ENG 5307

Witches and Witchcraft in American Literature

Spring 2025

Course: ENG 5307
Class meets in: hybrid (online in person on *specific* days and times)
Days: M, W
Time: 11-12:15
Classroom: MAB 205

Instructor: Rosemary Briseño, Ph.D.
Office: MAB 112-B
Office Hrs: M-Th, 10-11; 12:30-2
Office phone: 432-837-8152

Course description This course explores the rich and complex depictions of witches and witchcraft throughout American literature, tracing their evolution from colonial times to contemporary narratives. Students will engage with a range of texts, including classic works like Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" and Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, as well as modern interpretations from authors like Toni Morrison and Alice Walker. Through critical analysis, discussions, and collaborative projects, learners will examine how themes of fear, power, gender, and identity intersect with representations of witchcraft in literature. The course will also consider the historical context of witch hunts in America, the societal implications of witchcraft beliefs, and their influence on cultural narratives. By the end of the course, students will develop a deeper understanding of how witchcraft serves as a metaphor for broader social issues and will enhance their analytical and critical thinking skills through a literary lens. Assignments will include essays, presentations, and creative projects that encourage innovative approaches to the subject matter.

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

1) *Witches, Witch-Hunting, and Women* by Silvia Federici (ISBN 13: 978-1629635682)
2) *Witch Myths: Hags, Crones, and Enchantresses in Mythology* by Lizzie Stoddart (ISBN 13: 978-1528773454
3) *The Witch: A History of Fear, from Ancient Times to the Present*
4) by Ronald Hutton (ISBN-13: 978-0300238679)

Required Materials
In addition to the you will also need access to Blackboard and your sulross.edu email address. Many readings/ material and important class news/updates will be sent to you via Blackboard. ***It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and your email/Announcements daily!***

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT HYBRID COURSES: A "hybrid course success" refers to a situation where a course that combines both online and in-person learning elements effectively achieves its educational goals, providing students with a quality learning experience by seamlessly integrating the benefits of both modalities, while also addressing the challenges of managing both environments simultaneously; essentially, it means students are able to learn well and meet course expectations despite the blended format. <mark>NOTE: If you are attending from off-campus, a hybrid course does NOT mean</mark>

==students don't have to meet at the expected days and times----they are in fact **required** to attend class at the designated days and times, just as if they were in attending a course that meets in person.==

How to Be Successful in a Hybrid Course

Success in a hybrid course requires balancing the flexibility of online learning with the structure of in-person sessions. Here are some strategies to thrive:

Stay Organized

Keep track of deadlines, meeting times, and assignments using a planner or digital calendar.

Regularly check the course syllabus and online platform for updates.

Manage Your Time Wisely

Set aside dedicated time for online coursework each week to avoid procrastination.

Treat the online portion of the course as seriously as the in-person sessions.

Engage Actively

Participate fully in both in-person and online discussions to stay connected with the material.

Reach out to your instructor or classmates if you have questions or need clarification.

Use Technology Effectively

Familiarize yourself with the tools and platforms used for the course, such as learning management systems (e.g., Canvas, Blackboard).

Ensure you have a reliable internet connection and access to necessary software or apps.

Balance Independence and Collaboration

Take initiative in completing online components, but also engage with group activities or peer interactions as required.

Be Self-Motivated

Hybrid courses require a degree of self-discipline since you'll spend significant time learning independently.

Set goals for each session or week to stay on track.

By combining the discipline of online learning with the personal connections of face-to-face instruction, hybrid courses offer a unique opportunity to develop time management, self-motivation, and collaborative skills that are valuable both in academics and beyond.

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 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.

Discussion forum /participation You will have a minimum of TWO discussion-board assignments, for which you must provide AT LEAST TWO different RESPONSES, to two different classmates: your initial response to the Discussion Board question or prompt, then an additional two more responses to someone else's reply---so make note of due dates. I suggest you plan to log onto the course each day, Monday through Friday. If you miss the deadline for the postings for any specific discussion board, you may not make up that work. **Once a discussion board is closed, it will not be re-opened**.

Discussion boards during the semester will usually be accompanied by specific content, length, and participation requirements (see above). In order to receive credit for discussion boards, you must post a minimum AT LEAST three separate times. Generally, your postings should follow these minimum standards:

1) Your first response to the Discussion Prompt should *be no less than* **1250 words,** and 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 must also include in-text citations to validate and justify your response.** Please end your initial posting with your name AND word count.

2) You must then respond **two additional times**---to either two different peers. These responses should be no less than <mark>350 words</mark> to other students, and must begin with that person's name; for example, a response might begin "Alexis, 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 Alexis" are unacceptable; be sure that your response adds to the discussion. You may or may not choose to include in-text citations when you respond to your peers.

