

World Literature, 1700-Present

ENGL2220.003

Encountering Difference

Contact Information

Spencer Keralis, Research Associate Professor
Willis Library 086
Office Hours: T 3-5, R 11-1, or by appointment
(940) 369-6884
spencer.keralis@unt.edu

Required Texts

Please purchase the edition specified so we're all on the same page. Use the ISBN at your retailer of choice to ensure that you're getting the right edition. Additional readings will be linked from Blackboard.

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>ISBN</u>
Norton	<i>Anthology of World Literature</i> , Vol E	Norton Critical	978-0393913330
Mary Wollstonecraft	<i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i>	Penguin Classics	978-0141441252
Mark Twain	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	Norton Critical	978-0393966404
J. M. Coetzee	<i>Elizabeth Costello</i>	Penguin	978-0142004814
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	<i>Americanah</i>	Anchor	978-0307455925
Larry Kramer	<i>The Normal Heart</i>	Samuel French	978-0573619939
David Levithan	<i>Two Boys Kissing</i>	Ember	978-0307931917
Claudia Rankine	<i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i>	Graywolf	978-1555976903
Marjane Satrapi	<i>Persepolis I</i>	Pantheon	978-0375714573

Course Goals

There are three broad goals for this course: to instill an appreciation for different genres of literature and to develop skills in literary analysis; to give students the opportunity to think broadly, outside their cultural and aesthetic comfort zones; and to give students a framework for encountering literary traditions movements, themes, genres, and historical/cultural contests associated with diverse texts and authors.

Course Theme

Over the course of this semester, we will be *encountering difference* through a variety of primary and secondary texts, ranging from novels, political declarations, and TED talks, to lyric (and other) poetry, and YA fiction, to graphic novels, magazine articles, and plays. In particular, we will deconstruct 21st century American identity as it has developed in relation/reaction to a variety of Others from the 18th century to the present. We will discuss issues of race, class, gender, gender identity, sexuality, and religion.

A small word of caution:

Many of the texts in this course address adult themes, sometimes using adult language, and contain frank representations of racial discrimination and violence, discrimination and violence against individuals because of their sexuality, gender discrimination and violence against women, and religious discrimination and violence motivated by and against specific religions. Students are expected to approach these issues with maturity and respect. Conversation must in all cases be courteous, and honor difference as represented in these texts, and as represented by your classmates. Students should expect a certain amount of discomfort in discussing these issues, but are strongly encouraged to talk about that discomfort in class and with the instructor. See “Acceptable Student Behavior” below.

Course Policies

Communication

UNT-provided email is the official mode of communication for this class.

Attendance

This is not a lecture course. A significant portion of the learning in this course will come from in class discussion. As such, attendance is required. You may have two unexcused absences. Being more than 15 minutes tardy for a class will count as an unexcused absence. Your grade will be impacted by 1/3 a grade level for each unexcused absence. (So if you otherwise have an A in the course, if you have four unexcused absences, you will receive a B for the course.) In class work including quizzes, group activities, and in class writing cannot be made up.

Excused absences for religious observance, sport participation, or other authorized official university activity must be cleared with the instructor in advance. Absence due to illness must be accompanied by a physician’s note to be excused. In the event of an excused absence, an alternative to in class work may be assigned.

Participation

All students are expected to be actively engaged in class discussion, peer review, and other activities. Failure to engage in class will negatively impact your participation grade. All students are expected to come to Office Hours at least once during the semester.

All students are expected to be on time for class, to have completed the assigned reading for that session, to come prepared with writing materials including pen and paper, to bring the assigned text to class.

Technology in class

Laptops and tablets are acceptable in class for taking notes and accessing course materials only. **Any student using laptops or tablets for social media, email, or other activities unrelated to class will lose their tech privileges for the rest of the semester and receive a 0 for participation for that session.**

Mobile phones must be powered off and put away during class. **Use of a mobile phone during class will result in loss of tech privileges for the rest of the semester and a 0 for participation for that session.**

Deadlines

We do not have due dates in this course, we have deadlines. As such, you may submit your work via Blackboard any time between the date you receive the assignment and the deadline. Plan accordingly. **Late work will not be accepted.**

Citations & Plagiarism

Citations should follow the Chicago Manual of Style.

