English 1410.501 CRN 12448 SU 2026

Introduction to Literature

Location: Online Asynchronous Course

Instructor: Deidre J. Williams
Email: djwill75@unm.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4-6pm and by appointment via Zoom

Course Description:
Students will be exposed to a variety of literary genres that include fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will identify common literary conventions in each genre, understanding how specific elements influence meaning and are related to understanding cultural, historical, and sociological formations. Students will be expected to read, re-read, reflect, and engage in literary analysis.

Student Learning Objectives:

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Read literature at the college level by gaining the ability to effectively identify, define and understand basic literary conventions and themes in fiction, poetry and drama.
- Write reasonable, well-supported analyses of literature that ethically integrate evidence from texts.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of and ability to apply literary analysis (reader response, feminist, historical, cultural, and critical theory) when reading any text (novels, poems, plays, news articles, comics, memes, films, commercials, social media, etc.).
- Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to understand the meanings in literature as well as developing an increased self-awareness of one's own life stories and the texts s/he encounters every day.

Essential Questions Asked Throughout the Course:

- How do we understand or learn about or better understand ourselves through literature?
- How do we learn to analyze or reflect on the world around us by reading?
- What is the power of storytelling and why does it matter?
- How do we create and understand stories by using and identifying literary conventions?
- How can we read and create literature to develop our own, unique voice?

Required Text: (no textbook required)

- Required Readings available on UNM Canvas for each Module under the Weekly "Readings/Viewings" Heading.

Contacting Ms. Williams: Please email me via the Canvas Course Page if possible [Click on Inbox on Sidebar Menu and select instructor from the drop down menu]. You may also email me directly at djwill75@unm.edu. Please type "English 1410.501" in the subject line. You can anticipate a 24-hour response from me, Monday – Friday. I will try and respond to all weekend emails and postings by noon on Monday.

Course Participation and Graded Requirements

Course Expectations

- Together, we will create a learning environment based on clear communication, mutual understanding and respect.

EACH WEEK students will be *expected* to complete the following:

- View course module that may include Lecture, Video, and/or PowerPoint slides.
- Read the assigned readings (short stories, essays, poetry, etc.).
- Complete weekly Assignments: Journal, Discussions, Reading Logs and/or Quizzes.
- Expect to put in approximately 6-8 hours of study time per week.

Course Format:

New Material will post Each Monday, and be Due the following Monday by Midnight.

Weekly Assignments 40% of Grade

Reading Logs: Students are expected to keep structured notes on each of the readings throughout the semester (template will be provided).
Discussion Board: responses to instructor prompts and fellow students' posts.
Journal: a writing response (guided with specific questions) about the weekly readings/texts.
Quiz: multiple choice and T/F questions to test knowledge of key vocabulary, theoretical concepts, and points discussed in lecture and reading materials.

Midterm Reflection 20% of Grade

The format will be a short answer essay questions that build upon the application of literary analyses learned in the first four weeks. Students will be able to refer to Journal Entries and class notes while completing the exam. Students will have a week to complete the Exam.

Creative Project 20% of Grade

Creating original Media/Art/Visual Representation of Literary Analysis

Final Reflection 20% of Grade

The format will include a scene analysis of a play as well as short answer essay questions that demonstrate reflection upon literature analyses and storytelling techniques. Students may refer to all course readings, journal entries and notes to complete the assignment.

Late Assignments Policy: Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless the student receives prior approval from the instructor. This means you must contact me before the due date. In case of extenuating circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible. Students will have one week to submit late work, after which time points will be deducted. Communication is key so please let me know your situation so I can best support you.

Accountability & Support at UNM Valencia

Student Expectations for Online Courses:

- students are expected to submit all written work online
- students are expected to learn how to navigate in Canvas
- students are expected to communicate respectfully with one another in discussions
- students are expected to read and respond to (if necessary) course announcements
- students are expected to use the Canvas course email as opposed to a personal email
- students are expected to keep instructor informed of class related problems, or problems that may prevent the student from full participation—**prior** to due dates of assignments or class end date
- students are expected to address technical problems immediately

Key Rules of Conduct for UNM Canvas:

- If you have a difficulty using a tool to complete work, please click on the "Help?" icon on the left sidebar to access Canvas Guides as well as the support line. Please notify your instructor as well if you are encountering technical difficulty.
- All postings and emails must meet the standards as set by Netiquette, as you will read in the course orientation module. Any post that is designed to attack or dis-respect a fellow student or the instructor is considered a serious violation. Such a post will be taken down immediately and the student who made the post will not receive credit for the assignment.
- Students who fail to comply with the above expectations, particularly the proper use of Netiquette, may be asked to leave the course. Repeated incidents may result in the student being dropped from the course or further disciplinary action.

