

LIT 2000 Introduction to Literature

Course Syllabus

Contact Information

Instructor

Dr./Professor Galina Rylkova

Email

grylkova@ufl.edu

Office Hours

Tuesdays: 2:30 pm, - 3.30 p.m. and by appointment

Attendance during my office hours is not required. It is up to you to decide whether you need to see me on any Tuesday or to schedule an appointment outside this time slot (you need a valid excuse).

Course Description

This self-paced and entirely online course examines the unique and changing role literature has played in individuals' lives and in society. It is centered on three deceptively simple questions: What is literature? Why do we write literature? And why do we read literature? It introduces students to a range of literary genres, from different countries and historical periods.

Among the primary aims of this course is to help students develop the critical skill of analysis and interpretation. Students will also learn how formal and stylistic elements as well as historical context shape the meaning and significance of literature. By becoming more skillful readers of literature and its contexts, students become better readers of the worlds that literature addresses, develop their ability to decipher meaning from language, and better understand their own interactions with science, technology, media, commerce, and politics.

NOTE: In this General Education course, any class topics that touch on identity politics or topics of discrimination will be covered objectively without endorsements of viewpoints, will be observed from multiple perspectives, and will be taught as objects of analysis within the larger course of instruction. All viewpoints will be welcome in class discussions.

Course Objectives

In addition to gaining a deeper appreciation of the expressive potential of language and the varieties of literature, you will develop a broader cultural literacy and an understanding of the changing definition and role of literature in society.

Therefore, by the conclusion of the course you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the structures and conventions of different literary genres.
2. Produce critical readings of literary texts, using different methods of interpretation and analysis. Identify and interpret formal and genre-related elements in the studied texts.
3. Critically assess the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the human experience.
4. Draw connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading.

General Education Information

LIT 2000 examines the important role literature has played in individuals' lives and in society, presenting a range of literary styles and genres, from different countries and historical periods. Special attention paid to development of critical skills of analysis and interpretation. (H)

LIT 2000 counts for three (3) hours of the University of Florida's General Education Requirement in the **Humanities (H)** area by providing instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a humanities discipline. **Course with the Humanities (H) designation** reflects the following objectives: Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) assessed through homework/participation, quizzes, and exam papers:

- SLO1 (N/Content): **identify a variety of literary movements, historical eras, and/or cultural contexts**; demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the structures and conventions of different literary genres.
- SLO2 (H/Critical Thinking): **demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills** by critically assessing the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the human life.
- SLO3 (N/Communication): draw connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading. Be aware of politically and culturally sensitive issues and language to avoid conflicts, biases, and misunderstandings; be open-minded, explore and respect different views and opinions.

Course Requirements

Prerequisites

This course requires that you have taken ENC1101.

Required Materials

You are responsible for obtaining the following texts in translation specified from the University Bookstore, other Gainesville booksellers, ordered online, or checked out from the library, etc.

1. Sophocles, *The Three Theban Plays*, trans. by Robert Fagles.
2. Dante, *Inferno, Portable Dante*, trans. by Mark Musa.
3. Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, trans. by Constance Garnett.
4. Jennine Capó Crucet, *How to Leave Hialeah*.

All other texts will be provided by the Instructor as PDF files.

Check out [this article](#) on the advantages of slow reading and reading physical books.

Minimum Technology Requirements

The University of Florida expects students entering an online program to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to their degree program. Most computers are capable of meeting the following general requirements. A student's computer configuration should include:

- Webcam

- Microphone
- Broadband connection to the internet and related equipment (cable/DSL modem)
- Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university)

Individual colleges may have additional requirements or recommendations, which students should review before starting their program.

Minimum Technical Skills

To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of operating a computer and using word processing software.

Materials/Supply Fees

There is no supply fee for this course.

Zoom

Zoom is an easy-to-use video conferencing service available to all UF students, faculty, and staff that allows for meetings of up to 100 participants.

You can find resources and help using Zoom at the [University of Florida's Zoom](#) website.

Grading Policy

I will make every effort to have each assignment graded and posted within two-three weeks of the due date.