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 may be responses to specific assignments, discussion of each other's' papers, or responses to student questions about assignments. <mark>Think of Discussion Boards as mini-essays.</mark>

Due Dates and Time
Unless otherwise notes, all assignments will be due on SUNDAY before 11: 59 pm. Do not email any work; submit only to Blackboard in PDF or Word doc ONLY.

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.

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

SR

Absences

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.

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. You will find specific assignment details, due dates, and times in Tentative Assignments.

Responsibility

It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and your email/Announcements frequently! I leave detailed instructions and details in the Announcements/email feature in Blackboard; it's up to you to check in and find out what's due, when, and how to turn in assignments.

Hybrid Classroom Expectations

DAILY, FREQUENT CHECK-INS: You must check into Blackboard 9 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 16 and 12 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 any appointed times we have previously

agreed upon. 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.

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 equable learning. If you cannot maintain common decency, you will be barred from participating in online discussion for that session. 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.

Makeup Work

Opportunities to make up assignments are available only in extreme, urgent circumstances, because I make every effort to post assignments in advance, even though this is not a self-paced course. It is your responsibility to turn in your work on or before the deadline (or revised deadline, whichever has been approved). If the assignment is not turned in by the deadline, work MIGHT be accepted but ONE WHOLE LETTER grade (10 points) will be deducted *per day* the assignment is late, weekends count. *Makeup work is granted at the professor's discretion.* To be eligible for possible makeup wok, you MUST contact me in a reasonable time BEFORE the deadline (not an hour before the deadline, not five mins before, and certainly not AFTER the deadline).

If you contact me after the deadline, you will not be considered eligible to makeup that assignment.

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 knowing how to use Blackboard , etc).

Student integrity and responsibility

Web-delivered courses are similar to face-to-face courses in that students are expected to exhibit academic integrity by respecting the discussion of their colleagues in the class, presenting as their own work only content that they have generated, scrupulously attributing and documenting all outside sources in their papers and discussion, and, in general, adhering to the ethical standards of scholars. I expect you to be responsible for your own learning.

Academic Honesty

At the beginning of the semester, you will sign an ==**Academic Integrity Policy Statement**==, which explains that the University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. The policy form will represent that the student understands that they are solely responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the university and will not be tolerated. You will find this form in its own tab titled **Academic Integrity Policy**. Students must also check the box which reads "I agree to submit my paper to the Global Reference Database." No essay/assignment will be graded unless this box is also checked.

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.

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 unadministered 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. Any student who uses any AI bot/app/ etc to generate their essay, in part or in whole, will fail the course, be reported to the chair, then the dean, the provost. The professor will recommend expulsion from the university with record. *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 course grade of "F," and the student will be recommended for dismissal from the university. 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.

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 the counselor below asap.

Mary Schwartze
Counselor
Sul Ross State University
Ferguson Hall, Rm 112 C
maryschawtze@sulross.edu
432-837-8203

Graded Course Requirements

Two Major Essays (12-15 pgs. not including Works Cited)**..40%**

Two Discussion Boards (2 responses: 1st response >1250 words; subsequent responses >350**……………………………………………………….…………………………………..30%**

Final Essay w/ Pre-Recorded PowerPoint Presentation (this assignment will focus on any concept/play/character discussed during the semester. The student will write a short essay, 4-6 pages expounding on the central idea in a PowerPoint. The student will also record a presentation on said topic…………………………………………………………………………………….…**30%**

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.

Tentative Schedule (*subject to change at any moment in the semester***)**

(Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due on Sunday before 11: 59 pm)

 For detailed information regarding assignments, due dates, etc., please read Announcements, then proceed to the Tentative Schedule in Blackboard.

1) January 15: First day of classes; read course syllabus and Welcome Guide. Get textbooks. Learn Blackboard. Submit letters of Accommodation, if necessary. Email professor with any questions regarding the course. Academic Integrity Policy DUE F, 1/30 by 11:59 pm

2) Major Essay #1 DUE on Fri, 3/13 by 11:59 pm under Major Essays tab in Blackboard
3) **Spring Break March 3/17-3/21**
4) March 10 midterms; Discussion Board #1 (and all responses) DUE, 3/16@11:59 pm
5) April 7, Good Friday holiday
6) Major Essay #2 DUE on May 2 by 11:59 pm under Major Essays tab in Blackboard; last class day.
7) May 1, Thursday, **Dead Day**
8) May 2, Major Essay #2 DUE
9) Final Essay w/PowerPoint date TBD

----END OF SEMESTER----