Technical Requirements:

- Reliable access to a Computer and a high-speed Internet connection.
- Supported browsers include: Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari. Detailed Supported Browsers and Operating Systems: http://online.unm.edu/lmshelp/browsers
- A computer's processor speed, RAM and Internet connection can **greatly** affect performance. Please utilize internet access at your high school or UNM Valencia.
- If you have questions about UNM Canvas/computer-related issues, please call (505) 277-5757, M-F, 8:00 am-12:00 noon and M-F, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm MST. Computer technicians are available and happy to help you solve those difficult problems.

UNM Valencia Student Resource & Support Guide

- PASOS Resource Center (505) 925-8546, mailto:pasos@unm.edu. The Resource Center is an on-campus center that serves as a "one-stop" for all non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students.
- Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) at (505) 277-3136. If you are having active respiratory symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, etc.) AND need testing for COVID-19; OR If you recently tested positive and may need oral treatment, call SHAC.

- LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (505) 277-2911 can offer help with contacting faculty and managing challenges that impact your UNM experience.
- Contact me [your instructor] via email (djwill75@unm.edu) or Canvas messaging or in office/drop-in hours.

UNM-Valencia Learning Commons (Tutoring)

Tutoring is available to you in math, science, writing, and other subjects through the Learning Commons: Learning and STEM Centers and Writing Center. In person tutoring is in these centers in the LRC (the building that also has the library). Tutoring in Zoom and, for writing, through email, is also available.

Making use of tutoring is a fantastic way to use your resources and set yourself up to learn deeply and well in your courses.

To schedule an appointment, please go to: Learning Commons Bookings

If you are making an email appointment with the Writing Center, email your draft to tutor@unm.edu after you fill out the form above.

If you have difficulty with the scheduling link above, would like an appointment in a subject not listed at that link, or have a question, email tutor@unm.edu. You'll get answers during business hours Monday through Friday.

The webpage, with more details about available hours, is here: Learning Commons: Tutoring Services webpage.

Connecting to Campus and Finding Support: UNM-Valencia has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including opportunities to get involved, mental health resources, academic support including tutoring, resource centers, free food at Valencia Campus Food Pantry, and jobs on campus. Your advisor, staff at the resource centers and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

UNM Code of Conduct:

Students will be disciplined when engaged in any behaviors that "affect adversely the University's educational function, to disrupt community living on campus, or to interfere with the rights of others to pursue their education, to conduct their University duties and responsibilities or to participate in University activities" (UNM-VC 2012-14 Catalogue p. 179)
***This course has a zero-tolerance policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism**. When found guilty, the student will be dropped from this course and a report will be submitted to the Department Chair and the Dean of Instruction. The same report will be kept in the student's academic file.
• **Academic Dishonesty** includes "but not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments: claiming credit for work not done by you or done by others; hindering the academic

work of other students," etc. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and disciplinary process of UNM (p.29) *.

• **Plagiarism** is intellectual theft. Plagiarism is when you copy an idea or any text that is more than six words from any source, including the Internet or your friends, without citing the source. To avoid plagiarism, you must enclose whatever you copy in quotation marks and cite the source.

• **Mutual Respect** is expected between students as well as between students and the professor. All forms of harassment or abuse will be handled according to the Student Code of Conduct Policy of UNM (pp. 186-188) *.

Respectful Conduct Expectations: I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with University expectations [and/or classroom community agreements]. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. [Insert number] or more unexcused absences may result in permanent removal and a drop from the course (see attendance policy). The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence.

Academic honesty and AI Use

Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource in work submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource.