Course Grading Policy

Assignment	Points
Participation in Course assignments and discussion boards	20%
1 Close Reading of a literary text or passage	20%
1 Critical Analysis paper	25%
2 take-home exams	15% each = 30% total
1 quiz	5%

Participation in assignments and discussion boards (20%)

There will be mandatory written and discussions assignments that will contribute to this portion of the final grade.

Students are required to contribute ideas, comments and answers to various Interpretive questions.

Interpretive (or Critical) questions are open-ended and are concerned with textual meaning. They ask for opinions on themes, figurative language and symbolism within the narrative or text. They also ask for judgments regarding the period, history, politics and ethical questions that are relevant to the text. The open-endedness of Interpretive and Critical questions—which often use phrases such as "do you think" or "why do you suppose"—indicates that there may well be neither simply "right" nor simply "wrong" answers; the success of a response is based on the evidence and reasoning students employ to support their analysis and judgment.

Discussion assignments that will be graded as “complete”/“incomplete”

While you do not see each other's written assignments or examination papers, you can read as many discussion assignment posts as you like. These assignments are there to encourage you to learn from each other and to engage with each other's thinking and writing process. You are more than welcome to edit and readjust your initial posts if you think they need to be edited. The reason these assignments are graded as complete/incomplete is because I want you to concentrate on the assignment at hand and not worry too much about the grade. I expect you to be creative and imaginative.

Close Reading Assignment: 750 words (20%)

This assignment will test student skills in close reading, especially as that skill pertains to works of poetry and short fiction. Students will be expected to analyze a text carefully and develop an argument regarding the whole of the text through a close reading. No outside sources may be used for this assignment. **The close reading exercise is due on Thursday, October 23, 11.59 p.m. All students, whatever their grade, will have the option to rewrite this assignment.**

Critical Analysis Paper: 1,300 - 1,500 words (25%)

This assignment asks students to combine close reading skills with ability to draw more general conclusions. The goal is for students to produce a strong conceptual argument supported by textual and contextual evidence. **The Critical Analysis assignment is due on Wednesday, December 10, 11.59 p.m.**

2Take-Home Exams (15% each = 30% total)

Method of assessment will be 2 on-line take-home exams (each exam is worth 15%, or together, 30% of the total grade). Take-home exams will be distributed on-line (via Canvas). You will have from 5 to 7 days to complete them. The exams will be comprised of short essay questions based on readings, lectures and discussion sections. See course calendar for the exact days.

Grading Scale

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
94-100%	A	4.00
90-93%	A-	3.67
87-89%	B+	3.33
83-86%	B	3.00
80-82%	B-	2.67
77-79%	C+	2.33
73-76%	C	2.00
70-72%	C-	1.67
67-69%	D+	1.33
63-66%	D	1.00
60-62%	D-	0.67
0-59%	E	0.00

See the [current UF grading policies](#) for more information.

Course Policies

Makeup Policy

Except in the case of certified illness or [other UF accepted excuse](#), there will be no make-up option for missed or late assignments/exams. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged by email or in person prior to the expected absence. In case of illness, student should contact instructor on his or her return to classes.

Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found on [UF's Attendance Policies](#) website.

As this is an online class, you are responsible for observing all posted due dates and are encouraged to be self-directed and take responsibility for your learning.

UF Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

University Policy on Academic Conduct

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Plagiarism

The [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#) states that:

"A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
- Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

Netiquette and Communication Courtesy

It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. These guidelines for online behavior and interaction are known as netiquette.

- Security

Your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

- Do not share password with anyone.
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it.
- Always log out when you are finished using the system.

- General Guidelines

When communicating online, always:

- Treat instructor with respect, through any means of communication.
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if you are unsure use Mr. or Ms.
- Unless specifically invited, do not refer to a professor by their first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember all college-level communication should have correct spelling and grammar.

- Avoid slang terms such as “wassup?” and texting abbreviations such as “u” instead of “you.”
- Use standard fonts such as Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 point font.
- Avoid caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) .
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or be construed as being offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and others).
- Do not send confidential information via email.

- Email

When emailing your instructor, teaching assistant, or classmates:

- Use a descriptive subject line.
- Be brief.
- Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them.
- Avoid HTML in favor of plain text.
- Sign your message with your name and return email address.
- Think before you send the email to more than one person. Does everyone really need to see your message?
- Be sure you REALLY want everyone to receive your response when you click, “Reply All.”
- Be sure message author intended for information to be passed along before you click the “Forward” button.

- Discussion Boards

When posting on the discussion board in your online class:

- Check to see if anyone already asked your question and received a reply before posting to the discussion board.
- Remember manners and say please and thank you when asking something of your classmates or instructor.
- Be open-minded.
- If you ask a question and many people respond, summarize all posts for the benefit of the class.
- When posting:
 - Make posts on-topic and within scope of the course material.
 - Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying.
 - Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment.
 - Do not repeat someone else’s post without adding something of your own to it.
 - Take posts seriously. Review and edit before sending.

- Avoid short, generic replies such as, “I agree.” You should include why you agree or add to the previous point.
- If you refer to something said in an earlier post, quote a few key lines so readers do not have to go back and figure out which post you are referring to.
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source.
- If you reply to a classmate’s question make sure your answer is correct, do not guess.
- Always be respectful of others’ opinions even when they differ from your own.
- When you disagree, express differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way.
- Do not make personal or insulting remarks.
- Do not write anything sarcastic or angry, it always backfires.
- Do not type in ALL CAPS, if you do IT WILL LOOK LIKE YOU ARE YELLING
- Zoom

When attending a Zoom class or meeting:

- Do not share your Zoom classroom link or password with others.
- Even though you may be alone at home, your professor and classmates can see you! While attending class in your pajamas is tempting, remember that wearing clothing is not optional. Dress appropriately.
- Your professor and classmates can also see what is behind you, so be aware of your surroundings.
- Make sure the background is not distracting or something you would not want your classmates to see.
 - When in doubt use a virtual background. If you choose to use one, you should test the background out first to make sure your device can support it.
 - Your background can express your personality, but be sure to avoid using backgrounds that may contain offensive images and language.
- Mute is your friend, especially when you are in a location that can be noisy. Don’t leave your microphone open if you don’t have to.
- If you want to speak, you can raise your hand (click the “raise hand” button at the center bottom of your screen) and wait to be called upon.

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

- Don't share your password with anyone.
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it.
- Always log out when you are finished using the system.

Getting Help

Technical Difficulties

For help with technical issues or difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- 352-392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups (assignments, exams, etc.) due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Computing Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should email your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please email umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter We Care](#) to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the [UF Counseling & Wellness Center](#) website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [UF Student Health Care Center](#) website.
- **University Police Department:** Visit the [UF Police Department](#) website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center](#) website.

Academic and Student Support

- **Career Connections Center:** For career assistance and counseling services, visit the [UF Career Connections Center](#) website or call 352-392-1601.

- **Library Support:** For various ways to receive assistance concerning using the libraries or finding resources, visit the [UF George A. Smathers Libraries Ask-A-Librarian](#) website.
- **Teaching Center:** For general study skills and tutoring, visit the [UF Teaching Center](#) website or call 352-392-2010.
- **Writing Studio:** For help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers, visit the [University Writing Program Writing Studio](#) website or call 352-846-1138.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at my-ufl.bluera.com

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens.

Tips for Success

Taking a course online can be a lot of fun! Here are some tips that will help you get the most of this course while taking full advantage of the online format:

- Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. You will receive a reduction in points for work that is turned in late!
- Read ALL of the material contained on this site. There is a lot of helpful information that can save you time and help you meet the objectives of the course.
- Print out the Course Summary located in the Course Syllabus and check things off as you go.
- Take full advantage of the online discussion boards. Ask for help or clarification of the material if you need it.
- Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.
- Do your work well before the due dates. Sometimes things happen. If your computer goes down when you are trying to submit an assignment, you'll need time to troubleshoot the problem.

- To be extra safe, back up your work to an external hard drive, thumb drive, or through a cloud service.
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Privacy and Accessibility Policies

For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Microsoft
 - [Microsoft Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Microsoft Accessibility](#)
- YouTube (Google)
 - [YouTube \(Google\) Privacy Policy](#)
 - [YouTube \(Google\) Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)