

ENG 4307: The Politics of Beauty in Multiethnic American Short Fiction

SUMMER 1 2024

Course: Eng 4307
Class meets: asynchronously

Instructor: Dr. Rosemary Briseño
Office: MAB 112-B
Office Hrs: Tth 2-3:30
Office phone: 432-837-8152

" The fact that societies are becoming increasingly multi-ethnic, multicultural, and multi-religious is good. Diversity is a strength, not a weakness." ---Antonio Guterres



Required texts (*please ensure you acquire the correct edition!*)

Required materials

- 1) *Mixed: An Anthology of Short Fiction on The Multiracial Experience* (ed Prasad, Chandra). ISBN-13: 978-0-393-32786-1
- 2) Numerous other readings and audio/visual materials assigned by the professor.

Course description: An intensive study of writing techniques useful to the advanced writer. Areas of concentration include rhetorical strategies and style.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

SLO 1 – Students will be able to construct documents that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development, and are grammatically correct.

SLO 2 – Students will be able to analyze and interpret literary works by applying principles of critical thinking, literary criticism, or theoretical engagement.

SLO 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.

Critical Thinking. Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

Marketable Skills: 1. Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking. 2. Students will use different research strategies to address problems and develop ideas that engage a variety of perspectives. 3. Students will recognize how social and cultural contexts shape meaning and language

For Remote/Online Courses Only - SRSU 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. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Supportive Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

1) Required Format for Turning in Assignments

When using Blackboard to turn in assignments, please turn in all of your assignments in either **Microsoft Word OR PDF formats**. I will not accept work turned in using any other format. Every assignment must be typed or digitally uploaded, unless otherwise noted.

2) Collaborate

This course sometimes uses Collaborate--- for office hours and to view recorded lectures. It is imperative that you can use Collaborate from wherever you are taking the course. You must know how this---and all other features of Blackboard works---*before* classes begin. Not knowing how is not excusable and is student negligence.

Here is how you log on to Collaborate:

- 1) Log into Blackboard, click on Collaborate in the left-hand menu
- 2) Click on the name of our class (Advanced Composition). A little office door icon appears to the very left of this
- 3) Click on Join Course Room
- 4) Make sure your webcam is ON and microphone are is MUTED

3) Confirming You Have Successfully Submitted Your Work

EACH TIME YOU TURN IN AN ASSIGNMENT you **MUST** use this two-step method to ensure your work was submitted correctly. **FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS STEP CAN RESULT IN YOUR WORK**

NOT BEING PROPERLY TURNED IN AND THIS WILL BE COUNTED AS A "0." Do not email me to check for you.

Confirming Submission of Your Blackboard Assignments, Methods 1 and 2

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.

Tech Assistance

Not knowing how to upload your work properly via Blackboard is not an excuse for not turning in assignments late. 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)

Who should I contact?

Online Support Desk

☎ 888.837.6055

✉ blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

Available: 24/7

- Logging into Blackboard
- Questions about Blackboard tools/software
- Trouble with tests/quizzes/assignments
- Error messages on Blackboard
- Online course video problems

Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)

☎ 888.837.2882

✉ techassist@sulross.edu

Available: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Logging into your mySRSU/Banner/SRSU email
- Campus computer, computer lab, or campus Wi-Fi issues
- Security concerns with your SRSU or VPN account
- Questions about Office 365 or OneDrive



EXCLUSIVELY FOR ONLINE-ONLY COURSES!

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 for Authorized and/or Explained (extreme, urgent circumstances beyond university-sanctioned activities, given at the professor's discretion) 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.

1) **Before you will be absent, notify me**—via email or phone call (email is preferred), in a reasonable amount of time (not 5 mins before class meets). Do not notify me during or after our class meets. Do not assume your absence will be excused.

2) **Make arrangements** with me to have the work turned in at a later time. If the excuse (for Explained Absence, not Authorized Absence) is granted, 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.

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. Do not assume I know who you are because I have several students enrolled in different courses.
- 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 away from the course, 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. You are expected to do your own work.