Course Policy on Artificial Intelligence Platforms (including ChatGPT)

A large component of the assessments in this course requires critical thinking and synthesis of ideas in writing. Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms such as ChatGPT could easily be used as a "student proxy" for this work. The danger in letting an AI platform do the synthesis and writing is that the student will not develop these important skills as part of the course learning objectives. Additionally, AI platforms such as ChatGPT are notorious for making things up, and it is difficult to ascertain if the information is correct or not. Therefore, the course policy is for students not to use AI platforms at all in this course. It is critical for students to develop core research and writing skills first before adding AI and other technological tools to their research toolbox. For

additional details on the misuse of AI assistive technology, please go to the Academic Integrity section of the course syllabus.

My expectation is that the work you submit in class is authored by you. We will be developing skills that are important to practice on your own. Furthermore, since these skills are interdependent and build upon each other, using generative AI can get in the way of understanding these skills step by step, which will ultimately prevent you from being able to succeed in this course.

However, while I would prefer you not use these tools to complete the written assignments for this course, AI tools can be helpful resources for thinking, and I encourage students to use them to think through questions throughout the course. Students should use AI tools to augment their understanding and generate ideas, while ensuring that the final work reflects their own analysis, synthesis, and originality.[1]

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact the UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu. Also available is the Accessibility Resource Center at UNM-Albuquerque at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740. Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. **Find confidential services** at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences

[1] From Andrea Kirkwood (Biological Science) at Ontario Tech University on AI use in and outside of class.

are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: Campus Climate.

UNM Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our complex history.
Resource: UNM Division for Change and Empowerment.

UNM-Valencia occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Tiwa people.

*For more information about UNM Policy and Codes of Conduct, please refer to UNM Student Handbook at: http://pathfinder.unm.edu/.

Week #	Monday Date	Topic/Lecture	Readings/To Do • Assignments
1	June 1	Course Orientation Becoming Literary Detectives	Complete Student Registration • Introduction Discussion *The First Day*, E.P. Jones • Journal
2	June 8	Modeling a Close Reading Intro to Literary Analysis	*Brownies*, ZZ Packer • Reading Log • Discussion 2-Applying Literary Devices
3	June 15	Delving Into Literary Analysis	*Sonny's Blues,* James Baldwin • Reading Log • Check-in Email
4	June 22	Archetypes & Tropes	*The Search Engine*, Sherman Alexie **Midterm Reflection Due Mon June 29th**
5	June 29	Exploring Horror and Sci-Fi Genres. What is speculative fiction? Film Clips: *Frankenstein, District 9*	**Choose ONE from Horror Genre:** *The Tell-Tale Heart,* Edgar Allan Poe *Unamuno's Boxes,* Agustina Bazterrica *Graveyard Shift*, Stephen King *The Lottery*, Shirley Jackson *Rats in the Walls*, H.P. Lovecraft *The Yellow Wallpaper*, Charlotte Perkins Gilman **Choose ONE from Sci-Fi Genre:** *Bloodchild*, Octavia Butler *A Sound of Thunder*, Ray Bradbury *Patient Zero*, Tananarive Due *Harrison Bergeron*, Kurt Vonnegut Jr. *The Ones Who Walk Away from the Omelas*, Ursula K. Le Guin • Reading Log/Graphic Organizer
6	July 6	Exploring Poetry *Barbie Doll*, Marge Piercy	Various Poetry Selections **Creative Project Due July 13th/Peer Literary Analysis Due July 20th**
7	July 13	Applying the Sociological Imagination	*The Promise,* C. Wright Mills **AND** Choice of **ONE** of the following: *Woman Hollering Creek*, Sandra Cisneros *Tony's Story*, Leslie Marmon Silko *Brokeback Mountain*, Annie Proulx *Cathedral*, Raymond Carver • Journal • **Peer Analysis Due July 20th**
8	July 20	Intro to Drama, Symbolic Interaction Theory & Feminist Literary Analysis	*Presentation of Self in Everyday Life,* Erving Goffman *Sure Thing* [Play], David Ives

9	July 27	***The Power of Storytelling*** Final Review Lecture	Video: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *The Danger of a Single Story* **Final Reflection Due Wed July 29th**