

ENG 5306
Spring 2026
Dr. Xinyuan Qiu
Office Hours: Monday 5 – 6 pm
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Seminar: Stud/Res Tech English Literature

Class Time: Monday 6 – 8:45 pm

Description

This course introduces you to British novels written by women writers from the early nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. With reference to literary criticism, we examine and explore human experiences, especially those of women, as well as roles they play in society. We focus on the novel genre to investigate the potential of this literary form in exerting authors' creativity, delineating characters, and expressing thoughts and feelings.

Student Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students will be able to

- Name major British novelists from the 1800s to the 1950s, their works, as well as their significance in their time and in the history of literature
- Recognize the roles of the novel in literature and writing
- Critically interpret novels in their social and cultural contexts
- Effectively communicate ideas in discussion and oral presentation
- Critically analyze articles of literary criticism
- Make critical reviews of literary criticism
- Make an argument on literature with the support of substantial evidence
- Conduct research by utilizing proper methodologies

English Graduate Program Student Learning Outcomes

Graduating students will be able to

- SLO 1 – demonstrate a critical understanding of the significance of major authors, literary works in different genres, and definitive literary movements in literature, theory, and writing, as focused by their programs.
- SLO 2 – demonstrate the ability to critically analyze and interpret literature, theory, and writing, as focused by their programs.
- SLO 3 – demonstrate the ability to conduct and utilize research methodologies in the study of literature, theory, and writing, as focused by their programs.

Texts

- *Persuasion*, by Jane Austen, A Norton Critical Edition, ISBN 9781324070740
- *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte, ISBN 9780140366785
- *Middlemarch*, by George Eliot, Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition, ISBN 9780143107729
- *Dear Faustina*, Rhoda Broughton
<https://archive.org/details/dearfaustina00brourich/page/12/mode/2up>
- *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, by Muriel Spark, Harper Perennial Modern Classics, ISBN 9780061711299

Assignments

Attendance -----	5%
Participation -----	25%
• Class discussion -----	15%
• Discussion moderation -----	5%
• Reading potluck -----	5%
Analytic essay -----	10%
Research project -----	60%
• Research proposal -----	10%
• Annotated bibliography -----	10%
• Literature review -----	10%
• Critical research paper -----	20%
• Oral report -----	10%

Schedule

Week 2 Jan 19	No class (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday) Syllabus reading
Week 3 Jan 26	Discussion: <i>Persuasion</i> , Chapters I – XII Critical article discussion: Claudia Johnson, <i>Women Politics and the Novel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Chapter 1: The Novel of Crisis • Chapter 7: <i>Persuasion</i>: The “Unfearful Tone of the Present Day”
Week 4 Feb 2	<i>Persuasion</i> , Chapters XIII – XXIV Critical article: Marilyn Butler, <i>Jane Austen and the War of Ideas</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Sentimentalism: the Radical Inheritance” • “<i>Persuasion</i>”
Week 5 Feb 9	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Vol. I (Chapters I – XV) Critical article: Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, <i>The Madwoman in the Attic</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The Queen’s Looking Glass: Female Creativity, Male Images of Women, and the Metaphor of Literary Paternity”
Week 6 Feb 16	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Vol. II (Chapters XVI – XXVII) Critical article: TBA
Week 7 Feb 23	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Vol. III (Chapters XXVIII – XXXVIII) Critical article: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Madwoman in the Attic</i>, “A Dialogue of Self and Soul”
Week 8 Mar 2	<i>Middlemarch</i> , Vols. I and II Critical article: TBA
Mar 3	Analytic essay due
Week 9 Mar 9	No class (spring break)
Week 10 Mar 16	<i>Middlemarch</i> , Vols. III – V
Mar 17	Research proposal due
Week 11 Mar 23	<i>Middlemarch</i> , Vols. VI and VII Critical article: TBA
Week 12 Mar 30	<i>Middlemarch</i> , Vol. VIII Critical article: TBA
Week 13 Apr 6	<i>Dear Faustina</i> , Chapters I – IX
Apr 7	Annotated bibliography due
Week 14 Apr 13	<i>Dear Faustina</i> , Chapters X – XVIII Critical article: TBA
Apr 14	Literature review due
Week 15 Apr 20	<i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i> , Chapters 1 – 5 Movie discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i> (1969) <i>Dead Poet Society</i> (1989)
Week 16 Apr 27	<i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i> , Chapters 6 – 10 Movies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cracks</i> (2009) <i>The Chorus</i> (2004) Oral report
Final week May 6	Critical research paper due

Policies For Attendance and Participation

Attendance

To engage in this course, you are supposed to attend classes. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Though some laxity will be granted to emergencies, you are supposed to email me beforehand or afterwards with justifiable reasons if you are going to be or have been absent.

Participation

Attending and sitting in classes silently will not give you credit for participation. To obtain credit, you are supposed to engage actively in class and group discussions. There will be sessions that start with a go-round-classroom discussion. This is a good opportunity for you to make contributions.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

AI Policy

All assignments should be fully prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in the skills associated with this course, from student-based brainstorming to project development, will prepare you for success in your degree pathway and, ultimately, a competitive career. Therefore, the use of generative AI tools, without prior permission, to complete any aspect of assignments for this course is not allowed and will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes a violation of this statement, please contact me.

ADA 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 Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or

email mschwartze@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@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.

Student Responsibilities

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules and regulations. Additionally, **students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university**. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

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 a 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.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

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.

Helpful Resources on Campus

❖ Libraries

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Contact:

- srsulibrary@sulross.edu
- srsuarchives@sulross.edu
- Eagle Pass (D-129) Front Desk: 830-758-5035

❖ Counseling

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting Timelycare/SRSU. The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

❖ Tutoring Center

The Lobo Den Tutoring Center offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

- Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments: Flexible options to fit your needs.
- Hours of Operation: Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

- Workshops: Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.
- Location: BWML Room 128.
- Contact Us: For more information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726. Looking for additional support?
- Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed.