

English 4303: Literary Studies, Popular Culture Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Rosemary Briseno
Class meets in : WEB

Office: MAB 112-B
Office hrs: MWF 2-4; TTh 12-2
Office phone: 432-837-8152
email: rbriseno@sulross.edu
fax: 432-837-8714

**“Pop culture is a reflection of social change,
not a cause of social change.”
--- John Podhoretz**

Course Description

This course offers an intensive analysis of American patterns of expression---from the mundane to the sublime, public and private. Our student will include but is not limited to, the various ways in which American consciousness manifests creatively, politically and socially. We'll focus on examples of “high” and “low” culture, the commonplace and the universal, such as television, music, fashion, art, technology, sports, and standards of beauty. We will further discuss what these manifestation assert about us, as a people ad a country, in a globalized, technologically advanced and diverse 21sy Century.

This web course is not a self-paced course. Pay close attention to due dates (and times) for all assignments. Web-delivered courses differ from face-to-face courses in that almost all contact between instructor and students and between students will be electronic. If you have not taken a Web course before this semester, or if you need to refresh your memory about the electronic requirements for an online course and about the tools you will be required to use in Blackboard, review the "Getting Started" information on our course homepage. *You are expected to be familiar with Blackboard; not knowing how Blackboard works is not an excuse for turning in work late!* **If you have difficulties submitting an assignment, contact me immediately NOT AFTER THE DUE DATE, as notifying me of a problem after the deadline negates any opportunity for possible makeup work.**

Required Format for Turning in Assignments

Please turn in all of your assignments in either **Microsoft Word OR PDF formats**. I have a lot of trouble opening any other kind of format, and I will not accept work turned in using any other format.

Due Dates, Time, and Life in General

Assignments will have very specific due dates, but in most cases, most assignments will be due on a **SUNDAY no later than 11:59 pm**. **WARNING! DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN IN YOUR WORK.** As has happened in the past—many times, students who wait until the last minute sometimes run into unforeseen problems, such as: running out of battery life, PC dies, PC is stolen, a virus hits, but none of these are valid reasons and will not be honored as excuses for turning in work late. You are given ample time in which to work in and complete these assignments ahead of time, *if you wait until the last minute, and something unforeseen happens, this is regarded as student negligence and the makeup work policy is fully negated.*

I know some of you have full time jobs (some of you have more than one job), and some of you have families, but you must negotiate your time properly, in a manner that does not sacrifice the quality of your schoolwork. Life and work will always be a juggling act; it's up to you to take care of business.

Online Classroom Expectations

DAILY, FREQUENT CHECK-INS: You must check into Blackboard frequently/daily. I write detailed summaries of objectives for the day/week under the Announcements/email feature in Blackboard 9; it is your responsibility to read them. I will not review any assignment/lecture materials AFTER the due date.

REASONABLE TIME CHECKS: What this means is, don't contact me *late in the evenings* and expect me to respond. I have two sons (ages 7 and 4 years old), so I am in bed early and get up early. It's best to contact me via email early in the morning, or during office hours. I will always email you in a timely fashion, so look for my response as soon as you contact me. If you need to speak with me, call me during office hours, and/or leave a message **BUT EMAIL IS BEST**. For students living in Alpine, I encourage you to stop by my office! If my office hours don't work for you, you can always make an appointment with me. I'd be happy to meet you in person!

Community decorum: In respecting others opinions, we will cultivate a virtual classroom environment that fosters communal learning. No one is allowed to bully, intimidate, or make disparaging comments/remarks. Everyone is expected to maintain a level of respect which fosters a sense of community and equitable learning. If you cannot maintain common decency, you will be barred from participating in online discussion for that session, and receive a "0" for that assignment. If you continue disrespecting others, you will be barred from the course entirely, and you will earn an "F" for the course.

