

# ENGL 3000.001 Introduction to Literary Analysis and Interpretation

T,R 12:30pm – 1:50pm

Lang 214

Spring 2018

**Professor Ybarra**

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Office Hours : T,R 9am-10:30am, OBA

Office: Language 408K



*Ceci n'est pas une pipe.*

## Course Description

We will read and discuss works that prompt a better understanding of what it means to take up the art and practice of literary study. Our readings will introduce you to or reorient you towards foundational concepts in literary studies. This course requires on-time reading of assigned texts and demands a great deal of in-class participation. You will complete several writing assignments. I administer weekly quizzes over the given week's assigned reading.

## Course Purpose

Prepares majors to understand literature and to articulate their understanding in essays supported by carefully analyzed evidence from assigned works. Covers basic critical vocabulary, the major literary genres (short story, novel, poetry, drama) and the conventions that govern these genres. Students learn to evaluate multiple interpretations of a text.

## Required Texts:

- **check class website regularly:** [pybarra.weebly.com](http://pybarra.weebly.com); password: capitalocene2018
  - *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* by Jonathan Culler
  - *How to Read a Poem* by Terry Eagleton
  - *Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena Maria Viramontes
  - *Heroes and Saints* by Cherrie Moraga
  - *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*
  - Online readings available on our class website: [pybarra.weebly.com](http://pybarra.weebly.com); click on tab for 3000;
- \*\*\*REQUIRED: PRINT PDFs, READ PDFs, AND BRING PDFs TO CLASS\*\***
- \*\*\*NO LAPTOPS, TABLETS, OR SMARTPHONES ALLOWED IN VIEW DURING CLASS\*\*\***

## Expected Learning Outcomes

- Ability to write clear and convincing close-reading analyses
- Understanding of assigned reading materials discussing key concepts of literary studies
- Ability to approach texts via multiple possible interpretations
- Ability to write a convincing research-based literary analysis essay

**These expected learning outcomes will be measured by means of the assignments listed below, including grade percentages for each assignment:**

- (20%) Two 500-word Essays (see the Grading Rubric online for specifics about how to excel on writing assignments in this class)
- (20%) Reading Quizzes (drop 2 lowest grades)

- (20%) Regular participation in class discussion; including attendance, asking questions, responding to questions, and responding to other students' comments
- (15%) Midterm Exam
- (10%) Annotated Bibliography
- (15%) Final Research Essay (1500 words)

## Special Notes

**ATTENDANCE:** Students should endeavor to attend every class. Roll will be taken at every meeting. Up to two absences are permitted. I do not accept notes or explanations. Use your absences wisely. After two absences, the student begins to lose one letter grade on his or her existing participation grade per absence. **Six absences results in an overall F for the course.**

**Academic Honesty** You are encouraged to become familiar with the University's Policy of Academic dishonesty found in the [Student Handbook](#). The content of the Handbook applies to this course. Additional information will be included on essay assignments sheets.

**Disability Accommodation** The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found [here](#). Also, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation or call us at (940) 565-4323.

**The University Writing Lab**, located in Room 305 of the General Academic Building, was created to serve the needs of the students at the University of North Texas in all aspects of writing. Undergraduate and graduate students consult with the staff of the Writing Lab for help in writing better papers. All services of the Writing Lab are **free of charge** for all University of North Texas students. Website: [writinglab.unt.edu](http://writinglab.unt.edu) Phone: 940-565-2563

**TX SENATE BILL 11 ("CAMPUS CARRY")**. Students must read UNT's policy on concealed handguns on campus (see <http://campuscarry.unt.edu/untpolicy>). Here I note that 1) only licensed persons may legally carry handguns on campus, and 2) this right only authorizes the licensed carrying of "handgun[s], the presence of which is not openly noticeable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person." Per policy, if a gun is "partially or wholly visible, even if holstered," it's not legal on campus, whether or not it is licensed. I report all illegal activities to the UNT police, regardless of their nature.

**"ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS."** All students should be aware of UNT's guidelines for responding to "active shooter situations" (see <http://emergency.unt.edu/get-prepared/Active-Shooter>).

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

(subject to adjustment; come to class every meeting to find out)

### UNIT A: On Literary Study

#### Week One

T 01/16

- Course description, goals, schedule of assignments, introductions

R 01/18

- Culler, "Chapter 2: What is Literature and Does It Matter?" (book & online)

#### Week Two

T 01/23

- Culler, "Chapter 1: What is Theory?" (book & online)

R 01/25

- Culler, "Chapter 1: What is Theory?" (book & online)
- Culler, "Chapter 3: Literature and Cultural Studies" (book & online)

#### Week Three

T 01/30

- Culler, "Chapter 3: Literature and Cultural Studies" (book & online)

R 02/01

- Culler, "Chapter 4: Language, Meaning, Interpretation"
- Read "The Moths" by Helena Maria Viramontes (online)
- **Assign Essay 1** (online)

#### Week Four

T 02/06

- Culler, "Chapter 5: Rhetoric, Poetics, Poetry"

R 02/08

- Culler, "Chapter 5: Rhetoric, Poetics, Poetry"
- Culler, "Chapter 6: Narrative"

#### Week Five

T 02/13

- **Essay 1 DUE**
- Culler, "Chapter 6: Narrative"

R 02/15

- Culler, "Chapter 7: Performative Language"

#### Week Six

T 02/20

- Culler, "Chapter 8: Identity, identification, and the subject"

R 02/22

- Culler, "Chapter 9: Ethics and Aesthetics"

### **Week Seven**

T 02/27

- Culler, "Chapter 9: Ethics and Aesthetics"
- Review for Midterm

R 03/01

- **MIDTERM: BRING A BLUE BOOK** (by proctor; Prof Ybarra in CA for academic events)

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## **UNIT B: Applications**

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### **Week Eight**

T 03/06

- Eagleton, "Chapter 5: How to Read a Poem"
- **Assign Essay 2** (online)

**R 03/08 NO CLASS; Prof Ybarra in AZ for academic event**

**Week Nine SPRING BREAK (no class: T 03/13 – R 03/15)**

### **Week Ten**

T 03/20

- **ESSAY 2 DUE**
- Eagleton, "Chapter 6: Four Nature Poems"
- Revisit Culler's "Narrative" (online)

R 03/22

- Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*, (3-90)

### **Week Eleven**

T 03/27

- Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*, (93-130)

R 03/29

- Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*, (133-176)
- **Assign Final Essay and Annotated Bibliography Project**

### **Week Twelve**

T 04/03

- Research Tools workshop; Attend screening of Dolores Huerta documentary and presentation

R 04/05

- Annotated Bibliography Working Session

### **Week Thirteen**

T 04/10

- Drama genre readings (online)

R 04/12

- **ALL Annotated Bibliographies due**
- **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY PRESENTATIONS**

### **Week Fourteen**

T 04/17

- Moraga, *Heroes and Saints*, (first act)

R 04/19

- **No class; Prof. Ybarra at Conference on the Sowell Family Collection in Literature, Community, and the Natural World at Texas Tech University**

### **Week Fifteen**

T 04/24

- Moraga, *Heroes and Saints*, (entire play)

R 04/26

- Paula Moya, "Who We Are and From Where We Speak" (online)

### **Week Sixteen**

T 05/01

- Walter Mignolo, "Epistemic Disobedience, Independent Thought, and Decolonial Freedom" (online)

R 05/03

- **LAST DAY OF CLASS: OVERVIEW**

**FINAL ESSAY DUE at LANG 408K:  
THURSDAY, 05/10/18, by 12:30 PM at the latest**