literature / Ch. 25: <i>Oedipus the King</i>
Week of Aug. 25:	Ch. 26 - <i>Othello</i>
Week of Sept. 1:	Ch. 26 – <i>Othello</i> and Ch. 10 Poetry
Week of Sept.. 8:	Ch. 11 - 12 Poetry / Essay #1 due (9/10, 11:30 a.m. to foertsch@unt.edu)
Week of Sept. 15:	Ch. 13 - 15 Poetry
Week of Sept. 22:	Ch. 16 - 18 Poetry
Week of Sept. 29:	Ch. 19 - 20 Poetry / Essay #2 due (10/10, 11:30 a.m. to foertsch@unt.edu)
Week of Oct. 6:	Midterm Exam: Early Drama and Poetry
Week of Oct. 13:	<i>Frankenstein</i> and its contexts
Week of Oct. 20:	Finish <i>Frankenstein</i>
Week of Oct. 27:	The legacy of <i>Frankenstein</i>
Week of Nov. 3:	Podcast Assignment
Week of Nov. 10:	Modern Drama: <i>A Doll's House</i> and <i>Trifles</i>
Week of Nov. 17:	Working with Sources / Postmodernism and Theater of the Absurd Essay #3 due (source-free – 9/19, 11:30 a.m. to foertsch@unt.edu)
Week of Nov. 24:	Fall break, no class.
Week of Dec. 1:	Contemporary Drama: <i>The Cuban Swimmer</i> and <i>The Sound of a Voice</i> Essay #3 due (source-enhanced – 12/3, 11:30 a.m. to foertsch@unt.edu)