

Section 004—TR 11:00-12:20—LANG 322

Section 001—TR 2:00-3:20—LANG 311

Instructor: Raina Joines

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Office Hours: TR 12:30-
1:30 & by appointment**Required Texts**Stallings, *Hapax*Szybist, *Incarnadine*Schenkkan, *All the Way*Nottage, *Sweat*DeLillo, *White Noise*Bechdel, *Fun Home*Hamilton, *Essential Literary Terms*Parker, *How to Interpret Literature***Course Overview**

“For me, the game would be to assume a very intelligent reader who can extrapolate a lot from a little. And that’s become my definition of art; to get that pitch just right, where I can put a hint on page three, and the reader’s ears go up a bit, as opposed to dropping it all on the first page.” —George Saunders

Introduction to Literary Analysis & Interpretation Skills prepares English majors to understand literature and to articulate their understanding in essays supported by close reading and carefully analyzed evidence. Students will become familiar with the conventions of drama, poetry, and fiction, learn a basic critical vocabulary for discussing literary texts, and learn to evaluate multiple interpretations of a text. The course will also offer instruction on the scholarly expectations, methods of literary analysis, and critical theories essential to the field of literary study. By the end of the course, students should be able to write clear, original literary essays that support claims with well-chosen and carefully documented details from the texts under discussion.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- Identify and define key literary techniques in a passage.
- Compose an effective comparative analysis of two passages.
- Write a well-structured argumentative essay that explicates a literary text to illuminate its meaning.
- Summarize some significant modern and contemporary trends in literary theory.
- Use literary theory to interpret a text and generate ideas for writing and research.
- Demonstrate an ability to evaluate credible secondary sources for research.
- Write an effective argumentative essay using a particular critical theory to produce new knowledge about a text.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and it is your responsibility to make sure your name is on the sign in sheet. If it is not, you will be counted absent. If you are slightly late, ask to sign the roll at the end of class. University policies concerning attendance may be found at <http://www.unt.edu/catalog/enrollment.htm>.

Unexcused Absences

- An absence is unexcused unless it is explicitly excused by the University or the instructor within the designated time period. Only absences for university events, holy days, or hospitalization are eligible.
- You are allowed three “free” unexcused absences in the course with no penalty. They are granted as leeway for emergencies.
- Three tardies counts as an unexcused absence. Those excessively tardy (more than ten minutes) to one class may be counted absent for the class.
- Those who habitually come in late or are sleeping in class will be counted absent.
- Ten points will be deducted from your grade upon your fourth absence.
- Upon your fifth unexcused absence, your grade for the semester will be an F if you do not withdraw.

Excused Absences and Make-up Work

- An absence to be excused by the University must follow the procedure outlined in the *Undergraduate Catalog*: “Absences due to participation in sponsored activities must be approved in advance by the department chair and academic dean. Within three days of the absence, students must obtain authorized absence cards from the Dean of Students for presentation to their instructors.” Failure to follow this procedure will result in an unexcused absence.
- State law requires that students notify their teachers at the beginning of the semester (in the first 15 days) if they expect to miss class on a religious holiday.
- An absence for an emergency doctor’s visit or hospitalization may be excused at my discretion if an original, verifiable doctor’s note (with contact information) is presented to me on the first day back after the absence and we hold a conference on the absence.
- To make up course days missed for extended excused absences, make-up work on the reading must be handed in with your documentation. Failure to hand in make-up work on time will result in a five point deduction from your grade. If extreme circumstances prevent you from handing in make-up work on time, you should contact me before the due date to discuss the situation.
- Do not schedule appointments during class time and then request that such appointments be excused. They won’t be.
- Excused absences do not change essay or exam dates. Make arrangements accordingly.

Course Schedules and Drops

- Students should monitor their course schedule every day for the first two weeks of class in order to make sure that they have not been dropped from their courses by the registrar’s office.
- Students who are dropped from classes for nonpayment of financial aid or other reasons may not be readmitted to this section; it is the student’s responsibility to make sure that all of their financial records are in order so that they are not dropped.

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is defined as the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement.
- All assignments should be original work written only for this particular class.
- UNT defines the use of materials prepared by another person or agency as plagiarism.
- Looking at a phone during a quiz or exam will be construed as cheating.
- Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment will result in a zero on the assignment, and may lead to an F in the course and/or disciplinary procedures established by the Administrative Office such as loss of scholarships or expulsion.

