

**Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College**  
**English 3301 Contemporary Literature**  
**Spring 2023**

**Dr. Audrey Taylor** Audrey.taylor@sulross.edu

**Office:** Sul Ross RGC Eagle Pass Site; Room B105

**Phone:** 830-758-5018

**Office Hours:** W/TH 2-6 p.m. and by appointment (in person or by video conference)  
The best way to reach me is via e-mail!

### **Course Description**

In English 3301 you will interpret and evaluate literature written since 1960 in various genres, including drama, poetry, and various forms of fiction. The course is a reading and writing intensive course. The course this year will be set up around the guiding theme of M.M. Bakhtin's "Chronotope" and how space (place) and time interact in, and influence, works of literature and how they are analyzed.

In this course, we will align the following course objectives with a number of teaching and learning activities.

### **Course Outcomes**

In this course, students should acquire and demonstrate the following:

1. define common English literature terms and theories (lectures, discussions, quizzes, exams)
2. define contemporary literature and the chronotope (lectures, writing, exams)
3. identify some of the different genres available in contemporary literature (lectures, exams)
4. critical literacy, specifically analyzing contemporary literature (discussions, writing, exams)
5. demonstrate college-level writing skills (discussions, writing, exams)

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Student Learning Outcome #1 --Students will be able to construct documents that demonstrate coherence, development, organization, and appropriate/effective grammar, usage, and mechanics.
2. Student Learning Outcome #2-- Students will be able to analyze and interpret literary works by applying principles of critical thinking, literary criticism, or theoretical engagement.
3. Student Learning Outcome #3-- Students will be able to produce researched documents that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of credible sources, employ them effectively through quotations and paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using the style appropriate to the document.

## Required Books (Not the reading order)

*Sunshine* by Robin McKinley 978-0142411100  
*The Hours* by Michael Cunningham 978-0312243029  
*All My Puny Sorrows* by Miriam Toews 978-1635574975  
*Deacon King Kong* by James McBride 978-0735216730  
*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien 978-0544309760  
*Mongrels* by Stephen Graham Jones 978-0062412706  
*Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel 978-0544709041  
*Fun Home* by Jeanine Tesori, Lisa Kron, Alison Bechdel 978-0573704574  
*The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson 978-0143039983  
*Umami* by Laia Jufresa, TRANS. Sophie Hughes 978-1780748924

## Grade Determination

| Assignment           | Points Possible | Date Due | CO Measured |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Discussions/ Quizzes | 200 cumulative  | Sundays  | 1,4,5       |
| Theme Analysis       | 200             | 4/9      | 2,4,5       |
| Midterm Exam         | 200             | 3/26     | 1,2,3,4,5   |
| Final Exam           | 400             | 5/15     | 1,2,3,4,5   |

Each assignment will be described in the description section on the Assignments area in Blackboard; or in the weekly lectures. Use these to plan, write, revise and edit your document.

## Grading

A: 900 – 1000  
B: 800 – 899  
C: 700 – 799  
D: 600 – 699  
F: 0 - 599

## Course Texts

In order to succeed in this course, you must read the course texts; not having texts does not constitute an excuse for not completing assignments. Buy, borrow, or rent them well ahead of schedule. The official Sul Ross bookstore always has copies available, but most texts can also be found on amazon, thrift books, abe books, etc.

## Late Papers/Assignments

To pass the class you must successfully complete and turn in to me each assignment by the due date. If you fail to turn in any assignments, even one, you may earn an F for the course. Be prepared for electronic failure and complete assignments early when possible.

### **Grade Changes**

Please discuss your grades with me during the semester. Once the semester is over and I have entered grades into the system I will not consider grade changes unless Blackboard shows that I, myself, miscalculated.

There is no extra credit. However, note that you may re-do any discussion post, or the theme analysis assignment within two weeks of receiving feedback for the chance at a better grade. You lose the right to do so if you have plagiarized, or turned in an assignment late. You may not re-do exams.

### **Scholastic Honesty**

All work submitted must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class; the use of sources must be appropriately, correctly, and consistently documented. Quotations, paraphrases, or summaries that are not documented and the use of papers written by others constitute plagiarism. A "0" will be earned for any assignment exhibiting signs of plagiarism.

These acts are considered plagiarism:

- (1) failing to cite direct wording and borrowed ideas,
- (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and
- (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words
- (4) using someone else words or ideas as your own.

**The assignment will receive a 0. A grade of "F" for the course can also be earned if the work exhibits any of these kinds of scholastic dishonesty.**

### **ADA Statement**

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. RGC students seeking accessibility services should contact Paulette Harris, Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Dean, at 830-279-3023 or email [pharris@sulross.edu](mailto:pharris@sulross.edu). Ms. Harris's office is at 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde, TX 78801 (this is the mailing address, too).

### **Distance Education Statement**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, 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.

## **Assignments**

### **Assignments**

Lectures: Whenever one is available you will need to listen / watch the lecture. (Usually 1 per week)

Weekly Discussions: Each week you will need to contribute one discussion question by Friday at midnight, and two replies to fellow classmates by Sunday at midnight. These discussion questions need to be in-depth, thoughtful, and not something that can be answered by a yes or no, or a simple plot explanation.

You may also be asked to write a short piece or take a quiz if the class as a whole doesn't seem to be doing the reading.

Analysis Essay: You will be expected to take a number of texts and examine them for a theme. You may choose the theme (examples include: love, death, war, etc.) and compare and contrast how the theme is used in each text.

Midterm and Final Exam: These will consist of short and long answers derived from the texts and lectures.

### **Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Keep an eye on weekly announcements for changes.

#### **Week 1: 1/18-22 Introduction to Course**

Contemporary Poetry (provided)

#### **Week 2: 1/23-1/29**

Read *The Haunting of Hill House*

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

#### **Week 3: 1/30-2/5**

Read *The Things They Carried*

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 4: 2/6-12**

Read *The Hours*

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 5: 2/13- 2/19**

Begin *Sunshine*, catch up on previous reading

Listen to the lecture

**Week 6: 2/20- 2/26**

Read *Sunshine*

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 7: 2/27-3/5**

Read *All My Puny Sorrows*

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 8: 3/6-3/12**

Finish *All My Puny Sorrows*

Study for Midterm Exam

Spring Break

**Week 9: 3/20-3/26**

**Midterm Exam Due by Sunday at Midnight**

**Week 10: 3/27-4/2**

Read *Deacon King Kong*

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 11: 4/3-4/9**

**Theme Analysis Due by Sunday at Midnight**

**Week 12: 4/10-4/16**

Read *Fun Home*

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 13: 4/17-23**

Read *Fun Home* (The Play)

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 14: 4/24-4/30**

Read *Mongrels*

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 15: 5/1-5/7**

Read *Umami*

Listen to the lecture

Discussion question by Friday, two replies to classmates by Sunday at midnight.

**Week 16: 5/8-5/14**

Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam due by Monday the 15th at 11:59 p.m.**