

## English 3301 (Online): Contemporary Literature Summer 1, 2017

**Instructor:** Dr. Rosemary Briseno  
**Class meets in :** WEB  
**Days:** MTWThF

**Office:** MAB 112-B  
**Office hrs:** M-F 10-12  
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**con·tem·po·rar·y**, kən'tempə,rerē/adjective **1.** living or occurring at the same time.  
"the event was recorded by a contemporary historian" dating from the same time.  
synonyms: of the time, of the day, contemporaneous, concurrent, coeval, coexisting, coexistent  
**2.** belonging to or occurring in the present. "the tension and complexities of our contemporary society." synonyms: modern, up-to-date, up-to-the-minute, fashionable;

### **Course Description:**

We will read several examples of contemporary literature, including short stories, poems, a play, and prose. We will read texts written after the Second World War. We will regard this literature through a variety of lenses, including, but not limited to: thematic, historical, and sociopolitical perspectives. We will read texts from various authors, including Baldwin, Carver, Ellison, Erdrich, Delillo, Pynchon, Lessing, Mailer, Mamet, Plath, Rushdie, Sedaris, Silko, and others. Class discussion will include theme(s) common to contemporary literature from the context of various, relevant historical events central to the text. Students will be evaluated by means of essays, quizzes, reading journals (not assigned on a daily basis), other various exercises testing comprehension, and one final exam.

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

#### 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.

#### ENGLISH (GRADUATE)

Graduate students will be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of major authors, literary works in different genres, and definitive literary movements in British and American literature

2. Explicate literary works representative of two periods or genres in British literature and two periods or genres in American literature
3. Employ methodology and terminology used in creative writing or linguistics
4. Conduct substantial research to support original interpretations of literary works, provide original applications of literary or linguistic theories, or present literature reviews of authors or genres that have inspired creative writing projects

### Required Textbook(s):

Three textbooks are required:

- 1) *The Ecco Anthology of Contemporary American Short Fiction: Selected by Joyce Carol Oates.* Ecco Publishers, New York. 2008 (ISBN: 978-0-06-166158-7)
- 2) *The New Census: An Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry* (2013) edited by Kevin A. Gonzalez and Lauren Shapiro (ISBN-13: 978-0988587311)
- 3) *Glengarry Glen Ross: A Play* by David Mamet. Paperback, 1994 edition (ISBN-13: 978-0802130914). **NOTICE: The play *Glengarry Glen Ross* is NOT at our bookstore. Please purchase this text wherever you choose. You will not need this text until the end of the term, so you have some time.**

### Course Policies

***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.

## Global Reference Database (anti-plagiarism tool in Blackboard)

\*\*\*\*For every essay, you MUST click on the box that reads, “I agree to submit my paper to the Global Essay Database.” If this box is not checked, I will NOT grade your work, and the essay will be considered LATE. For every day you do not click the agreement box, your essay will be deducted 10 points/day until you check that box.\*\*\*\*

### 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

### 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.

### 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](http://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 and not ensuring your work was successfully uploaded via Blackboard is NOT an excuse, and negates any possibility for turning in work under the Makeup or Late Work Policy.**

### 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/excused 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.

### Excessive Absence Policy

**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.

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### Summer Excessive Absences Policy

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 ONE (1) business week 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 from a weekend vacation, 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) 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. It is also your responsibility to ensure you have uploaded your work by the deadline. You must perform a two method checking system each time you submit your work. *See below*

## Confirming Submission of Your Blackboard Assignments, Methods 1 and 2

There are two ways that you can tell your Assignment has been submitted successfully:

it

### METHOD 1:

#### Assignment Link

Click on the Assignment link to view the submission history for that assignment. If you are allowed to make more than one submission, you will also see a **Submission History** that will display all your submissions by \*date and time. This is important to note especially when you are required to turn in your work by a specific deadline. If you dispute the day and time in which you claim you submitted your work, but Blackboard cites a different time/date (i.e. past the due date), you negate any possibility for any makeup work.

### METHOD 2:

#### My Grades Tool

You can also confirm your Assignment submission by accessing the **My Grades** area of a course. A yellow circle with a white exclamation point in the center will appear next to any Assignment that has been successfully submitted. You can access the submission history page by clicking either the name of the assignment or the yellow circle/white exclamation point icon.

is recommended you check for successful submission using both methods.

You may also contact Sandy Bogus by email or phone, if you have problems or concerns about Blackboard.

sbogus @sulross.edu  
432-837-8523

If you must contact someone at Blackboard on the weekends, please contact Rusty Klein by email or phone:

rklein @sulross.edu  
432-837-8595

For further assistance, please review the info located in the link below:

<https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Assignments>

### 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](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.

Students must also sign and submit an **Academic Integrity Policy**. No assignment will be graded until this sheet has been signed and submitted. See the Welcome Sheet for more details. Students must also check the Global Reference Database Option in Blackboard (see earlier note about this under Course Policies)

### **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:



The *first offense* of plagiarism, in part or in whole, will result in a failing grade on that assignment(s). The *second offense*, 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.

### 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](mailto: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)**

.....**50%**  
 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)

**2 Short Papers.....40%**

You will write 2 essays, 4-6 pages in length. Prompts will be assigned approximately one week before due date. Topics will come from previously assigned readings. Papers must be double spaced and in MLA format. These essays are analytical and researched.

**Final exam.....20%**

The final exam is a visual and written research analysis consisting of TWO PARTS. Part 1 will ask students to pick any topic/reading discussed this semester (or one of their own choosing; individual choices must be pre-approved by the professor), then analyze and research their topic in visual form (a PowerPoint). Details to be announced.

### 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 I during which time the "I" will not be calculated in the student's grade point average. If the work is not completed by the deadline set by the instructor, the "I" will be converted to an "F" and will be calculated in 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.

### Summer I 2017 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 ANNOUNCEMENTS ON A DAILY BASIS; FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN EARNING A LOWER COURSE GRADE.**

## SUMMER I 2017

May 30, Tuesday

- Last day to register without a late fee

May 31, Wednesday

- First day of classes
- Late registration begins
- Schedule changes begin

June 2, Friday

- Last day for late registration and schedule changes begin

June 5, Monday

- Fourth class day
- Last day to register for Shortened Format courses

June 7, Wednesday

- Shortened format classes begin

June 16, Friday

- Last day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences.
- Must reach the Provost's office by June 16 at 4 p.m.

June 20, Tuesday

- Mid-term

- June 22, Thursday
- Last day to drop a course with a "W." Drops must be processed and in the Registrar's Office by 4 p.m.
- July 3, Monday
- Final Examinations, end of term
- July 4, Tuesday
- Fourth of July Holiday
- July 5, Wednesday
- Summer I students check out of residential halls
  - Final grades are due; grades must be submitted by noon