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. A second offense of any sort will result in a failing grade for the class, and referral to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. See: "Academic Integrity" below.

Grades

Your grade has three parts:

1. Participation 25%
Includes Attendance, In Class Participation, Office Hours Attendance, and In Class Activities (quizzes, group activities, etc.).
2. Short Papers 20% each
Two 5-7 page short papers.
3. Final Paper 35%
One 8-12 page final paper.

You must complete **all assignments** to receive a passing grade in the course. If you choose to skip any one of the papers, or receive a failing grade in participation, you will receive an F in the course.

Grade Scale

Grades will conform to this scale. A detailed rubric describing the criteria for earning your grade will be given with each assignment.

Grade	Description
A	Excellent work. Exceeds the expectations of the assignment. Demonstrates exceptional understanding of the materials and mastery of concepts.
B	Good work. Meets the expectations of the assignment. Demonstrates understanding of the materials and competency with concepts.
C	Fair Work. Meets some of the expectations of the assignment. Indicates some understanding of materials and moderate engagement with concepts.
D	Unacceptable. Does not meet expectations of the assignment. Indicates lack of understanding of the materials and lack of engagement with concepts. Indicates an attempt to complete the assignment.
F	Failing work.

See also: <http://registrar.unt.edu/grades/understand-your-grade-report>

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with notice. Please refer to Announcements and the weekly Learning Modules on Blackboard for the most current assignments and deadlines.

Date	Reading	Assignment
M 8/24	Introduction, Syllabus Review	Before class, view TED talk by Adichie "The danger of a single story." (Blackboard)
W 8/26	Equiano, <i>Interesting Narrative</i>	
M 8/31	Dessalines "Liberty or Death"	
W 9/2	Wheatley, poems Sewall, "The Selling of Joseph"	
M 9/7	Labor Day – No Class	
W 9/9	Poems, Blake, Barbauld, Wordsworth, Bunina, Browning [Library Instruction]	Assign Paper 1
M 9/14	Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication</i>	
W 9/16	Gouges, The Rights of Woman Declaration of Sentiments	
M 9/21	Declaration of Independence Declaration of the Rights of Man Burke, <i>Reflections</i> Bolivar, <i>Letter from Jamaica</i>	
W 9/23	Slave narrative of Abdul Rahman Ibrahima Autobiography of Omar ibn Said Douglass, <i>Narrative</i>	Paper 1 Due by 2:00 p.m.
M 9/28	Emerson, "Nature", "Experience"	
W 9/30	Sa'di, <i>Gulistan</i> (selections)	

	<i>Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám</i> (selections) <i>Rumi</i> (selections) <i>Curiel, Al' America</i> (selection)	
M 10/5	Twain, <i>Huck Finn</i>	Assign Paper 2
W 10/7		
M 10/12	Poems: Whitman, Baudelaire, Verlaine, Marti, Rimbaud, Dario	
W 10/14	Ibsen, <i>Hedda Gabler</i>	
M 10/19	Ramabai, Married Life, Legal Rights Wiggin, Rights of a Child	
W 10/21	Wilson, <i>Fences</i>	
M 10/26	Coetzee, <i>Elizabeth Costello</i>	
W 10/28		
M 11/2		Paper 2 Due by 3:20 p.m.
W 11/4	Satrapa, <i>Persepolis</i>	Assign Final Paper
M 11/9	Ahmed, <i>A Quiet Revolution</i> (excerpt)	
W 11/11	No Class: View <i>Persepolis</i> on your own time.	
M 11/16	Kramer, <i>The Normal Heart</i> Cooper, "AIDS: Words from the Front" Levithan, <i>Two Boys Kissing</i>	Final Paper Draft Due by 3:20 p.m. W
W 11/18		
M 11/23	Adichie, <i>Americanah</i>	
W 11/25		
M 11/30	Rankine, <i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i>	
W 12/2		
W 12/9		Final Paper Due by 3:20 p.m.

University Policies

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu>.

Academic Integrity

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. A second offense of any sort will result in a failing grade for the class, and referral to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

ADA Statement

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://disability.unt.edu>. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html>

Student Evaluation of Teaching (SETE)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The Student Evaluation of Teaching (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

Succeed at UNT

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grown. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find Support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go <http://success.unt.edu/>.