Classroom Etiquette

- Please organize your seating as requested.
- Those disrupting class will be asked to leave. Actions considered misconduct by the University may be found in the UNT Student Code of Conduct. These include disruptions of teaching or research, acts of incivility, violence, harassment, repeatedly talking out of turn or monopolizing class discussion, and unauthorized use of electronic devices.
- Use of electronic devices is forbidden in this class. Shut off all phones, beepers, music players, laptops, etc. Remove all ear buds for the duration of the class. If electronic devices repeatedly distract you or disturb the class, you will be asked to leave and counted absent. Those texting or taking calls during class will be asked to leave and counted absent.
- Working on outside material during class will result in an unexcused absence for the day.

Required Materials

Everyone is expected to secure the course texts by the second day of the course. I require print, not electronic texts. If there is difficulty obtaining these, e-mail me prior to the next class so that I can advise you on how to get the readings in time for class. It is your responsibility to bring the texts under discussion to class each day and to do the required reading. This includes handouts or online material. I reserve the right to count you absent for class meetings if you repeatedly fail to bring required readings or writing materials to class.

Workshop

Before the final draft of each assignment is due, class time may be scheduled to allow you to begin the process of invention by brainstorming ideas for your writing, outline and draft essay ideas, or work collaboratively to edit and revise essays. You must bring a full typed draft to workshop sessions to be counted present for the class on workshop days.

Assignment Requirements

- All work must be titled, stapled, double-spaced, and typed on 8 ½ x 11" paper with 1" margins on all sides. Use black ink, white paper, 12-point Times New Roman or a similar professional font, and a properly functioning printer. Number your pages and include your name on each page.
- In addition to your hard copy, all work should be turned in to Canvas by class time on the due date.
- Late work will lose 20% per calendar day.
- Do not turn anything in by putting it under my office door.
- Keep copies of everything you turn in throughout the semester. Save your work as you go.

Assignments

Essays	60 points
Exam	20
Participation	20
Total	100

Final Grades

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 00-59

Essays (60 points)

You will write three essays for this course to hone your skills in close reading. Specific and detailed instructions for each essay will be provided, discussed, and practiced in class.

Examination (20 points)

One exam will be given in this course to test your knowledge of literary terms and the critical vocabulary necessary for literary study. The exam may cover readings, lectures, and handouts. If you cannot take the test at the scheduled time, you should drop the course. A make-up exam will be given only for those with a university-excused absence; such an exam will be different from the test given to the rest of the class. If you miss the exam due to an unexcused absence, you will not be allowed to make up the exam.

Participation (20 points)

Active participation of all class members is essential to the success of this course. Factors affecting your participation grade include your contributions to class discussions and in-class activities, your level of preparedness for class (attentiveness to reading, useful questions, materials in hand, etc.), your helpfulness as a peer editor, the quality of your group presentations, and your attendance. In order to earn a superior participation grade, your contributions to class should be regular, well-informed, on topic, and insightful. Contributions that lead the class off topic or do not address course texts will not be rewarded. If you never speak in class or never speak on subjects relevant to the course you will receive a failing participation grade. If participation wanes, I will give quizzes on the primary texts, assign written discussion questions for the class, or require that you turn in your comments on peer drafts. Your participation grade will be determined at the end of the semester, but you are free to schedule a conference at any time to find out where you stand.

Questions about Grades or Attendance

If you have questions about papers, grades, or absences, you should discuss those with me during office hours, making sure to bring any papers in question. I will not discuss paper grades until 24 hours have passed after the papers have been returned. On the other hand, I will immediately help with any difficulties reading my comments on your work. Problems concerning attendance, participation, or grades must be resolved by Tuesday of Week 15.

Additional Requirements & Information

Reading Schedule—The reading schedule is tentative and, if necessary, it may be changed to meet the goals of the course. Readings are due on the day they are listed. You should be finished with each day's reading by the time you come to class.

Course Content—The course reading may include passages with vulgar language or depictions of sex, violence, or family trauma. If you do not wish to read or discuss such content, you should drop this course.

E-mail—The course enrollment list may be used to communicate with you outside of class. It is your responsibility to make sure your UNT e-mail is up and running and to check your e-mail regularly for schedule changes, course announcements, or supplementary materials for the class. When you ask questions about the course or send relevant information over e-mail, courtesy and care are recommended. Include your name on all e-mail messages. I tend to check and respond to e-mail for this class on MTWR afternoons.

