

ENG 4013 -- Literary Criticism

Fall 2011

Dr. Valerie Lipscomb

TR 11-12:15, Rm. A217

Office: C258

Office hours: T 10-11, 2-3, R 2-3 and by appointment.

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TEXTS: *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. 5th ed. Charles E. Bressler. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2011.

The Great Gatsby. F. Scott Fitzgerald. 1925. Any edition is fine; mine is Scribner's, 2004.

OVERVIEW and OBJECTIVES: ENG 4013 is a majors course examining milestones in literary criticism, with an emphasis on applying current approaches to interpreting literature. Students should improve their abilities to understand, appreciate, and analyze literature by studying and applying a variety of critical approaches. They also should improve their abilities to persuasively communicate verbally and in writing their ideas regarding trends and specific works. To achieve these goals, students will study and apply theories individually as well as in groups, through discussion and in informal and formal writing assignments. Moreover, students will improve their research, critical thinking, and leadership skills by helping lead class.

Each course in the literature major at USFSM is designed to help students improve their abilities to

***Demonstrate an understanding of literary texts in light of the various cultural contextual issues that may impact their creation and/or reception.**

***Demonstrate an understanding of literature as an art form, evidencing certain aesthetic principles, which are relative and dynamic.**

***Demonstrate knowledge of the canonical writers and texts in the British and American traditions, as well as efforts to "open" these canons.**

***Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the conduct of literary argument and the judicious use of primary and secondary textual support.**

***Write effective, correct scholarly prose, in accordance with MLA style.**

COURSE WORK: In addition to reading textbook material and literary selections, students will participate in frequent full-class, smaller-group, and Blackboard discussions. They will complete in-class assignments, two essay exams, a class leadership/research project, and a research paper of 8-10 pages in length. Class participation is essential to success. Students who already have completed successful leadership projects in two of my classes may elect to write a 15-page research paper worth 200 points instead of the leadership project and shorter research paper.

GRADES: Grades are based on 500 points, broken down as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Midterm Exam | 100 points |
| Final Exam | 100 points |
| Research/leadership project | 100 points |
| Research paper | 100 points |
| Participation/attendance/short assns. | 100 points |

At the end of the term, all points are added and grades are assigned on a percentage scale: 90-93% A-,

94-97% A, 98-99% A+, etc. I do use plus/minus grading, and in borderline cases, I do consider improvement shown during the semester.

For each assignment, students who earn A grades will have demonstrated conspicuous excellence; those who earn Bs will have displayed superior skills; Cs are for competent skills; Ds for poor performance; and Fs for unacceptable work. For participation grades, the standard for a C is to attend all classes, complete all assignments in class and on Blackboard, contribute to group work, and add to full-class discussion once a week. (If you are too shy to participate, you may email me your comments and questions to help your participation grade.) The superior quality of the assignments may then merit a higher grade.

ATTENDANCE: Because this course is based on student involvement, your attendance and participation are mandatory. An absence may be excused for such reasons as a serious personal illness, serious illness or death of a family member, legal obligation, religious observance, or approved campus activity. Don't hesitate to confer with me about unusual circumstances. For an excused absence, please provide documentation such as physicians' notes, legal documents, or notices on USF letterhead. If you know about the absence in advance, so should I. "The University recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes." Unexcused absences will SIGNIFICANTLY affect your participation grade. Because we do so much work together in class, even excessive excused absences may adversely affect your grade.

If you can't make it to class on time, consider adjusting your schedule. Excessive tardiness or leaving class early will lower your participation grade.

SCHEDULE: The schedule you will be given is subject to change according to our progress. There will be short assignments and/or pop quizzes given in class. Therefore, if you must miss class, be sure to contact me or a classmate to confirm what is due for the next class. "In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor the Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. See the Safety Preparedness Website for further information.
<http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php>"

PAPER FORMAT: I urge you to do all work on computer; this is required for your major assignments. Short assignments should be legible with ample margins, at the least. Whenever you use an outside source, cite it in MLA style. **You don't need to provide a full list of works cited when you are citing only our textbooks, but you should cite pages parenthetically. I recommend buying the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook* for use in all English courses.**

DEADLINES: Deadlines are a fact of life; meeting them gives you good experience for your future profession. For an excused absence, we will determine a makeup schedule. Unexcused short assignments turned in late receive no credit; however, I will evaluate them and record that you handed them in, so late is better than never. An unexcused late major assignment is docked one letter grade.

ACADEMIC ETHICS: All individual work must be your own and must be done specifically for this class. You are encouraged to seek info and advice from others, just as professionals do, but you must

do your own research, writing, etc. Material taken from another source must be properly cited. I will use Blackboard's Safe Assignment feature to assess possible plagiarism. Please be sure to consult the USF policy on plagiarism in the [USFSM Undergraduate Catalog](#) and [USF Student Code of Conduct](#). This course assumes you have studied plagiarism; see me if you are in doubt as to what constitutes it or whether you are citing a source correctly. I'm happy to help you with documentation issues prior to your turning in your assignments.

BLACKBOARD: We will use the Blackboard course site as an integral part of the learning experience, as it offers students maximum flexibility for managing course work -- and saves paper, too. Some assignments will be conducted entirely on Blackboard. Get your Net ID, then become familiar with Blackboard immediately and log in often. If you need help using it, tutorials can be accessed: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/DE/current_students.php

Technical assistance is available by phone or online: 866-974-1222
http://usfsupport.custhelp.com/app/chat/chat_launch

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION: "Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Pat Lakey, Coordinator, 941-359-4714, plakey@sar.usf.edu, or www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/"

ACADEMIC DISRUPTION: The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the [USFSM Undergraduate Catalog](#) and the [USF Student Code of Conduct](#).

ASSISTANCE: I will do everything I can to help you reach your academic goals. Please don't hesitate to call, email, or come to my office. I look forward to working with you.

ENG 4013 Literary Criticism Reading Schedule Fall 2011

The schedule is subject to change according to our progress. Short assignments may be given in class.

T AUG. 22 Intro

R AUG. 25 ch. 1

T AUG. 30 ch. 2, Trifles

R SEPT. 1 cont. ch. 2, On Being Brought from Africa to America, Red Silk Stockings

T SEPT. 6 Aristotle's Poetics

R SEPT. 8 Gatsby

T SEPT. 13 ch. 3

R SEPT. 15 ch. 3

T SEPT. 20 ch. 4

R SEPT. 22 ch. 4 (Blackboard discussion)

T SEPT. 27 ch. 5 **article summary due** on Blackboard

R SEPT. 29 ch. 5

T OCT. 4 ch. 5/review **summary response due** on Blackboard

R OCT. 6 Leadership groups meet independently

T OCT. 11 **midterm exam**

R OCT. 13 ch. 6

T OCT. 18 ch. 6

R OCT. 20 ch. 6

T OCT. 25 ch. 7

R OCT. 27 ch. 7

(OCT. 29, last day to withdraw from class with a W grade)

T NOV. 1 ch. 8 -- **last day to get paper topic approval**

R NOV. 3 ch. 8

T NOV. 8 ch. 9 -- **bibliography due** on Blackboard

R NOV. 10 ch. 9

T NOV. 15 ch. 10 **draft due** on Blackboard

R NOV. 17 ch. 11

T NOV. 22 ch. 12 **peer review due** on Blackboard

R NOV. 24—NO CLASS—HAPPY THANKSGIVING

T NOV. 29 ch. 13 **paper due**/present abstracts

R DEC. 1 continue paper discussion/review

R DEC. 8 **Final exam 11-1 p.m. – note extended time period**