

ENG 5307**American Literature: Short Fiction, 1940-Present****Summer I, 2026****Course:** ENG 5307**Class meets in:** online/asynchronous**Days:** N/A**Time:** N/A**Classroom:** N/A**Instructor:** Dr. Rosemary Briseño**Office:** MAB 112-B**Office hrs:** by appt. only**Office phone:** 432-837-8152**email:** rbrisen@sulross.edu**Course description**

This graduate seminar examines major movements, authors, and critical debates in American literature from the 1940s to the present. Beginning with the social, political, and cultural transformations that emerged during and after World War II, the course explores how writers responded to shifting ideas of nationhood, identity, race, gender, class, technology, globalization, and cultural memory. Readings may include postwar fiction, poetry, drama, ethnic and multicultural literatures, postmodernism, feminist and queer texts, environmental literature, transnational narratives, and contemporary experimental forms. Attention will be given to the historical contexts that shaped literary production as well as to major theoretical and critical frameworks used in literary scholarship. Students will engage in advanced literary analysis through close reading, discussion, research, and scholarly writing. The course emphasizes the relationship between literary texts and broader cultural conversations, encouraging students to examine how American literature reflects, challenges, and reconstructs ideas of identity, power, belonging, and representation in the modern and contemporary United States. This course is designed to prepare students for advanced research in literary studies through sustained engagement with primary texts and current scholarly criticism.

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

- 1) *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Fiction* (ISBN 13: 978-1416532279)
- 2) Other readings and course material as assigned by your professor available via Blackboard

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**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 Materials and Actions

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 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. *This is a course requirement; it is not optional nor negotiable.*

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ONLINE, ASYNCHRONOUS COURSES

Requirements for Success in an Online Asynchronous Course

Success in an online asynchronous course requires self-discipline, organization, and consistent engagement. Because this course does not meet at scheduled class times, students are expected to take responsibility for managing their own learning and keeping pace with weekly requirements.

To be successful in this course, students should:

- **Log into the course regularly:** Students should access the course site several times per week to review announcements, assignments, readings, and updates. Waiting until deadlines approach often leads to missed information and lower-quality work.
- **Maintain a consistent schedule:** Set aside specific times each week for course work. Treat these times as scheduled class meetings.
- **Read all assigned materials carefully:** Students are expected to complete readings, watch required videos or lectures, and review course materials before completing assignments.
- **Meet deadlines:** Assignments, discussions, quizzes, and other coursework should be submitted on time. Late work may affect grades and can create difficulties keeping up with future course material.
- **Participate actively:** Although the course does not meet face-to-face, participation remains essential. Students should actively engage with discussion boards, peer responses, activities, and course content.
- **Communicate professionally and promptly:** Students are responsible for checking course messages and university email regularly. Questions or concerns should be communicated respectfully and in a timely manner.
- **Practice effective time management:** Students should avoid procrastination and break larger assignments into smaller tasks with personal deadlines.

- **Demonstrate academic integrity:** All submitted work must represent the student's own effort. Students are expected to follow institutional policies regarding plagiarism, citation practices, and academic honesty.
- **Use available resources:** Students are encouraged to seek help when needed by using instructor office hours, tutoring services, library resources, writing centers, and technical support services.
- **Communicate** when problems arise. Consistent effort throughout the semester is often the strongest predictor of success in an asynchronous course.

Asynchronous Course Requirements

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; 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 17 and 13 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

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 nonparticipation in the course for three (3) weeks or more. If I don't hear from you via email, Blackboard, phone call, or otherwise) you will be dropped. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an F in the course.**

Professor e-communication

I will communicate with the class through Announcements and by e-mail, *not* by Messages. 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.

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 **750 words** 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. **Think of Discussion Boards as mini-essays.**

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

If you see the assignment in your submission history, and if the link is attached, that means I received your work. I only accept attachments in Word or PDF only. It is your responsibility to check that you

have uploaded your work in the correct form. If you don't upload your work in the correct form, you will receive a "0." The assignment might still be accepted but at -10 points off the final grade.

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?