Course Webpage—You should regularly check Canvas where important announcements, course documents, schedule changes, reading notes, and discussion questions may be posted. I do not post grades on Canvas.

Writing Center and Writing Help—If you need additional help with grammar, punctuation, or any other element of composition, the UNT Writing Center may be of assistance. You may wish to take typed drafts to the Writing Center as part of your writing process. The tutors there can answer specific questions about the effectiveness of your essays and may help you polish your writing. I am happy to meet with you during office hours to assist with questions on papers or to help with brainstorming, organizing, or finalizing your material. Note that I do not read drafts on computers. Please bring a typed hardcopy.

ADA / ODA Accommodations—The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323. If you are requesting ODA accommodations for this course, you should discuss your accommodations with me by the fourth class day.

Senate Bill 11 (“Campus Carry”)—Students must read UNT’s policy on concealed handguns on campus. (See <http://campuscarry.unt.edu/untpolicy>.) Note that 1) only licensed persons may legally carry handguns on campus, and 2) this right only authorizes the licensed carrying of “handgun[s], the presence of which is not openly noticeable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.” If a gun is “partially or wholly visible, even if holstered,” it’s not legal under “campus carry” law and may be reported.

“Active Shooter” Situations. All students should be aware of UNT’s guidelines for responding to “active shooter situations” (see <http://emergency.unt.edu/get-prepared/Active-Shooter>).

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Visiting Writers Series Locations TBA

Thursday, Feb. 28	James Marcus	8:00
Thursday, April 2	Rilke Prize Reading	8:00

Course Schedule

Week 1 Jan.13-17

- T Introduction & Syllabus
R Stallings, 1-16; Hamilton: 1 (Literary Forms) & 13-67 (Poetry & Figurative Language); Parker, Ch. 1: Overview

Week 2 Jan. 20-24

- T **Scantron Test Sheet 100, Form 106173 Due**
Stallings, 17-31; Parker, 11-23: New Criticism
Hamilton, 198-246 (Prosody & Poetic Forms)
R Stallings, 32-58
Parker: 23-42

Week 3 Jan. 27-31

- T Stallings, 59-85
Group Presentations: Explication
R Szybist, 1-19; Hamilton, 247-254 (MLA In-Text Documentation)

Week 4 Feb. 3-7

- T Szybist, 20-35
Parker, 43-57: Structuralism
R Szybist, 36-51
Parker, 57-83

Week 5 Feb. 10-14

- T Szybist, 52-64
Parker, Ch. 4: Deconstruction
R **Writing Workshop: Explication**
Hamilton, 254-268 (MLA Works Cited)
Parker, Ch. 4 continued

Week 6 Feb. 17-21

- T **Writing Workshop: Explication**
Assessment #1: Terms
R **Essay #1 Due**
Hamilton, 1-7 (Drama) & 167-183 (Structure)
Parker, 111-127: Psychoanalysis

Week 7 Feb. 24-28

- T Shenkkan, vii-xiv, 7-11, Act I
Parker, 127-147
R Shenkkan, Act II
Hamilton, 112-166 (Narration)
Parker, Ch. 6: Feminism

Week 8 Mar. 2-6

- T Nottage, Act I; Parker, Ch. 6 continued

R **TBA**

Week 9 Mar. 9-13

Spring Break

Week 10 Mar. 16-20

- T Nottage, Act II
Parker, Ch. 8: Marxism
R DeLillo, 1-46
Parker, Ch. 8 continued

Week 11 Mar. 23-27

- T **Writing Workshop: Scene Analysis**
Assessment #2: Terms
R **Essay #2 Due**
DeLillo, 47-79
Hamilton: 8-12, 184-197 (Fiction & Syntax)

Week 12 Mar. 30-Apr. 3

- T DeLillo, 80-105
Parker, Ch. 9: Historicism & Cultural Studies
R DeLillo, 106-163

Week 13 Apr. 6-10

- T DeLillo, 164-256
Parker, Ch. 10: Postcolonial & Race Studies
R DeLillo, 257-326

Week 14 Apr. 13-17

- T **Writing Workshop**
Assessment #3: Terms
R **TBA**

Week 15 Apr. 20-24

- T **Essay #3 Due**
Parker, Ch. 7: Queer Studies
R **Exam: Literary Terms**

Week 16 Apr. 27-May 1

- T Bechdel, 1-120
R Bechdel, 121-232

Final Examination Time

11:00 Class—Tuesday, May 5 at 10:30-12:30
2:00 Class—Thursday, May 7 at 1:30-3:30