



# Department of English

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

## Sophomore Literature Course Offerings | Spring 2023

*These courses satisfy the Language, Philosophy, and Culture requirement in the UTA Core*

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### **ENGL 2303: Topics in Literature**

#### *A Brief History of Poetry for Children*

ENGL 2303-001

MWF 9-9:50 am

Gyde Martin

Remember Dr. Seuss? Remember Shel Silverstein? Not everyone might deem them deserving of a college lit course, but they are “heavy-weights” in their own league. In this course, we will give them the attention they deserve by looking at their forerunners. Starting with nursery and playground rhymes, we will trace the changing attitudes toward social class, race, gender, and to childhood itself—all the way into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will also observe the changing styles in children’s book illustrations. After all, many a poem is inseparable from its iconic image. Think of *The Cat in the Hat*!

#### *Working Class Literature*

ENGL 2303-002

T/Th 8-9:20 am

Bethany Shaffer

What exactly is Working Class? What defines it? Who makes the rules? What percent of the population falls into the category of Working Class? How does any of this relate to literature?

This course will help you understand the answers to the above questions and more. You'll develop an understanding of the central debates surrounding the Working Class. To achieve these goals you will read a number of texts, both literary and critical; discuss the ideas in the texts with your colleagues and your instructor; and pursue a film project exploring the work and developing a thorough presentation about one working-class film. Class lectures and discussions will focus on ways of understanding and interpreting the works and on locating them in their historical, cultural, and intellectual milieus. Also, one major essay will demonstrate your ability to discuss a text in an academic format.

#### *African American Literature and Film Adaptation*

ENGL 2303-003, + additional section, number TBD

T/Th 9:30-10:50 am (-003), 11-12:20 pm (section number TBD)

Cedrick May

In this course, we will read and watch classic African-American literary works that have been adapted into Hollywood films. We'll discuss the ways each story changes in the process of adaptation, from literary work to film, and how *form* affects the emotional and psychological reception of narratives. Students will take periodic quizzes. There will be a midterm exam and a final paper.

*Medieval Literature and Twentieth-Century Children's Literature*

ENGL 2303-004

T/Th 12:30-1:50 pm

Ashley Johnson

This course examines popular children's books of the twentieth century in concert with the medieval literature that has informed them. Many popular children's books have intertextual resonances with medieval English literature. From the narrative structures of their plots (modeled after sagas, quests, and romances); their modes of writing (allegory and satire); the fantastic nature of their characters; and even the linguistic details of the books themselves, these novels are infused with medievalism.

*Asian American Literature*

ENGL 2303-005

MWF 10-10:50 am

Ji Nang Kim

This course offers an introduction to significant literary works written by Asian American authors of different ethnic groups. With a special emphasis on Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Indian origin authors, this course explores contemporary Asian American literature which thematizes multicultural experiences in the U.S. since 1945. We will analyze themes, styles, literary techniques, and socio-cultural frameworks of literary texts to answer the following questions: What constitutes Asian American literature? What are its aesthetic conventions and literary history? How does Asian American literature express diverse cultural viewpoints that can promote inclusive conceptions of American identity? What are the roles of ethnic memory, trauma, and history in constructing a sense of imagined community? How do the texts represent racial and ethnic identity intersecting with gender, sexuality, class, and nationality? What is the future of Asian American literature in terms of aesthetics, technologies, and ethics in a global context? Materials from this course will include written texts, as well as visual representations such as paintings, films, installations, and theatrical performances to examine innovative forms and styles of literary/artistic expression. ENGL 2303 is intended to enhance students' skills of conducting research, writing critical papers, and giving oral presentations, according to professional standards of literary studies scholarship.

Tentative Reading List

- 1) John Okada, *No-No Boy* (fiction, 1957)
- 2) Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior* (fiction, 1976)
- 3) Theresa Hak-kyung Cha, *Dictée* (a genre-bending fiction, 1982)
- 4) Cathy Song, selected poems from *Picture Bride* (poetry collection, 1982)
- 5) Bharati Mukherjee, "Father" in *Darkness* (short story collection, 1985)
- 6) David Henry Hwang, *M. Butterfly* (drama, 1988)

- 7) Hisaye Yamamoto, "Seventeen Syllables" from *17 Syllables and Other Stories* (1989)
- 8) Changrae-Lee, "Coming Home Again" (essay, 1995)
- 9) Ha Jin, selected poems from *Facing Shadows* (1996)
- 10) Jhumpa Lahiri, "Interpreter of Maladies" in *Interpreter of Maladies* (short story collection, 1999)
- 11) Brian Kim Stefans, "Kluge: A Meditation" and other electronic poems (2006)
- 12) Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Sympathizer* (fiction, 2015)
- 13) Ocean Vuong, selected poems from *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* (2016)
- 14) Emily Jungmin Yoon, selected poems from *Ordinary Misfortunes* (2017)

*Disability Studies: Fat Fiction*

ENGL 2303-006/DS 2301

T/Th 5:30-6:50 pm

Sarah Shelton

What does it mean to "be" fat? How do fictional portrayals of fat characters create and influence our ideas about fat bodies (and bodies in general)? How do literature and popular culture depend on or disrupt ableist narratives that there is a single and static baseline, a "normal" body that is also thin and/or "fit"? In this course we'll use novels, poetry, memoir, music, film, and television to explore these questions and others as we get a sense for how fat stereotypes have been created in and disseminated through literature and popular culture over time and how, along with the fat activism and body diversity movements, texts across mediums are challenging those stereotypes today. To give us a framework for analyzing the characterization and embodiment of fat characters, we'll first learn about disability studies before examining how the younger field of fat studies interacts with the larger disability studies conversation. Although we will be focusing on fat bodies, we will use this as an entry point to think about all bodies; about how the experience of embodiment differs from body to body dependent upon race, gender, class, sexuality and sexual orientation and disability status; and about how all of this can help us better understand concepts—such as normalcy—that are critical to working with and in disability studies.

**+ One online asynchronous topics course**

*Classics of Children's Literature*

ENGL 2303-007

Joanna Johnson

Children's literature holds an important place culturally because of the ways it reflects and shapes ideas relating to both "the child" and society in general. What better way to approach historical ideas of childhood than to focus on works from what is considered to be the "traditional" children's literature canon? This course will draw largely from the "Golden Age" of children's literature, 1865-1911, and includes texts that have crossed over into the mainstream canon. These works for children often addressed multiple audiences, offering political and social commentary targeted at adults. Additionally, most of these readings have been popularized by other genres such as plays, films, and picture books. The course will examine this success and its relation to the original work. We will take a scholarly and critical approach to the texts, viewing and discussing them through multiple lenses.

## ENGL 2309: World Literature

ENGL 2329-004  
MWF 11-11:50 am  
Joul Smith

This course channels the deeply numinous (or spiritual) journey that complex and diverse literary expressions have always provided for humanity since the dawn of written poetry, prose fiction, drama, and philosophy. We will use our class-time as a devotional engagement with literary texts from around the globe, initiated by the poem, *The Waste Land* by T.S. Eliot. I will serve as a moderator, teacher, and aid as we move through these texts, and you will be asked to draw from your common and epiphanic experiences as we develop an understanding of the texts' influences upon our reality.

### + Two online asynchronous sections of World Literature

ENGL 2309-001, -002

In this class, we will take a journey around the world through literature. We will read/watch, discuss, and write about significant works of literature (poems, short stories, novels) and films of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries chosen from various national and cultural traditions with emphasis on ideas and the ways in which they reflect cultural and aesthetic values and engage cross-cultural issues. We will examine complex aspects of literary art and hone your ability of perceptive and informed reading. Just as a real journey entails personal growth, our goal is to develop a deeper understanding for people from different social, economic, cultural, and national backgrounds and a new perspective and appreciation for our own values and traditions.

## ENGL 2319: British Literature

ENGL 2319-005  
T/Th 2-3:20 pm  
Jason Hogue

What is nature? Is it one thing or more than one thing? In this course, we will explore representations of nature (or Nature) in various periods of British literature, from early medieval literature up to the present day. Our readings will include poems, ballads, plays, short stories, novellas, novels, and some nonfiction. Throughout the semester, we will brave the greenwood hideout of Robin Hood tales, the intriguing islandscapes and forests of Shakespearean drama, and the scary gothic environments of horror stories, including Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Robert Lewis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and the newer genre of "weird fiction." As we visit all of these locations via literary portrayals, our class will discuss how such depictions of nature and the environment have changed through time and how they might or might not have effects on the way people think about and interact with the land, then and now.

This course will also include a service learning component, which will contribute to approximately 15% of the overall grade and will tie into one major writing assignment (Paper #2), as well as other writing

assignments and discussions. Because we will be reading, writing, and thinking about nature, this service learning opportunity will be mainly connected to UTA's Community Garden. At the garden, you will be able to enhance your classroom learning about environmental/green spaces in literature by physically engaging with plant-life, growing, maintaining, and harvesting edible plants, some of which will be donated to a local area food pantry.

#### + Two online asynchronous sections of British Literature

ENGL 2319-002, -003

Concentration on works of British Literature with a focus on cultural, historical, political, and identity issues and how these issues are reflected in literature. Examines at least three genres and six authors. Emphasis on critical thinking, reading, and writing.

#### ENGL 2329: American Literature

##### *Reading/Listening to America*

ENGL 2329-002

M/W 1-2:20 pm

Mike Brittain

In this course, we will read a wide range of American fiction published over the last sixty-plus years—from the cultural revolution of the 1960s to the 2020s pandemic era—to examine how contemporary American literature operates as a genre-blending “mix-tape” artform that reflects, refracts, and synthesizes our history, race, gender, class, politics, and popular culture. To break down and really listen to this complex mix-tape, the texts chosen for the course (novels, short stories, film, essays, and song) will each represent the unique intersections of music and literature, and how the symbiotic relationship of these two genres allows us to gauge the distance between “American reality” and the “American dream.” We will examine these works through several lenses, including “event” and “remix” theory, in order to question how writers weave musical ideas and approaches into their narratives of the American experience.

ENGL 2329-008

M/W 2:30-3:50 pm

Matt Tettleton

This course will ask you to engage with select literary texts written in the United States. These texts participate in a long-standing tradition of creating, expanding, contesting, and negotiating national mythologies about what constitutes a nation, a country, and a people. These mythologies are multiple rather than singular, and they continually evolve to meet changing historical, political, philosophical, and socioeconomic exigencies. We'll ask questions like: How do U.S. literary texts contend with competing understandings of land, culture, and community? What do these works teach us about the ever-changing notion of an American literary canon? And, more broadly: what knowledges can great works of literature impart to us?

**+ Three online asynchronous sections of American Literature**

ENGL 2329-005, -006, -007

Concentration on works of American literature with focus on how cultural, geographic, and political issues shape and reflect literature in a particular culture. Examines at least three genres and six authors. Emphasis on critical thinking, reading, and writing.