Instructor Info:

Dr. Douglas Eli Julien  
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Phone: 903-334-6662  
Office Hours: Mondays: 11:00-12:00 & 6:00-7:00  
Tuesdays: 10:00-11:00 & 12:30-4:30  
Wednesdays: 11:00-12:00  
Thursdays: 10:00-11:00 & 6:00-7:00  
And by appointment

Course Description:
Forms of Literature offers students an introduction to the literary genres of poetry, drama, and fiction with an emphasis on the intrinsic pleasures that the study of literature offers. It requires students to read closely and critically and become sensitive to the nuances of language.

Required Texts:


This is a web-enhanced course and additional required and supplemental reading can be found on the Blackboard site.

Student Learner Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete English 2341 will be able to

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in literature.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works of literature.
4. To engage in the creative process or interpretive performance and comprehend the physical and intellectual demands of the author or visual or performing artist.
5. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works of literature.
6. To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern literature.
7. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature on intercultural experiences.
Course Outline:

Major Topics

“Short Stories”
1. Plot
   A. Forming a literary understanding of plot
   B. Parts of Plot
2. Narration and Point of View
   A. The importance of narrative
   B. Narrator versus implied author
3. Character
   A. Types of characters
   B. Character in fiction and life
4. Setting
   A. Types of Setting
   B. Functions of Setting
5. Symbol and Figurative Language
   A. Symbols and Allegories
   B. Key Figures of Speech
6. Theme(s)?

“Poetry”
7. Theme and Tone
8. Speaker
9. Situation
10. Language
11. Sounds

“Drama”
12. Introduction to Drama
13. Staging Drama

Delivery and Assessment Methods:

Delivery

1. Class lectures and discussion
2. Online discussion threads, learning modules, and media libraries

Assessment

1. Two in-class exams
2. Discussion threads
3. Participation in class sessions
4. One analytical paper
5. Weekly reading quizzes
6. Staging of play
Course Requirements and Methods of Evaluation:

1. In-class exams (2)
   A. There are two in-class exams that must be completed during the semester. Each exam will consist of questions related to literary terms, author and title identification, short-answer questions based on interpretation and terms, and essay questions. Students will answer in as much detail as possible by supporting their answers with the material presented in the course. (SLO – 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
   B. Each exam is worth 200 points for a total of 400 points.

2. Discussion threads (weekly)
   A. Discussion topics and questions will be added to the discussions area on Mondays throughout the semester. This is an attempt to create a seminar environment online, for students to enhance other student’s knowledge, and provide an opportunity for everyone’s voice to be heard. Students will need to visit the Blackboard site on a regular basis. Each student is expected to consider the main question for the week and post an appropriate response. Students are also required to respond to at least one other student’s posted response and reply to those who respond to them. Students are also asked to read and consider all questions and topics in a given week. (SLO – 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
   B. Students will answer the main thread on 3 levels
      1. Answer to the posted question – 10 points
      2. Response to other’s answer – 6 points
      3. Reply to student who responded to you – 4 points
   C. Each discussion thread week is worth 10 points for a total of 110 points.

3. Participation in class sessions
   A. You will need a healthy stack of 3 X 5 notecards. At the end of each class, you will be evaluating the day that was and have this as a venue to ask questions that you were afraid to ask, critique what just happened, tell me how wonderful or dismal I am—they basically become your ballots on the course. More on this when it comes time to “vote.” This will be your participation score, so things like “no comment” and “I hate these notecards” will not garner you participation points. (SLO – 3,4,5)
   B. Each notecard is worth 5 points and there are 28 class sessions with cards for a total of 140 points.

4. Analytic Paper
   A. Students will prepare an analytic paper that takes a song of their choosing and compares it to a short story or poem from the syllabus. A specific rubric will be given at the time of the assignment; however, generally the text should provide a comparison of the two works utilizing literary terminology and will be at least 5 pages long. Also, the paper will be graded twice: first as rough draft and as final copy. (SLO – 3,5 though others may be applicable depending on selections)
   B. The rough draft of the paper is worth 100 points.
   C. The final copy of the paper is worth 200 points.
5. Online reading quizzes
   A. On most Friday’s I will post an open-book, online reading quiz that must be completed before Monday’s class. These will be 10 questions long and will test to make sure that you are reading the selections for the upcoming week. (SLO 1,2,7)
   B. Each quiz is worth 10 points and there are 10 for a total of 100 points.

6. Staging of play
   A. Working in groups, students will prepare a staging and perform a short act from a play. A specific rubric will be provided at the time of the assignment. (SLO 4).
   B. The staging is worth 100 points.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% – 100%</td>
<td>1035 – 1150 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% – 89%</td>
<td>920 – 1034 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% – 79%</td>
<td>805 – 919 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% – 69%</td>
<td>690 – 804 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0% – 59%</td>
<td>0 – 689 pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Complete Course Schedule:**

**Week #1: Plot**

8/30 – Introduction to the Me, the Course, and Plot
   Norton: “Plot” 79-86
   Blackboard: Bruce Springsteen “Born in the U.S.A” Lyrics and Video
   Blackboard: Gwen Harwood “A Game of Chess”
   Discussion Thread Posted

9/1 – Applying Plot to Texts
   Norton: Sherman Alexie “Flight Patterns” 52-59
   Norton: Margaret Atwood “Happy Endings” 123-126
   Norton: Randall Jarrell “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner” 978
   Eggers: “Best American Letter to the Editor” 9
   Blackboard: Patsy Cline “I Fall to Pieces” Lyrics and Video
   Online Quiz posted 9/3 covering 9/8 readings due before 9/8 class

**Week #2: Narration and Point of View**

9/6 – No Class
   Discussion Thread Posted
9/8 – Introducing and Applying Narration and Point of View
Norton: “Narration and point of view” 156-160
Norton: Alice Munro “Boys and Girls” 140-149
Norton: John Updike “A & P” 149 – 154
Eggers: K.G. Schneider “The Outlaw Bride” 349-359
Blackboard: Partial Reading of “A & P” Audio
Blackboard: “Danny Boy” Lyrics
Blackboard: “Danny Boy” Celtic Woman Video
Blackboard: “Jingle Bells” Lyrics
Blackboard: “Jingle Bells” Animation Video

Online Quiz posted 9/10 covering 9/13 & 9/15 readings

Week #3: Character

9/13 – Introducing Character
Norton: “Character” 179-185
Norton: Raymond Carver “Cathedral” 28-37
Norton: Theodore Roethke “My Papa’s Waltz” 951-2
Eggers: “Best American Censorship Blunder” 5-7
Blackboard: Kansas “Carry on My Wayward Son” Lyrics
Blackboard: Kansas “Carry on My Wayward Son” Video

Discussion Thread Posted

9/15 – Applying Character
Norton: Margaret Atwood “Happy Endings” 123-125
Eggers: Nathan Englander “Everything I Know About My Family on My Mother’s Side” 123-141
Eggers: “Best American College Annual Alumni Reports from 2008” 10-13
Blackboard: Styx “Renegade” Lyrics
Blackboard: Styx “Renegade” Video

Online Quiz posted 9/17 covering 9/20 & 9/22 readings

Week #4: Setting

9/20 – Introducing Setting
Norton: “Setting” 225-230
Norton: Amy Tan “A Pair of Tickets” 251-263
Eggers: Denis Johnson “Boomtown, Iraq” 259-276
Eggers: “Best American Police Blotter Items for Johnson County, Kansas” 43-44

Discussion Thread Posted
9/22 – Applying Setting
Norton: Marjane Satrapi “The Shabbat” 20-27
Norton: Philip Larkin “Church Going” 1027-8
Eggers: Nick St. John “Further Notes on My Unfortunate Condition” 369-391
Blackboard: Neil Young “Southern Man” Lyrics
Blackboard: CSNY “Southern Man” Video
Blackboard: Lynyrd Skynyrd “Sweet Home Alabama” Lyrics
Blackboard: Lynyrd Skynyrd “Sweet Home Alabama” Video
Online Quiz posted 9/24 covering 9/27 & 9/29 readings

Week #5: Symbols and Figurative Language

9/27 – Introducing Symbols and Figurative Language
Norton: “Symbol and Figurative Language” 308-313
Norton: A.S. Byatt “The Thing in the Forest” 324-338
Norton: John Donne “The Flea” 929
Eggers: Eula Biss “Relations” 73-88
Discussion Thread Posted

9/29 – Applying Symbols and Figurative Language
Blackboard: Franz Kafka “Before the Law” Short Allegory
Blackboard: Johnny Cash “Folsom Prison Blues” Lyrics
Blackboard: Johnny Cash “Folsom Prison Blues” Video
Blackboard: The Clash “I Fought the Law” Lyrics
Blackboard: The Clash “I Fought the Law” Video
Blackboard: Warren Zevon “Lawyers, Guns, and Money” Lyrics
Blackboard: Warren Zevon “Lawyers, Guns, and Money” Video
Online Quiz posted 10/1 covering 10/4 & 10/6 readings

Week #6: Theme(s)?

10/4 – Introducing Theme(s)
Norton: “Theme” 351-354
Norton: Gabriel Garcia Marquez “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” 371-375
Norton: Yasunari Kawabata “The Grasshopper and the Bell Cricket” 390-393
Blackboard: Kei$ha “Tik Tok” Lyrics
Blackboard: Kei$ha “Tik Tok” Video
Discussion Thread Posted
10/6 – Applying Theme(s)
   Eggers: Nick Flynn “The Ticking is the Bomb” 142-166
   Eggers: “Best American Kids’ Letters to Obama” 47-52
   Blackboard: ZZ Top “La Grange” Lyrics
   Blackboard: ZZ Top “La Grange” Video
   Blackboard: Bee Gees “Jive Talkin’” Lyrics
   Blackboard: Bee Gees “Jive Talkin’” Video

