



ENGL 2413
 Conversations in Literature
 Class time:
 Instructor: Dr. Beilfuss

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 Office hours:
 & by appointment
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Conversations in Literature Syllabus

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Kelly, Joseph. Ed. *The Seagull Reader: Literature*. **Fourth Edition**. New York: Norton, 2018.

OTHER SUPPLIES OR RESOURCES

- A notebook: Any basic college-ruled notebook will do, nothing fancy. Choose one that allows you to tear out sheets of paper.
- Folder: A folder to keep handouts and returned assignments

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to fiction, drama, and poetry and address the foundational elements of all three genres. We will focus on the diversity of underrepresented and socially constructed segments of American society. The texts will be approached through written critical exercises and discussion. Through most of the semester, we will investigate the various ways writers have represented nature. Indeed, we will even examine what we mean when we talk about “nature” and the “environment.” While asking basic formal questions about such things as character, plot, point of view, imagery, figurative language, etc, we will explore and question the intersections of nature and culture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Read, analyze, and interpret literary texts in various genres, by various authors
- Identify, define, and interpret common literary forms, techniques, and terms
- Recognize and identify select authors and works of literature
- Respond critically to a work of literature, including situating it within a specific context
- Engage with themes and ideas found in literature through writing and discussions
- Participate in an in-class scholarly dialogue
- Practice writing as an activity for inquiry, reflection, and learning
- Ask and interpret questions about a topic and its subtopics in order to develop ideas for discussion and writing assignments
- Make connections among texts and between a text and personal experience
- Through discussion and writing, analyze multiple perspectives on human relationships with the environment

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Exam 1 (Poetry):	10%
Essay:	20%
Exam 2 (Fiction):	10%
Presentation & Essay:	20%
Exam 3 (Final – Cumulative):	20%
<u>Quizzes, homework, daily writing, etc:</u>	<u>20%</u>
<i>Total</i>	100%

Essay:

You will write one essay about a poem. It will be submitted as a hard copy in class as well as uploaded to Brightspace (D2L). The paper must be submitted in MLA format. All work will be due by the time class begins on the due date unless otherwise specified. All documents should be saved in a Microsoft Word format. Papers and assignments that are submitted in a file format that I cannot open will be considered late. **Technical difficulties are not an excuse for late work.** The paper will be discussed in much greater detail when it is assigned. Be sure to keep all assignment sheets, drafts, and comments of every paper.

Exams:

The format of the exams may include any or all of the following: short answer identifications, multiple choice, matching, definitions, and brief essays. The details of each exam will be discussed more completely before the exam.

Presentation & Essay:

Presentations will be given during the last week (pre-finals week) of the semester. The presentations will require a creative element. Under the instructor's direction, students will work individually or in small groups (2-3) and choose their topics. More details will be provided later.

Quizzes, Homework, etc:

Students will answer questions regarding lectures and assigned readings throughout the semester. Quizzes may or may not be announced and they may be given online or in class. Online quizzes will close at the beginning of class, in-class quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. You must be on time to take the quiz. Quizzes may include all information covered in class and reading assignments.

I will occasionally require that you complete a homework assignment based on the readings, or in preparation for an essay assignment or exam. Late homework assignments will not be accepted.

Students will also be required to complete in-class writing that will be collected and graded.

Your performance will be graded on the following scale:

- A (90-100%) Extraordinary. "A" work requires a full command of the material, a strong sense of purpose, clear and compelling thought, and skillful writing.
- B (80-89%) Good to very good. This work provides a very solid fulfillment of the assignment. Papers and essay questions demonstrate clear reasoning and presentation.
- C (70-79%) Acceptable. This work fulfills the minimum required by the assignment. It might lack skillful reasoning but show an understanding of the material. It might also suggest interesting approaches to the material but falter in carrying them out.

- D (60-69%) Adequate. This work presents a major deficiency in writing and reasoning.
 F (0-59%) Unacceptable. This work does not satisfy the minimum required by assignment.

CLASS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

OSU Writing Center: The campus writing center is a valuable and under-used resource available to all OSU students. The Writing Center can help you improve your writing by practicing strategies employed by effective writers. There are several locations across campus. The main Writing Center is in the Student Union, room 440. They have drop-in hours, but appointments are recommended. To make an appointment or find out more about the writing center go to their website: <http://osuwritingcenter.okstate.edu/>.

