

English 298: Writing about Literature
298.003 M/W 4:00-5:15 FH 227

Instructor McKenna Rose
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Office Hours M/W 1:00-3:00 & by appointment

Course Description

English 298 is a survey of literary genre: drama, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. The course is also designed as an inquiry into the discontinuous progression of literary discourse from the early modern period through post-modernity. This class is reading and writing intensive to further develop your ability to effectively write about literature. Successful analysis or criticism proposes a complex argument drawn from tensions, contradictions, or seemingly illogical shifts in a literary text. Perhaps the most challenging writing skill we will develop this semester is showing audiences the process of interpretation of texts used in support of arguments. In order to facilitate writing and critical thinking, you will demonstrate fluency in a variety of literary terms. This class is required for English majors and minors, and English-emphasis major/minors in secondary education.

Required Texts (Please purchase the specific editions listed below)

Dickens, Charles. A Christmas Carol. New York, Signet Classics , 1984.

Reed, Ishmael. Mumbo Jumbo. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1972.

Rhys, Jean. Wide Sargasso Sea: Norton Critical Edition. Ed. Judith L. Raiskin. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1998.

Shakespeare, William. The Tempest: A Norton Critical Edition. Ed. Peter Hulme and William H. Sherman. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004.

Swift, Jonathan. Gulliver's Travels: Norton Critical Edition. Ed. Alberto J. Rivero. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2002.

Online Course Reserve

Baldwin, James. *Notes of a Native Son*

Blake, William. Selections

Rossetti, Christina. "Goblin Market."

Swift, Jonathon. "A Modest Proposal."

Assignment	Value	Description
Paper I	15%	4-6 page analysis of a single text due mid-semester.
Paper II	20%	8-12 page comparative analysis within a critical context due at the end of the semester.
Mid-Term Exam	10%	Cumulative through mid-semester: multiple choice, passage

		identification, matching, and short answer.
Final Exam	15%	Cumulative through end of semester: multiple choice, passage identification, matching, short answer, and essay questions.
Short Responses	20%	Weekly take home and in-class short responses to readings
Final Presentation	10%	Presentation of revised draft of Paper I or II
Participation	10%	Please arrive to class on time, with all reading and writing assignments completed, and then contribute significantly to class discussions and workshops.

Grade/Scale	Description
A 100-93 A- 92-90	Extremely high quality work, effort, and performance beyond minimum requirements. Excellent attendance and substantial contributions to discussions.
B+ 89 B 88-83 B- 82-80	Well-written work that continues to improve. A level of effort and performance beyond minimum requirements. Good attendance and contributions to discussions.
C+ 79 C 78-73 C- 72-70	Generally competent work and a level of effort that meets course requirements. Regular attendance and contributions to discussions.
D+ 69 D 68-63 D-: 62-60	Work that is uneven in quality or suggests incompetence. Irregular attendance and minimal contributions to discussions.
F 59 and below	Incomplete or unacceptable work. No real effort to participate in class discussions. Four or more absences.

Attendance

You have (2) absences to use at your discretion. After two absences points will be deducted from your total grade, and (4) or more absences may result in a failing grade for the course. If you must miss class for school activities (athletics, debate, band, etc.), you should bring, in advance of the event, a list of dates (signed by the appropriate faculty member) indicating when these activities will take place. **Dentist and doctor appointments or vacations may not be excused, nor is it acceptable for you to arrive late or leave early due to job obligations.** Arriving any more than ten minutes late will count as an absence. Please note, lack of attendance and/or excessive tardiness will negatively impact your grade generally, and your participation grade specifically.

Late or Missing Assignments

All work is due on the date and at the time specified on the calendar. Late work may not be accepted. In-class writing assignments cannot be made-up.

Plagiarism

Any evidence of plagiarism in your work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and, possibly, the class. Plagiarism is intentionally passing off sentences, paragraphs, or entire papers written by someone else as your own original work. Submitting papers already written and submitted in other courses also constitutes academic dishonesty. We will discuss how to adequately document sources early in the semester to avoid any inadvertent mistakes. Please consult the University policy on plagiarism at www.unr.edu/stsu/acdipol.html.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability, please contact me at the beginning of the semester. The English Department and I will do everything possible to accommodate your needs. You can also contact the Disability Resource Center: Face to face at Thompson Building, Suite 101, or online at www.unr.edu/acssv/acssv/drc/drhome.html.

Content Issues

Ideas and materials presented during this course may prove challenging. Talk to your instructor if you anticipate any difficulties working with sexual and/or violent content; accommodations may be made.

Calendar

(Please note all assignments are due on the dates listed, and the calendar is subject to change.)

Monday, January 21 Martin Luther King Day No Class	Wednesday, January 23 Introduction to early modern literature & culture
Monday, January 28 <i>The Tempest</i> vii-54	Wednesday, January 30 <i>The Tempest</i> 55-77 Reading Response 1 (claim)
Monday, February 4 <i>The Tempest</i> , Contexts 85-116	Wednesday, February 6 <i>The Tempest</i> , Criticism: Mowat 168-87 or Fuchs 265-85 Reading Response 2 (close read + claim)
Monday, February 11 Introduction Restoration/Enlightenment literature & culture "A Modest Proposal" (Online Reserve) <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> vii-66	Wednesday, February 13 <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> 69-125
Monday, February 18 President's Day-No class	Wednesday, February 20 <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> 129-84 Reading Response 3 (in-class questions)
Monday, February 25 <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> 187-250	Wednesday, February 27 <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Criticism: Rogers 320-8 & Brown 357-71 Reading Response 4 (ask and answer question)
Monday, March 3 Introduction Romantic/Victorian literature and culture Blake 76-87 (Online Reserve) Reading Response 5 (Rhetorical Analysis)	Wednesday, March 5 Blake 87-97 & 111-22 (Online Reserve)
Monday, March 10 <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 1-108	Wednesday, March 12 <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 109-38 "Goblin Market" (Online Reserve) Reading Response 6-cancelled
Monday, March 17 Mid-Term Exam Review Paper Workshop Reading Response 7 (Blake/Dickens/City/Country)	Wednesday, March 19 Mid-Term Exam

Monday, March 24 Spring Break	Wednesday, March 26 Spring Break
Monday, March 31 Paper I Due Introduction to literature & culture of Modernity <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> ix-37	Wednesday, April 2 <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> 37-64 Reading Response 8-cancelled
Monday, April 7 <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> 64-112	Wednesday, April 9 <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> , Criticism: Emery 161-73, Drake 193-207, & Erwin 207-16 Reading Response 9
Monday, April 14 Introduction to Post-Structural literature & culture <i>Notes of a Native Son</i> (Online Reserve)	Wednesday, April 16 <i>Mumbo Jumbo</i> 1-53 Reading Response 10
Monday, April 21 <i>Mumbo Jumbo</i> 53-160	Wednesday, April 23 <i>Mumbo Jumbo</i> 161-233 Paper II Workshop
Monday, April 28 Final Presentations	Wednesday, April 30 Final Presentations
Monday, May 5 Final Presentations Final Review	Wednesday, May 7 Dead Day-No Class
Monday, May 12 Final Exam (4:30-6:30)	