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,” AI-authored homework, ChatGPT, or other assistance where the student did not author the work they have turned in, is accepted. However, there must be substantial differences and progression from the RD to the Final Draft. If not enough changes/revision/editing are not made, then the assignment automatically fails the assignment. The second instance of this kind, or any other kind of student academic dishonesty, will receive a final grade of F in the course, 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 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 the assignment. The second offense will result in failure in the course. The student has the right to appeal to the Dept. Chair, then Provost, and eventually to the Provost and VP for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. The decision of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is final.

The student has the right to appeal to the Dept. Chair, then Provost, and eventually to the Provost and VP for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. The decision of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is final. DO YOUR OWN WORK.

ADA Accommodation/Disabilities Statement: SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Graded Course Requirements

75%.....2 Essays These consist of analysis essays (minimum of 4-6 pages, double spaced, not including Works Cited page). The second essay is shorter (3-5) and a PowerPoint must accompany it.

25%..... 2 Discussion forums /participation You will be required to participate in discussion boards during the semester, usually with specific content, length, and participation requirements. In order to receive credit for discussion boards, **you must post a minimum of three times *per discussion* board post assignment:** an initial posting responding to the assignment prompt and two peer responses (one response each to two other students). You may respond to more than two persons, if you choose. You should continue to read discussion boards even after you have completed your postings. Generally, your postings should be no less than **750 words** for your first response) then no less than **350 words** on your second and third responses.

Students must also highlight important concepts, vocabulary, people, places, ideas relative to the DB prompt. Every response must be comprised of statements that are on topic and of a depth and a scope sufficient to elicit thoughtful responses from your colleagues. You will need to cite from readings to validate only your initial, 1st response. When you respond to your peers (the 2nd and 3rd time), you have the option to cite or not. Your responses to your peers must be at **least 350 words**. **Please end your postings with a WORD COUNT EACH TIME (1st, 2nd, and 3rd responses).** Responses to other students must begin with that person's name; for example, a response might begin "John, I agree that Voice of the Shuttle is a good place to go for critical theory resources, but I found a better source on the Internet at" Responses to the initial postings of other students that essentially say nothing but "I agree with John" are unacceptable; your response should *add* to the discussion.

IMPORTANT: All postings must be in paragraph form, comprised of complete sentences, and couched in language that is courteous and respectful of others' opinions. Topics for discussion are usually centered around specific readings. A prompt will be made available to students.

Failure to follow the specific format of the DBs will result in the following points being taken away:

-5 for missing word count

-5 for missing highlighting

The DB will automatically receive a 50 in the following instances:

- the student did not submit 3 separate responses
- the student did not meet the required minimum word count per instance
- **There is a grading rubric embedded within the DB module in Bb**

Grades

I do not change final grades *unless* I made an error calculating your grade. Always check your work and the corresponding percentages that make up your final semester average. Make sure that any possible make up work has been uploaded.

- 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.

Summer 1, 2024 Tentative Schedule

(scheduled to change)

For detailed information regarding assignments, due dates, etc., please read **Announcements/Messages/Email** in Blackboard. Information regarding homework and assignments in those areas take precedence over that info in the syllabus. In Announcements, 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.**

May 29: 1st class day. Students will familiarize themselves with Blackboard Ultra. Go to the **START HERE** module. If the student needs personal, one-on-one assistance, the student agrees to seek out such help the university offers all students. Failure to know how to navigate Blackboard Ultra is student negligence, and does not excuse the student from turning in work on time. Review the syllabus, the tentative schedule.

June 2: Read, sign, and date the Academic Integrity Policy. This is not optional; failure to turn this in will result in -10 on Major Essay #1. **DUE Sun, 6/2@11:59 pm**

June 9: Discussion Board #1 **DUE @11:59 pm**

June 16: Midterm; Major Essay #1 **DUE@11:59 pm**

June 26: Discussion Board #2 **DUE @11:59 pm**

July 2-3: Finals; Major Essay #2 **DUE @11:59 pm**

July 3: Summer 1 session ends.

July 4: 4th of JULY HOLIDAY. NO CLASSES HELD

-----END OF SUMMER 1 SEMESTER 2024-----