<p>Online Support Desk</p> <p>☎ 888.837.6055 ✉ blackboardsupport@sulross.edu</p> <p>Available: 24/7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging into Blackboard • Questions about Blackboard tools/software • Trouble with tests/quizzes/assignments • Error messages on Blackboard • Online course video problems 	<p>Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)</p> <p>☎ 888.837.2882 ✉ techassist@sulross.edu</p> <p>Available: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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Makeup Work

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, the work will not be accepted.

Makeup work is granted at the professor's discretion. To be eligible for possible makeup work, 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 have been granted an exception, please follow these rules:

- 1) Notify your professor before you will be absent, or if you suspect there might be an issue with turning in your work in on time---not 5 minutes before and not after, as notifying me after the due date, negating the makeup policy
- 2) If approved, you will have 7 days in which to complete and upload the missing assignment. In the meantime, a "0" will be used as a placeholder grade.
- 3) If you forgot to submit the makeup work within the 7 days, the "0" stays.

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.

All work will be monitored for academic integrity.

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 one's 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

THIS COURSE HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE 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.

AI usage

Use of AI is **NOT** allowed in this course. 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, then provost.

Additionally, patchwriting is also **strictly prohibited** (where the student goes online to find words/sentences/paragraphs from online, then make minor or substantial changes in word meaning and/or word order, and then pass it off as their own). 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.*

Therefore, all major written assignments will be completed using **Turnitin.com**, and will be **proctored** by Blackboard software. The student will **not receive** essay prompts ahead of time; rather they will be released the day of the assignment.

Here is my specific 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 s

Counseling and Accessibility Services Office
 Ferguson Hall 112
 Alpine, TX
 (432) 837-8203
counseling@sulross.edu
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Monday-Friday

Graded Course Requirements

Two Major Essays (12-15 pgs)40%
 Essays will be based on material assigned from the first day of classes to the midterm; and the second essay, from after the midterm to the last day of class. The page requirement does not include the Works Cited. A required 5-7 sources each, including the primary source.

Two Discussion Boards (these are titled Discussion Boards, but they are actually short essays, ~1250 words per prompt. Prompts will not be given ahead of time)**20%**

Critical Reader Response Journal students will keep track of what they've read by completing a Reader Response Journal. Graded Check-Ins will be assigned at least twice. For more info, please see the tab titled Critical Reader Response Journal.....**40%**

Grade Meaning

90-100: Outstanding performance in mastering of the subject. Achievement of superior quality. (4

A

grade : points per credit hour)

80-89: Consistent performance in achievement beyond the usual requirements of the course.

B

Achievement of high quality. (3 grade points per credit hour)

70-79: Performance of a satisfactory nature. Achievement demonstrating an understanding of the

C

subject sufficient for continued study in the discipline. (2 grade points per credit hour)

60-69: Minimally acceptable performance. Achievement demonstrating below average

D

understanding of the basic elements of the course. (1 grade point per credit hour)

50-59: Achievement at a level insufficient to demonstrate understanding of the basic elements of the

F

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.

--**Online Writing Center:** https://shsu.blackboard.com/ultra/organizations/_252534_1/outline

--**Face-to-face tutoring:** 1st floor library in Alpine

--**Tutor.com:** https://shsu.blackboard.com/ultra/organizations/_266937_1/outline

--***Your professor**

**I will not review any work unless it has been viewed by one or more of the resources above first.*

Tentative Schedule

(subject to change at any moment in the semester)

*For detailed information regarding assignments, due dates, etc., go to Tentative Schedule.
All changes to the schedule will be made via Announcements*

5/27: First day of classes; read course syllabus and Welcome Guide. Get textbooks. Submit letters of Accommodation, if necessary. Email professor with any questions regarding the course. **Academic Integrity Policy DUE Sun, 5/31 by 11:59 pm** under Assignments

6/5: Discussion Board #1 DUE @11:59 pm

6/18: Last day to drop with a “W”; Discussion Board #2 DUE 11:59 pm

6/14: Major Essay #1 DUE, Sun 6/14@11:59 pm

6/30: Major Essay #2 DUE, W, 6/30@11:59 pm; Reader Response Journal also DUE

7/2: all grades due to the university by 12 noon.

----END OF SEMESTER----