Late Work Policy: All work is due at the beginning of class. Any essay turned in late (after class begins) will receive a deduction of 10% per day (24 hours period) that the paper is late. **Late homework is not accepted.**

In-class activities cannot be made up. If you are aware that you will be absent on a date an assignment is due, you are responsible for turning it in before the due date. It is your responsibility to plan ahead.

Quizzes cannot be made up. Please note that if you arrive late to class and I have already collected the quizzes, you will not be allowed to take the quiz.

E-mail Communication: Email is the best way to contact me. You are welcome to email me any time with questions. A long or involved question is usually better discussed in person. Please include your name in the email text, since it is not always obvious who is sending it. Be courteous and polite. Include a brief subject line as well as a simple greeting and closing. Major papers will not be accepted via e-mail.

Technology Policy: Turn off all electronic devices before class. Students are not allowed to use a cell phone or tablet during class for any reason. Playing with your phone not only distracts you, it distracts the people around you. Do not disrespect the time of your fellow students. Use our class time as an opportunity to take a short break from the electronic shackles we all wear. Please keep your cell phone turned off and out of sight during class. If you have an emergency, arrive early to class and we will discuss it and I may approve it before class begins.

Attendance:

Since much of the work you will complete for this class is based on classroom discussions and lectures, it is imperative that you come to class every day. In-class activities cannot be made up. It is not my responsibility to go over what you missed. You should get any notes or information missed from a peer who was present.

You are expected to be present every day our class meets, but you are allowed a specific number of absences for unavoidable circumstances that may occur. Absences beyond the limit are considered excessive and result in grade reductions. **No absences will be considered excused, including absences due to illnesses, doctor's appointments, and emergencies. Absences may not be made up.** Reductions will be taken on a percentage basis from the total grade possible in the course. Students are expected to arrive in class on time in order to be counted present. Every three late arrivals will equate to one absence.

You are allowed 5 absences without automatic grade reduction (It is highly inadvisable to miss class 5 times. Even without the automatic grade reduction, your grades will suffer from such excessive absences.) For 6 absences your final grade will be reduced 5%, 7 absences = a final grade reduction of 10%, 8 absences = a final

grade reduction of 15%, and 9 or more absences = failure of the course. **There is no recourse for missing 9 or more classes.**

Plagiarism According to University Policy, plagiarism is “presenting the written, published or creative work of another as the student’s own work. Whenever the student uses wording, arguments, data, design, etc., belonging to someone else in a paper, report, oral presentation, or other assignment, the student must make this fact explicitly clear by correctly citing the appropriate references or sources. The student must fully indicate the extent to which any part or parts of the project are attributed to others. The student must also provide citations for paraphrased materials.” Plagiarism can result in failure of the course or suspension from the University. For more information, see the policies listed at <http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu/>.

DISABILITIES

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, each student with a disability is responsible for notifying the University of his or her disability and to request accommodations. If a student thinks that s/he has a qualified disability and needs special accommodations, s/he should notify the instructor and request verification of eligibility for accommodations from the office of Student Disability Services, 315, Student Union. Students should advise the instructor of such disability as soon as possible and contact Student Disability Services to ensure timely implementation of appropriate accommodations. Faculty have an obligation to provide reasonable accommodations when they receive official notice of a disability but are under no obligation to provide retroactive accommodations.

SCHEDULE

NOTE: The information in this plan is subject to change. All readings are from the anthology, unless otherwise noted. Please read the author head note for each author that is assigned.

Week	Day	Reading Assignments	Topics	Reminders/ Homework
Week 1		Syllabus & Course Overview	Course Intro	
		“Introduction” 1-9 (Available on D2L) Ice Breakers	Why Read Literature?	Passage from literature
		William Cronon “The Trouble with Wilderness” from <i>Uncommon Ground</i> (D2L)	What is nature?	
Week 2		<i>Poems</i> “Introduction” (xix-xxxviii) & Ezra Pound “In a Station of the Metro,” “Reading a Poem” (D2L)	What is poetry? How to read it?	Add/Drop Deadline
		Archibald MacLeish “Ars Poetica,” Billy Collins “Introduction to Poetry,” Marianne Moore “Poetry,” Judith Ortiz Cofer “The Latin Deli: An Ars Poetica,” Julia Alvarez “Poetry Makes Nothing Happen?” (D2L)	<i>Ars Poetica</i>	
		Christopher Marlowe “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love,” Sir Walter Raleigh “The Nymph’s Reply” (D2L), William Blake “The Lamb” & “The Tyger”	Pastoral, gentle, and dark nature	
Week 3		Labor Day - No Classes		
		William Wordsworth “Nutting” “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” “The World is Too Much with Us”	Romantic nature	
		Gerard Manley Hopkins “God’s Grandeur” “The Windhover” “Pied Beauty” “Spring and Fall” & William Butler Yeats “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”	Lyric nature	

Week 4		<i>Poetry</i> "Structure," "How Do You Write About Poems" (xxxviii-lxiii) Shakespeare Sonnets # 18, 55, 73, 116, 130	Poetic form	
		Robert Hayden "Those Winter Sundays," Billy Collins "Sonnet," Elizabeth Bishop "Sestina" "One Art" "Sonnet," Theodore Roethke "Root Cellar" "My Papa's Waltz" "The Waking"	Sonnets and more	
		Elizabeth Bishop "The Fish," Maxine Kumin "Woodchucks," Wallace Stevens "The Snow Man" "Anecdote of the Jar"	Animals and more	
Week 5		Natalie Diaz "Abecedarian...," Rita Dove "The House Slave" "Daystar," Louise Erdrich "Indian Boarding School: The Runaways" & "Captivity," Martín Espada "Latin Night at the Pawnshop"	Diverse perspectives	Topic Proposal
		Langston Hughes "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" "Dream Bogie" "Harlem" "Theme for English B," Gary Jackson "Luke Cage Tells It Like It Is," Yusef Komunyakaa "Facing It" "We Never Know" "Blue Dementia" (193-6), Dunbar "We Wear the Mask" and "Song of Summer" (D2L)	Diverse perspectives	
		Marge Piercy "Barbie Doll," Sylvia Plath "Metaphors" "Daddy," Anne Sexton "Her Kind," Allen Ginsberg "A Supermarket in California"	Gender	
Week 6		Robert Frost "After Apple-Picking" "Mending Wall" "out, Out –" "The Road Not Taken" "Birches" "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening" "Design" "The Silken Tent"	A poet in depth	
		Exam review	Exam 1 Review	
		Exam		Poetry Exam
Week 7		Exam answers <i>Stories</i> "Introduction" (xi-xxvii) & Sarah Orne Jewett "A White Heron"	Review Exam Natural conflicts	Paper Due 6 Week Grades
		Stephen Crane "The Open Boat"	Man v. nature	
		Elizabeth Madox Roberts "On the Mountainside" (D2L)	Sense of place & Coming of Age	
Week 8		James Joyce "Araby"	Place & Epiphany	
		Ernest Hemingway "Big Two-Hearted River" (D2L)	War, nature, and art	
		William Faulkner "The Old People" (D2L)	The sacred hunt	
Week 9		Robert Penn Warren "Blackberry Winter" (D2L)	<i>Et in arcadia ego</i>	
		Alice Munro "Boys and Girls"	Gendered nature	
Fall Break - No Classes				
Week 10		Leslie Marmon Silko "Yellow Woman"	Modern native nature	

		<i>Stories "How to Write About Stories" (xxvii-xliv) & Alice Walker "Everyday Use"</i>	Material heritage	Presentation Topic Proposal
		No Reading: Review	Exam Review	
Week 11		No Reading	Exam 2	Exam 2
		<i>Plays xi-xxv & Susan Glaspell Trifles</i>	"What is Drama" & "The Parts of a Play"	
		<i>Plays xxv-xxviii & Lorraine Hansberry A Raisin in the Sun Act I</i>	Tragedy & Comedy	
Week 12		Lorraine Hansberry <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> Act II	Drama	
		Lorraine Hansberry <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> Act III	Drama	
		<i>Plays xxviii-xxxix, 45-47</i>	"Major Moments" & Shakespeare	W Drop Deadline
Week 13		<i>Hamlet</i> Act I	Elizabethan Drama	
		<i>Hamlet</i> Act II	Elizabethan Drama	
		<i>Hamlet</i> Act III	Elizabethan Drama	
Week 14		<i>Hamlet</i> Act IV	Elizabethan Drama	
		Thanksgiving Break - No Classes		
Week 15		<i>Hamlet</i> Act V	Elizabethan Drama	
		<i>Hamlet</i> Wrap	Elizabethan Drama	
		No Reading	Presentations	W/F Withdraw Deadline
Week 16		No Reading	Presentations	Pre-finals Week
		No Reading	Presentations	Pre-finals Week
		No Reading	Presentations & Final Review	Pre-finals Week