Week #7: Testing and Writing about Literature

10/11 – Exam #1

10/13 – Writing about Literature
   Norton: “Writing about Literature” 2271-2333
   Paper Assigned
   Online Quiz Posted 10/15 covering 10/18 & 10/20 readings

Week #8: Theme and Tone

10/18 – Introducing Theme and Tone
   Discussion Thread Posted

10/20 – Applying Theme and Tone
   Blackboard: Madonna “Like a Virgin” Lyrics
   Blackboard: Madonna “Like a Virgin” Video
   Blackboard: Elvis “Viva Las Vegas” Lyrics
   Blackboard: Elvis “Viva Las Vegas” Video
   Blackboard: Jim Croce “Bad, Bad Leroy Brown” Lyrics
   Blackboard: Jim Croce “Bad, Bad Leroy Brown” Video
   Online Quiz posted 10/22 covering 10/25 & 10/27 readings
Week #9: Speaker

10/25 – Introducing Speaker
Norton: “Speaker: Whose Voice Do We Hear?” 878-893 – Includes poems

Discussion Thread posted

10/27 – Applying Speaker
Blackboard: Christina Aguilera Featuring Lil’ Kim “Can’t Hold Us Down” Lyrics
Blackboard: Christina Aguilera Featuring Lil’ Kim “Can’t Hold Us Down” Video
Blackboard: Pussycat Dolls “I Don’t Need a Man” Lyrics
Blackboard: Pussycat Dolls “I Don’t Need a Man” Video
Blackboard: Jay-Z “Takeover” Lyrics
Blackboard: Jay-Z “Takeover” Video
Blackboard: Naz “Ether” Lyrics
Blackboard: Naz “Ether” Video

Online Quiz posted 10/29 covering 11/1 & 11/13 readings

Week #10: Situation

11/1 – Introducing Situation

Discussion Thread Posted
11/3 – Applying Situation
Blackboard: Steely Dan “Don’t Take Me Alive” Lyrics
Blackboard: Steely Dan “Don’t Take Me Alive” Video
Blackboard: The Pogues “Young Ned of the Hill” Lyrics
Blackboard: The Pogues “Young Ned of the Hill” Video
Blackboard: Rod Stewart “Tonight’s the Night” Lyrics
Blackboard: Rod Stewart “Tonight’s the Night” Video
Online Quiz posted 11/5 covering 11/8 & 11/10 readings

Week #11: Language

11/8 – Introducing Language
Discussion Thread posted

11/10 – Applying Language
Blackboard: Jimmy Buffet “Margaritaville” Lyrics
Blackboard: Jimmy Buffet “Margaritaville” Video
Blackboard: Chuck Berry “Johnny B. Goode” Lyrics
Blackboard: Chuck Berry “Johnny B. Goode” Video
Blackboard: Guster “Airport Song” Lyrics
Blackboard: Guster “Airport Song” Video
Online Quiz posted 11/12 covering 11/15 & 11/17 readings
Week #12: Sounds

11/15 – Introducing Sounds

Discussion Thread posted

11/17 – Applying Sounds
Norton: Bob Dylan “Mr. Tambourine Man” 1021-1022
Blackboard: Bob Dylan “Mr. Tambourine Man” Video
Blackboard: Richard Thompson “1952 Vincent Black Lightning” Lyrics
Blackboard: Richard Thompson “1952 Vincent Black Lightning” Video
Blackboard: Barnes and Barnes “Fish Heads” Lyrics
Blackboard: Barnes and Barnes “Fish Heads” Video

Week #13: Picking up the Pieces

11/22 – Your songs
Rough Draft of Paper Due

11/24 – Your songs

Week #14: Exam and Drama

11/29 – Exam #2

12/1 – Introduction to Drama
Norton: “Drama: Reading, Responding, Writing” 1382-1385
Norton: “Elements of Drama” 1437-1447
Norton: Suzi-Lori Parks “From 365 Days/365 Plays” 1869-1885

Week #15: Examining 365 and Your Performance

12/6 – Continuing with 365

12/8 – Your stagings
Week #16:

12/13 – Your stagings

12/15 – Paper Due

Student Participation:

This is an interactive course on-line and in the classroom. Professional and courteous communication is always expected. There is no attendance policy for the course. My job is to teach you each class, make it interesting and vital to you whenever I can, and make coming to class, at the very least, seem necessary. Your job is to come or keep up when unable. Three caveats. The first caveat I would add is that I will work as hard as I possibly can to make sure that if you’re not attending class regularly, it will be very difficult to do well—that is also my job. The second is that I’m not interested in trying to repeat a day, week, or month of what happened in my office—class is unrepeatable. The final caveat is that there is a participation component to your grade, and it is difficult to participate if you are not here

Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

Academic Integrity:

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of ‘F’ in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

Statement on email usage:

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.
Student Technical Assistance:

- Solutions to common problems and FAQ’s for your web-enhanced and online courses are found at this link: http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37
- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php
- Blackboard Helpdesk contacts:

  Office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p

  Kevin Williams (main contact) 903-223-1356 kevin.williams@tamut.edu

  Frank Miller (alternate) 903-223-3156 frank.miller@tamut.edu

  Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu