



ENGL 2020: Themes in Literature and Culture Syllabus

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

CLASSTIMES AND LOCATION

COURSE INFORMATION

Welcome to ENGL2020! The General Education Literature requirement may be fulfilled with either ENGL 2030 or ENGL 2020. ENGL 2020, *Themes in Literature and Culture*, provides students the opportunity to trace a specific theme or idea through a number of literary texts that reflect different historical and cultural contexts. Each ENGL 2020 course is themed with a unified topic and focus. Examples of previous ENGL 2020 courses include "The Serial Killer in American Fiction," "Gay and Lesbian Literature," "Southern Drama and Film," and "The Grotesque."

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In ENGL 2020, students will:

- **Explore** how literature reflects, informs, and shapes both personal and collective experience
- **Articulate** cogent responses to literature that demonstrate cultural awareness and understanding
- **Reflect** on how reading, writing, and interpreting literature initiates and contributes to cultural and social conversations
- **Examine** how the production and interpretation of literature is shaped by historical, cultural, and social contexts
- **Analyze** how literature from different cultures, movements, and time periods employ narrative and stylistic strategies to convey complex ideas and meanings

- **Compose** projects (written, digital, or audio) that utilize critical thinking, analysis, and research to situate literature within diverse cultural and conceptual frameworks
- **Identify** connections between literature and the values, experiences, and practices of multiple cultures
- **Develop** an approach to reading, writing, and interpretation that demonstrates an understanding of human experience from multiple cultural vantage points

Please note that all course objectives are in alignment with MTSU's True **Blue** Core. For more information on our gen ed program, visit <https://mtsu.edu/genedredesign/>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Midterm and Final Exam (100 points each, 20%)

Proposal and Annotated Bibliography for Analytical Essay (100 points, 10%)

Analytical Essay (200 points, 20%)

PowerPoint Research Project and Reflection Essay (200 points, 20%)

Writing Activities (100 points, 10%)

Reading Quizzes (100 points, 10%)

Class Participation (100 points, 10%)

Course Materials

DO WE WANT TO PROVIDE EXAMPLES FROM ONE OR MORE SPECIFIC COUSE TOPICS?

GRADING SCALE

Final semester grades will be calculated out of 1,000 points on the + / - grading system:

900-1000 A *
870-899 B+
830-869 B
800-829 B-
770-799 C+
730-769 C
700-729 C-
670-699 D+
630-669 D
600-629 D-
0-599 F

* MTSU does not permit grades of A- or A+ in undergraduate courses

ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is essential for you to succeed in this course. There is no differentiation made between excused and unexcused absences. You will be allowed three absences without penalty. Each additional absence after the allotted number deducts one-third of a letter grade from a student's final grade. An attendance sheet will be passed around at the beginning of class, which everyone will be required to sign. Failure to sign the attendance sheet will result in an unexcused absence.

You are responsible for finding out what you may have missed while absent from class. If you are absent, you are highly encouraged to watch the video recordings (each class is recorded), so you can keep up with class discussion. Moreover, you should refer to the course schedule and D2L for missed assignments and other material. Watching the video in lieu of attending class is not permitted and will still count as an absence – unless I have given you prior permission. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns.

EMAIL

All email communications in this class will be conducted through MTSU email, so you will need to check your student account regularly. I will do my best to answer all of your emails within 24 hours (Monday-Friday). If you do not hear back in this timeframe, please don't hesitate to send me a follow-up message.

MAKE-UP WORK

Except for absences officially exempted by the university or exceptional and unanticipated situations, I do not allow students to submit work late.

INCOMPLETES

Incompletes will be given only in very rare circumstances (at the discretion of the instructor) when a student experiences a documented emergency at the end of the semester, which prevents them from completing the last of the required course assignments. In order to be considered for an incomplete, the student must have satisfactorily completed all of the previous assignments and course material before the time of the emergency.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is a hallmark of MTSU. We expect students to complete academic exercises, i.e., assignments turned in for credit that are original and appropriately credit all sources used.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. **Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
2. **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. It also includes purchasing assignments or paying another person to complete a course for you.

3. **Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Going online and using information without proper citation, copying parts of other students' work, creating information to establish credibility, or using someone else's thoughts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, please ask for clarification. All cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Director of Academic Integrity and may result in failure on the test/assignment or for the course. When students participate in behavior that is considered to be academic misconduct, the value of their education and that of their classmates is reduced, and their academic careers are jeopardized.

Taking a test/quiz online is just like taking a test/quiz in a classroom. Unless you have the approval of your professor:

- You may not use your textbooks
- You may not use class notes
- You may not use additional websites
- You may not ask anyone for help

Using any knowledge resources without the explicit approval of your professor may be considered a violation of the Academic Integrity policy.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

These items must be turned off and put away at the beginning of class. If these devices interrupt class discussion and activities, I will ask you to leave class. Please contact me if there is a reason why you must use these devices during class. Permission may be given on a case-by-case basis.

UNPROFESSIONALISM, DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR, AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

You are expected to be respectful, professional, and actively engaged in this class at all times. Furthermore, no form of harassment or discrimination is permitted. Alternative viewpoints are welcomed. However, statements that are deemed racist, sexist, classist, or otherwise discriminatory toward others in the class will not be tolerated. If you engage in disruptive behavior or are disrespectful toward others, I will ask you to leave.

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS AND COURSE SCHEDULE

The syllabus and course schedule are both general outlines for the course. They are subject to change throughout the semester. If any changes are made, I will both announce them during class and post a revised version of the syllabus and course schedule on D2L for you to download.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

MTSU is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the Disability & Access Center (DAC) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu.

TITLE IX POLICY

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against or been the victim of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking should contact a Title IX/Deputy Coordinator at (615) 898-2185 or (615) 898-2750 for assistance or review MTSU's Title IX website for resources.

<http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix/>

SAFETY INFORMATION

Please read the following safety statement below from the university.

Be aware, be prepared:

- Be aware of your environment and possible dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit.
- Think about where you could hide in places you frequent (classrooms, labs, offices, etc.).

Call Campus Police at (615) 898-2424 if you see anything suspicious:

- If you call 911 from a campus phone or call 615-898-2424, you will reach University Police.
- If you call 911 from a cell phone, you will reach Murfreesboro Police.
- Familiarize yourself with the Active Shooter Event Quick Reference guides located in each classroom and residence hall.

TENNESSEE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL CRITERIA

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility.

If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you will not be able to regain eligibility at a later time.

For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form or contact the MT One Stop.

WRITING CENTER

The Margaret H. Ordoubadian University Writing Center is located in LIB 362 and online at <http://www.mtsu.edu/writing-center>. You are encouraged to make an appointment to receive free and valuable one-to-one assistance on any stage of the writing process for this course, as well as your other courses. Conferences are available by appointment by calling (615) 904-8237.