

“Once you allow yourself to identify with the people in a story, then you might begin to see yourself in that story even if on the surface it's far removed from your situation. This is what I try to tell my students: this is one great thing that literature can do -- it can make us identify with situations and people far away. If it does that, it's a miracle.”

Chinua Achebe, “ An African Voice”

LIT 2000
Introduction to Literature I

Department of English and Modern Languages
College of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Dr. Lamar Garnes
433 Tucker Hall
lamar.garnes@famu.edu (the best way to reach the professor)

OFFICE HOURS:

Thursdays: 3:30 - 5 pm

OTHER HOURS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Introduction to Literature is a three-credit hour course and an introduction to the study of short and long prose (fiction and nonfiction), drama, and poetry. The course introduces the student to the critical appreciation of literature. Students will become familiar with terms used in literary criticism and the process of critical evaluation of literature.

Emphasis will be placed upon the critical understanding of literary elements which combine to render successful works. This understanding will further enhance the development of the student's analytical abilities and give them more depth of insight for better enjoyment of the works. LIT 2110 is a Gordon rule course, and the guidelines will be met through a short essay, written in-class responses, a lead discussion, inquiry journals, and daily quizzes.

To complete the course with a grade of "C" or better, the student must demonstrate the ability to do the following:

- identify the distinguishing characteristics of the short story, novel, creative nonfiction, drama, and/or poetry.
- write a successful literary analysis essay. Significant emphasis will be placed on writing in this course.
- define and discuss significant terms used in reference to prose fiction: plot, theme, exposition, protagonist, antagonist, imagery, irony, setting, realism, and stream of consciousness.

- critically analyze specific works of literature so that greater insight and aesthetic appreciation can be gathered.

PREREQUISITES

Earned at least a “C” in both ENC 1101 & 1102

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

Writing is a practice, and it only improves with dedicated practice. It is my goal to create a safe and accepting space in which students can discover, learn, develop, and use their individual voices in the classroom and beyond to assist them in becoming better writers and critical and creative thinkers, and engaged citizens.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Kelly J. Mays, Ed. *The Norton Introduction to Literature, Shorter 14th Edition*. ISBN-13: 9780393886306

All other readings will be posted on Canvas in Course Documents.

Suggested Texts (or have unfettered access to):

- A cheap grammar book
- a collegiate dictionary
- Access to a *MLA Handbook*

SUPPLIES

- Pens (preferably)/pencils
- Notebook (composition book or 70-paged spiral notebook)
- Access to the internet in class via a smartphone or laptop to take daily quizzes
- Access to a functioning printer or the printing labs
- Stapler or paperclips

Supplemental Readings: All students are required to read and/or research biographical material on the authors studied. This material can be found in the Coleman Library reference resources and on the library’s databases. Students are urged to purchase and consult the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#) 8th ed. for complete explanations of research and documentation procedures.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND COMMUNICATION POLICIES

CANVAS: You must use Canvas. Most course materials and all assignments are available on Canvas. You are also required to submit all assignments on Canvas. All announcements regarding changes to course meetings and other bits of information that the professor deems important will be posted on Canvas and emailed to the students’ FAMU email addresses, so please be sure to check each daily.

FAMMAIL: I will communicate with you, when necessary, via your FAMU email, so make sure you have access to your FamMail and that it is functioning properly. I will respond to the email

within 24 hours or the next business day. Any email sent Friday – Sunday will not receive a response until Monday.

When emailing the professor, treat your email like all other pieces of writing that you submit to the professor. It is a reflection of you and your capabilities. Do not treat it like a text.

Composing Emails: All emails must include each of the following to receive a response.

1. A subject line that clearly and concisely specifies your reason for emailing.
2. A proper salutation/greeting, body, closing, and signature.
 1. The salutation/greeting must be respectful and appropriate like Dear Dr. Garnes, Greetings, Dr. Garnes, or Good Morning (Afternoon) Dr. Garnes.
 2. The body of your email should identify which class (course number and section) you are in, and it should be well-written and contain no grammatical or mechanical errors. You should identify or explain your reason for emailing. After stating your reason, you should ask the question or questions for which you are seeking guidance or an answer(s).
 3. Close with the appropriate closing like Respectfully, Best, Best Regards, etc., and sign the email by typing your full name, if you haven't input a permanent signature to be attached to all of your outgoing emails.

Please do each of these things if you want a response from the professor.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

To have a productive class, each student must follow all procedures as outlined below and must come to each class fully prepared to engage and be a productive and thoughtful member of the classroom. To be fully prepared, the student (1) must be in class on time, (2) must bring all required materials to class, (3) must thoroughly read all assigned readings, (4) must critique and comment on any assigned student essays, and (5) must be an attentive and active participant in class discussions.

To have a productive semester, students must follow all procedures as outlined below and must come to each scheduled course meeting fully prepared to engage, log in to the course Canvas site daily, and be productive and thoughtful members of the classroom in person and virtually.