Individual decorum: Online courses do share some characteristics of traditional classroom environments, but are still quite unique in their operations, especially in that success in online courses depends on individual responsibility, more so than in a traditional face-to-face classroom. You are required to master time management, as well as make a conscious decision to **CHECK IN DAILY**. In order to achieve success in this course, please ensure you do the following:

- read assignments as they are assigned. Keeping up with the reading schedule is **absolutely vital to your success in this course**. If you do not consider the reading schedule a priority, your grade will suffer because quizzes, assignments, and major papers, revolve around the reading schedule
- turn in assignments by the due dates
- check your email/ Blackboard Announcements on a *daily* basis
- participate respectfully during forums. Your input, thoughts, and ideas relative to course readings and other course materials, are an important part of this course.
- DO NOT interfere with others' ability to learn; this means, you cannot monopolize the online classroom conversation, rudely interrupt others, shame or intimidate others, or otherwise prohibit or interrupt the learning process with disrespectful and/or disruptive behavior

Required textbook

Popular Culture as Everyday Life edited by Dennis Waskul and Phillip Vannini ISBN#: 978-1-138-83339-5

Other required textbooks/readings

There will be several other readings that do NOT come from our text; in that case, I will scan them for you and upload to Blackboard under Readings.

Student Learning Outcomes

ENGLISH (UNDERGRADUATE)

Graduating students will demonstrate that they can

1. Construct essays that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development
2. Analyze literary works by applying principles of literary criticism or theory
3. Produce research papers that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of acceptable sources, employ them effectively through quotations or paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using MLA format
4. Demonstrate creativity or originality of thought in written or multimedia projects
5. Compare/contrast and analyze major works and periods within World, English, and American literature.

Required Materials

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU GET THE CORRECT EDITION(S) OF THE TEXTBOOK!

Buying textbooks is expensive, but that goes with the territory of attending a university. Do not buy/rent/borrow older editions in an attempt to save money. If you do not buy your books, you are presenting yourself as an uninterested, disengaged student, and you may be asked to leave the class for that day. Students are expected to come to the new semester prepared—which means purchasing your books and downloading all required materials (reading, notes, etc) , and showing a readiness to participate in class activities and discussions.

--Internet access to Blackboard 9 and your sulross.edu email address. Many readings/ material and important class news/updates will be sent to you via **Blackboard 9**. **It is your responsibility to check Blackboard 9 and your email frequently!**

Tech Assistance

If you need help with the technology when submitting an assignment, contact the Lobo Technology Assistance Center (see below) immediately. If you need technical assistance, contact the Support Staff at the Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC): **Online**: Contact us (24x7x365): <http://www.sulross.edu/pages/4401.asp>. Please use your email/ domain credentials to log in. Our website (www.sulross.edu/oit) has “how to” information on using the online system, which is designed to help you avail quicker service and responses from OIT staffs. **Phone**: 432-837-8888 (x8888/8765).Hours (Subject to change):Weekday (Mon-Fri): 8am-6pm Weekend (Sat-Sun): 11am to 4 pm. **In-person**: LTAC support counters will provide in-person/ walk-in helpdesk services and technology consultation. LTAC counters are located at: BAB 101 and Library ground floor in the back of the building. Hours: 8am to 5pm (Mon- Fri). **Not knowing how to upload your work properly via Blackboard is not an excuse for not turning in assignments late.**

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. The instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term. In accordance with the instructor's policy, the instructor has the right to penalize students who are out of compliance with the class attendance policy.

Authorized/Excused Absences Statement. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized/excused absence. While every effort will be made

by departments to minimize missed class time of students by careful scheduling of authorized University activities, when a student has to miss a class due to an authorized University activity, it will be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of the class in advance. The department responsible for the authorized University activity will also notify instructors through the Student Life Office by providing an *excused absence list* to the office. Instructors will give students participating in an authorized University activity the opportunity to make up class work, including tests, within a reasonable time and at the convenience of the instructor.

Should an instructor have an attendance policy that allows for the dropping of a student after a certain number of absences, authorized/excuses absences will not be counted towards that number of absences. Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive either an “F” or a “W” depending upon the faculty member’s discretion. **FOR THIS CLASS, THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE AN “F” FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCES.**

Distance Education (Web-course) Non-Participation Statement. Policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses.