To be fully prepared for class, the student must

- log in to the course Canvas daily.
- thoroughly and closely read all assigned readings.
- be active, engaging, and thoughtful participants in the discussion board.
- follow all classroom etiquette guidelines.
- be an attentive and active listener/participant in class discussions.
- must be respectful of the professor and his/her/their classmates.
- must bring his/her/their curiosity and enthusiasm to learn, share, and engage.

The students can expect the professor (This is just a draft of the possible guidelines/expectations, and the students will draft/revise this section of the syllabus.)

- to be respectful of each student in the course.

- to maintain an open, safe, and respectful classroom environment.
- to be honest and available to help students.
- to create clear and transparent assignments.
- to provide honest and timely feedback on assignments in the form of grades on Canvas and written or oral constructive criticism on drafts in class or during office hours.
- to assist each student in the process of becoming a better writer and to encourage each student to earn the best grade he/she/they may be capable of earning.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory. Each student has two absences that can be used at any point in the semester. Three absences may result in failure of the course. Official excuses for absence must be submitted within seven days of the absence. Tardies will be defined and negotiated in the Labor-based Grading Contract.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY STATEMENT: Florida A&M University is committed to academic honesty and its core values, which include scholarship, excellence, accountability, integrity, fairness, respect, and ethics. These core values are integrated into this academic honesty policy. Being unaware of the Academic Honesty Policy is not a defense for violations of academic honesty. Additional detail on FAMU Academic Honesty Violations is provided in University Policy 2.012 (10.)(s). If you have any questions, please see your Academic Advisor.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is grounds for failure of this course as well as for suspension from the university. It will not be tolerated. Any instance of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities. Plagiarism is a counterproductive, non-writing behavior that is unacceptable in a course intended to aid the growth of individual writers. Plagiarism is included among the violations defined in the Academic Honesty Violations section of the Student Code of Conduct. Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Honesty Policy: https://www.famu.edu/administration/division-of-student-affairs/office-of-student-conduct-and-conflict-resolution/documents/Regulation%202.012_Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%2012082021.pdf

UNIVERSITY AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT: The Florida A&M University Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement states that “Individuals who need a reasonable accommodation must notify the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs at 599-3076.” It is the responsibility of the FAMU Equal Opportunity Programs (EOP) Office, through the ADA Coordinator, to ensure that Florida A&M University is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have any questions, please contact your Academic Advisor or the University EOP Officer, Equal Opportunity Programs, 674 Gamble Street, Tallahassee, FL 32307, (850) 599-3076.

Students requiring special accommodations should contact the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CeDAR), as well as the instructor, in advance (see “Accommodations” section below for more info.).

CENTER FOR DISABILITY, ACCESS, AND RESOURCES (CEDAR): CeDAR uses an online accessible information management portal called AIM which allows students to apply for services, request accommodations, set up testing appointments, and more. To submit accommodation requests, students should simply visit <https://www.famu.edu/students/student-resources/center-for-disability-access-and-resources/index.php> and use

their FAMU login to submit requests. Faculty will receive an email notification with the next steps.

POLICY STATEMENT ON NON-DISCRIMINATION: It is the policy of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to assure that each member of the University community is permitted to work or attend classes in an environment free from any form of discrimination including race, religion, color, age, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, veteran status and sexual harassment as prohibited by state and federal statutes. This shall include applicants for admission to the University and employment.

Audio/Video Recording: In accordance with House Bill 233/Section 1004.097, Florida Statutes,

“Students may audio or video record a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled. A class lecture is defined as an educational presentation delivered by faculty or guest lecturer or faculty-delivered presentation, as part of a Florida A&M University course, intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations, such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session” (FAMU Academic Affairs, “HB 233 FAQs”).

No audio recorded and/or videotaped portion of this course may be published “without the written consent of the lecturer. Publish means share, transmit, circulate, distribute, post online, or provide access to a recording regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of the recording, is considered to be published if it is posted on or uploaded, in whole or part, to any media platform, including but not limited to social media, magazine, newspaper, or leaflet.”

“If a student publishes a recording of a class lecture without the lecturer’s written consent, and it is not in connection with a University complaint or as evidence in a criminal or civil legal proceeding, the student could face severe legal and/or disciplinary consequences. Per HB 233/section 1004.097, Florida Statutes, the unauthorized publishing of the recording allows the lecturer to take the student to court for damages, including attorney’s fees, totaling as much as \$200,000. Additionally, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for a potential violation of the Student Code of Conduct.”

Student data and privacy are protected through the University’s licensure with Zoom and Canvas, as well as faculty professional ethics.

CELLPHONES/FOOD: All cell phones should be placed on silent or off. Don’t answer phone calls or texts during class. If a student does either, he/she will be asked to leave class and be counted absent for the day. No food of any kind is allowed in the classroom; do not bring it. A drink is allowed as long as it is in a closed container such as a plastic bottle or the like.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Written assignments will be graded first on the clarity and pertinence of ideas and secondly on the level of mechanical skills displayed. All of the major writing assignments will be graded with rubrics which will be available for the duration of the semester. All assignments must follow MLA format.

Understand that poor writing makes great and interesting ideas and perspectives unclear and unreadable.

We will discuss the Labor-based Grading Contract during the second week of class.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	A \geq 90	B \geq 80	C \geq 70	D \geq 60	F \leq 60
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Assignments	Tentative Due Date	Percentage
Digital LiT Dictionary	Week 6; Week 11	20%
Poetry Assignment	Week 10	15%
Group Lead Discussion	Week 3 - 6	20%
If Only This Happened Essay/Character Campaign	Week 15	20%
Participation	Ongoing	15%
Miscellaneous	Ongoing	10%
Total		100%

**** Assignments and dates may change as the professor deems necessary****

NOVEMBER 9TH LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments are due on Canvas by the designated day and time. When uploading documents to Canvas, the document should be saved as a Microsoft Word file (.docx) or as a PDF file (.pdf).

- **Corrupted Files:** Make sure that your files are properly formatted when you upload them. After submitting your file on Canvas, make sure that wait long enough for the file to upload before leaving the page. Uploading a corrupted file will earn you a zero on the assignment.
- **Uploading Issues:** If you are having issues uploading any file, email the professor and explain the issue; also provide a screenshot if possible. Depending on the time, the professor will work with you to determine an appropriate solution.

Emailed assignments are not accepted unless the professor has given you permission to do so.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: All assignments and drafts must be submitted in MLA Format (9th Edition). This means that all assignments should be typed double-spaced, in Times New Roman font size 12-point. The margins must be 1 inch. The heading (name, professor's name, the course title, and date [day Month year] should appear on the first page double spaced on the top left side of the page; do not put the heading in the header. Your title should be centered in the line just below. Your last name and the page number should appear in the top right corner of each page; to do this use the insert function. Your last name and the page number are the only things that should be placed in the header.

Sample Essay in MLA format (9th Edition):

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_sample_paper.html

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: To be defined in the Labor-based Grading Contract and negotiated with students.

Quizzes: There may be a quiz at the start of each class if the professor finds that the class is not prepared. **You cannot make up a quiz.** Quizzes will be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false and will focus on the day's assigned reading material.

Participation: You are expected to be a full participant in class discussions. To be a full participant, you must be present and in class on time; you must have read the day's readings; you must be vocal in class; and you must have all of the required materials in class. Your participation grade will be a combination of your attendance, your quiz success rate, and your degree of thoughtful and intelligent contribution to daily course discussions which the professor will be keeping track of in each class meeting.

Lead Discussion: Once during the semester in groups of three or less, you will initiate a discussion about a short story with a structured series of comments, observations, and questions that require a high level of critical and creative thinking. You should have formulated possible answers to these questions as a way of starting or extending the discussion. Your aim is not to instruct your classmates but to initiate an engaging discussion about the text and issues in the text, using your individual and collective ideas and discoveries as springboards. Your overall goals are to illuminate the text and initiate and sustain fruitful dialogue about the text in a creative way. More detailed instructions will be provided on Canvas.

Digital LiT Dictionary: You will be required to rewrite the definitions of literary terms in your own words. Your definition must be a paragraph, contain an example from the reading that you explain, and follow MLA in-text citation guidelines.

Critique of a Critical Analysis Essay: You will compose a critical essay about a critical analysis article on one of the texts we will read this semester. Further and more complete instructions will be provided at Midterm.

Final: Detailed instructions will be provided on Canvas after the Midterm.

Submitting Assignments: Assignments are due on Canvas as Word files (.docx) before class on the date designated and the hard copy is due at the beginning of class that same day.

Emailed assignments are not accepted.

THE WRITING RESOURCE CENTER:

The Writing Resource Center offers one-on-one help for students with their writing. The Center is staffed by tutors who are trained in grammar and the mechanics of writing. Make an appointment by visiting <https://www.famu.edu/students/student-resources/writing-resource-center/index.php> or by stopping in – 124 Tucker Hall.

Tentative Calendar*

Week 1: Introductions and “Introduction: What Is Literature?”

Fiction

Week 2: Chapter 1: Fiction; Chapter 2: Plot

Week 3: Chapter 3: Narration and Point of View; Chapter 4: Character

Week 4: Chapter 5: Setting; Chapter 6: Symbolism and Figurative Language

Week 5: Chapter 7: Theme; Chapter 8: Flannery O’Connor

Week 6: Chapter 9: Women in Turn-of-the-Century America; Chapter 10: Tim O’Brien’s “The Things They Carried” and others

Poetry

Week 7: Chapter 11: Poetry; Chapter 12: Speaker

Week 8: Chapter 13: Situation and Setting; Chapter 14: Theme and Tone

Week 9: Chapter 15: Language; Chapter 16: Visual Imagery and Figures of Speech

Week 10: Chapter 17: Symbol; Chapter 18: The Sounds of Poetry

Week 11: Chapter 19: Internal Structure; Chapter 20: External Form

Drama

Week 12: Chapter 24: Drama; Chapter 25: Elements of Drama

Week 13: Sophocles *Antigone*

Week 14: Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Week 15: Tennessee Williams cont’d.; evaluations

* Calendar subject to change.