Non-participation and inactivity may include not logging on to the course, not submitting assignments or participating in other assigned activities as scheduled, not communicating with the instructor by phone or e-mail, and/or not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

Religious Holy Days Absences Statement. In accordance with Texas Education Code 51.911, SRSU shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. **A student who must miss class due to a religious holy day is required to notify the instructor of the class in advance.** A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence as determined by the instructor. “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Absences: Different Kinds of Absences

Authorized/Excused Absences (*Assignments MUST be completed BEFORE you’ll be absent*)

These absences fall under university-sponsored activities (clubs, athletics, student government, etc). It is your responsibility to notify me before you will be absent, and to make arrangements to make up any assignment. You must notify me BEFORE you will be absent from class, not after. Work must be turned in BEFORE student is absent. **Student athletes:** You know ahead of time that you will be away at games; you MUST turn in work BEFORE you leave campus. No special privileges for anyone will be granted.

Explained Absences (*possibly excused*)

These are reserved for serious cases of illness or personal/family injury and/or other emergencies, which are beyond the student’s control. **Explained absences are given at the professor’s discretion only.** Makeup work allowed only IF student notifies professor ahead of time (a reasonable amount of time, not just prior to when class begins); student is solely responsible for completing /turning in as-

assignment(s) within one week of absence. *If you are allowed turn in your work because of a pre-approved excuse, please follow these rules:*

1) Make arrangements to turn in your work early, if you know you will be unable to attend class. Or notify me—via email or phone call, in a reasonable amount of time that you will be absent (not AFTER class meets, not 5 mins before class meets). However, do not assume your absence will be excused.

OR

2) Make arrangements with me to have the work turned in a later time; in the meantime, I will enforce a “0” as a placeholder grade. Generally, you will have 7 DAYS to make up the assignment; if you forget, the “0” stands. No exceptions.

Unexcused Absences (*never excused*)

The student did not turn in their work due to negligence. Negligence is defined as: the student not taking proper care in executing any and all assignments. For example: the student did not familiarize themselves with how Blackboard works. The student did not ensure their work was properly uploaded to Bb. The student did not check Announcements daily, as required. The student missed the deadline due to forgetfulness or other responsibilities getting in the way of uploading an assignment. Any work assigned/due earns “0” points. No makeup/late work allowed.

Excessive Absence Policy

--In a **MWF** course, you will earn a grade of “F”, if you have **9 TOTAL absences**, which includes explained, excused, and unexcused absences.

--In a **TTh** course, you will earn a grade of “F”, if you have **6 TOTAL absences**, which includes explained, excused, and unexcused absences.

For WEB _based courses: Non-participation and inactivity may include not logging on to the course, not submitting assignments or participating in other assigned activities as scheduled, not communicating with the instructor by phone or e-mail, and/or not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

Distance Education (Web-course) Non-Participation Statement. Policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. Non-participation and inactivity may include not logging on to the course, not submitting assignments or participating in other assigned activities as scheduled, not communicating with the instructor by phone or e-mail, and/or not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

Sul Ross State University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor drops a student for excessive absences. In this online course, "excessive absences" is defined as non-participation in the course for three (3) weeks or more. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an F in the course.

To avoid being dropped, you must participate regularly.

Participation in the course is defined as:

- logging in to the course to check activities and to read discussion boards,
- gaining access to and using supplemental materials,
- posting on discussion boards as scheduled, and
- turning in assignments in a timely manner

Makeup Work

Opportunities to make up assignments are available only in extreme, urgent circumstances AND **In the case of an Explained or Authorized Absence ONLY**: it is your responsibility to turn in your work on or before the deadline. If the assignment is not turned in by the agreed upon deadline, the makeup work might be accepted by at 10 points off each day (weekends count) the assignment is late.

No Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted for any reason due to **student negligence** (forgetting to turn in an assignment, forgetting to log in, not notifying your professor of impending absence, waiting until the last minute to begin assignments, not knowing how to use Blackboard, not managing your time properly, feeling exhausted after a long drive back to Alpine, etc).

Professor e-communication

I will communicate with the class through Announcements and by e-mail, so be sure to log in daily to check for announcements on the course home page and to check your Sul Ross e-mail account regularly.

Email

In an effort to maintain respect and clarity in the virtual classroom setting, please follow these guidelines when emailing your professor:

Please follow these guidelines when emailing your professor:

- 1) Include a salutation (Dear Dr. Briseno)
- 2) Provide your name, class, and section
- 3) Clearly state the reason, problem/concern. Use full sentences; do a spellcheck.
- 4) Additionally, email is not the best way to teach; therefore, I do not respond to emails asking me to “look over” assignments. If you want to discuss any aspect of your work, please come to office hours.
- 5) Acknowledge that you have received my email with a simple, “Thank you” and a follow-up regarding your problem, issue, or concern; otherwise, I will be wondering whether or not your issue has been resolved.

Personal Responsibility

It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and your email/Announcements frequently! I leave detailed instructions and details in the Announcements/email feature and in the Tentative Assignment Schedule in Blackboard; it's up to you to check in and find out what's due, when, and how to turn in assignments. *I will not re-open links once they are closed*; as this is time consuming and a waste of precious time, so you must be aware of due dates and times.

If you are absent, do not ask me, “What did we do on the day I was absent?” I review each class day on Bb under Announcements/email; it's your responsibility to check that every day. I will not privately re-teach the material the day you were absent.

Academic Honesty

I expect each student to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations regarding academic pursuits. The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. Please see page 82 in the **SRSU Student Handbook: for complete information.:**

http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records_srsu/handbook_2012-2013-complete.pdf

1. "Cheating" includes:

- a. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.
- b. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- c. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- d. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an un-administered test.
- e. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
- f. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- g. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- h. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in ones own written work offered for credit.
- i. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.
- j. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.
- k. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.


Plagiarism Policy

As a simple guideline, if you submit your own work, you will avoid all serious types of plagiarism. Nevertheless, a responsible student should also consider the less obvious variants of plagiarism, especially when writing research papers that require citations.

Instances of plagiarism, such as submitting an essay with sentences or passages cut and pasted from an online source, or a paper obtained from an online "paper mill," students in this course will automatically fail the assignment, receive a final grade of F, and be recommended for dismissal from the university. There is no excuse for serious plagiarism. I will also regard unattributed citations – verbatim copying of another's person's work without some indication of the source – as a serious form of plagiarism. In other words, don't insert any text in a paper that is not your own without also noting the source. You can email me with a question before an assignment is due, stop by my office

during my office hours, or even parenthetically raise the question in your paper.
It's your responsibility to comply with principles of academic honesty; it's my responsibility to see that every student receives a fair and accurate grade.

Here is my policy on plagiarism for this course:

	<p>The <i>first offense</i> of plagiarism, in part or in whole, will result in a failing grade on that assignment(s). The <i>second offense</i>, in part or in whole, will result in a final grade of “F,” and the student can be recommended for dismissal from the university. The student has the right to appeal to the Dept. Chair, then Provost, and eventually to the VP for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. The decision of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is final.</p>
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ADA Accommodation

Disabilities Statement: Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations should contact me as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements to ensure the most hospitable and enhancing (cyber) learning environment as possible.

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. **Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students’ identities and to protect students’ information.** The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website

Graded Course Requirements

Daily Work (Homework, Journals & Quizzes)

.....40%

Writing Assignments and homework will vary; some will be short, essay-length responses to questions, based on previously assigned readings and/or class lectures; others consist of various writing exercises. Additionally, you will sometimes summarize readings as a journal entry. There is a specific method for writing your Journals; this info can be found under Journals in Bb. They will not be assigned on a daily basis. Quizzes will consist of questions that will test your basic knowledge of reading assignments (short answer-questions, multiple choice, True/false)

4 Short Papers.....40%

You will write 4 essays, 3-5 pages in length. Prompts will be assigned approximately one week before due date. Topics will come from previously assigned readings.

Final exam.....20%

The final exam is a visual, rhetorical analysis consisting of TWO PARTS. Part 1 will ask students to pick any topic discussed this semester (or one of their own choosing; individual choices must be pre-approved by the professor), then analyze it against rhetorical theory in visual form (a PowerPoint). Details to be announced. For example, let's say you want to focus on the "grunge" music scene of the 90s. You would look at the music produced during that time from a contextual perspective: that is, what informed the music from that era? What was happening socially, politically? How does the music represent the times? You would then produce a PowerPoint that focused on important band of the grunge 90s (Nirvana, for example), and then discuss/analyze its importance using visuals (images, video, music, etc) and text from readings. Students will have free range as to how they produce their PowerPoints as well as what they include, but they must also adhere and aim for specific objectives, as outlined in the assignment (TBA).

Grades

- A 90-100:** Outstanding performance in mastering of the subject. Achievement of superior quality. (4 grade : points per credit hour)
- B 80-89:** Consistent performance in achievement beyond the usual requirements of the course. Achievement of high quality. (3 grade points per credit hour)
- C 70-79:** Performance of a satisfactory nature. Achievement demonstrating an understanding of the subject sufficient for continued study in the discipline. (2 grade points per credit hour)
- D 60-69:** Minimally acceptable performance. Achievement demonstrating below average understanding of the basic elements of the course. (1 grade point per credit hour)
- F 50-59:** Achievement at a level insufficient to demonstrate understanding of the basic elements of the course. (0 grade points)

Incomplete grade(I):The grade of "I" is given by the instructor upon consultation with the student. The work to be completed and deadline for completion must be specified on the grade report to the Director of Records and Registration. A student may have a maximum of one academic year in which to remove an T during which time the "I" will not be calculated in the student's grade point average. f the work is not completed by the deadline set by the instructor, the "I" will be converted to an "F" and will be calculated n the student's grade point average for the semester in which the "I" was given. Normally, an incomplete grade will be awarded only for situations such as illness, family emergencies, or unusual circumstances which prevent a student from completing a course in a semester or summer term. Incomplete grades must be removed prior to graduation.

Withdrawal grade (W): The grade of "W" is given for courses dropped after the 12th/4th class days through the last day to drop a course with a "W" as published in the University's calendar. Students who wait until the published deadline must have complied with the class attendance policy of this catalog. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a "W" for a class if excessive absences have occurred. Students will not be permitted to drop a course or withdraw from the University after the published deadline.

Final Note

It's worth noting that there's a predictable and positive correlation between careful time management and academic success. I encourage you to make a wise decision as to what kind of student you will be early on and to plan accordingly.

No extra points, no extra credit work will be assigned, so don't ask.

You are completely responsible for meeting all deadlines and keeping track of any changes made to the course schedule. You have several resources made available to you to ensure your success in this course, so I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them.

You will get the grade you earn, not the grade I give you.

Fall 2016 Academic Calendar

For detailed information regarding assignments, due dates, etc., please read **Announcements** in Blackboard. I review what we did during class, what's for homework, and relay any other important information.

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK ANNOUCEMENTS ON A DAILY BASIS;
FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN EARNING A LOWER COURSE GRADE.**

August 22, Monday

- First day of classes, 16 week and 1st 8 week term

September 5, Monday

- Labor Day holiday, no classes

September 7, Wednesday

- Twelfth class day, 16 week term
- Last day to drop a 16 week term course without creating an academic record

October 17, Monday

- Mid-term, 16 week term
- Last day to withdraw from the University or to drop courses with grade of "W" (16 week term).

November 11, Friday

Drops must be processed and in the Registrar's Office by 4 p.m.

November 23-25, Wednesday - Friday

- Thanksgiving Day holiday (Begins after

the last scheduled class meets on Tuesday, November 22)

November 30, Wednesday

- Last class day before finals, 16 week term

December 1, Thursday

- Dead Day, 16 week term

December 2, 5-7, Friday, Monday-
Wednesday

- Final Examinations, End of Term, 16 week term