

American Literature, Film, & Culture Section 01

ENGL 117A

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 08/22/2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Colton S Saylor

Email: colton.saylor@sjsu.edu

Office: 112

Please give me 24 hours to return emails. If I do not respond within that window, please feel free to follow up!

Office Hours

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Office Hours Link: [https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/8767305039?](https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/8767305039?pwd=VWdZNGhFWitEazVFVt0aHhwZVp4UT09)

[pwd=VWdZNGhFWitEazVFVt0aHhwZVp4UT09](https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/8767305039?pwd=VWdZNGhFWitEazVFVt0aHhwZVp4UT09)

Waiting Room will be activated on the Zoom Office Hours, meaning I will let students in one at a time as they come in.

Course Description and Requisites

Using both film and literature, course examines narratives that create and define cultural identities in the United States. A variety of cultural moments in the history of North America as depicted in both film and literature as well as the artistic practices used to shape those representations will be discussed.

GE Area: S

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Extension Policy

I will grant extensions (no questions asked) for the following assignments. Extensions can be requested at any point **EXCEPT** not on the day that the assignment is due:

Essay # 1 (Monster Analysis Essay)

Essay # 2 (Final Paper)

All other assignments must be submitted by the times listed on this syllabus and Canvas.

Peer Review Workshops: The revision process is central to this class, so you will be responsible for writing a rough draft for each major essay. While only the final draft will be graded, not completing a rough draft and participating in peer review workshops will result in a deduction of one letter grade to the paper's final grade.

Late papers for Major Essays will be docked 2.5% each day they are late.

Late papers for credit/half credit/no credit assignments (all responses, activities, etc.) will receive half credit if submitted late.

Absence Policy

You do NOT need to excuse absences with me over email. I do not take attendance, meaning I do not require notification about when you miss class.

That being said, Attendance is REQUIRED in order to do well in this class.

If you are absent, please note that I DO NOT review what was missed over email. Instead, you can catch up with what you missed via any of the following options:

- email another person in the class
- review the Zoom slides that I post to Canvas
- schedule an office hours appointment with me

☐ Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website](#).

English Program Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System").

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent;
- B = above average;
- C = average;
- D = below average;
- F = failure.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.

Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/english (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english>)

Department email: english@sjsu.edu (<mailto:english@sjsu.edu>)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area C2: Humanities

Area C Arts and Humanities courses help students to respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and to develop an understanding of the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses. C2 Humanities courses encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic, and cultural importance.

GE Area C2 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of a C2 course, students should be able to:

1. analyze and understand works of philosophical and humanistic importance, including their temporal and cultural dimensions;
2. explore and articulate their own subjective aesthetic and intellectual responses to such texts;
3. analyze and assess ideas of value, meaning, and knowledge, as produced within the humanistic disciplines; and
4. research and write effective analyses of works of the human intellect and imagination

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

Course Materials

Books Available for Purchase through Canvas page, Bookstore, and Online

Grendel, John Gardner; ISBN-10: 0679723110, ISBN-13: 978-0679723110

Dawn, Octavia Butler; ISBN-10: 1538753715, ISBN-13: 978-1538753712

Mongrels, Stephen Graham Jones; ISBN-10: 0062412701, ISBN-13: 978-0062412706

In addition, we'll screen the following films in class

The Bride of Frankenstein (dir. James Whale)

Night of the Living Dead (dir. George Romero)

The Fly (dir. David Cronenberg)

A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night (dir. Ana Lily Amirpour)

Other required readings/films can be found either linked in the syllabus or as PDFs in Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, you are expected to spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on.

All assignments due to Canvas unless otherwise instructed.

Assignment Word Count and Assignment GELO

Assignment	Word Count	Learning Goals	Final Grade %
Essay # 1 (Monster Imagery Analysis)*	750-1000	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3	15
Essay # 2 (Final Paper)*	1,250-1,500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	20
Monster Diagnostic	500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	2.5
<i>Bride of Frankenstein</i> Response	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
<i>Dawn</i> Response	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
<i>Night of the Living Dead</i> Response	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
Group Monster Profile Presentation	-	GE 1, 2; E 1, 2, 3, 4	10
<i>The Fly</i> Response	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5

<i>Mongrels</i> Response	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
<i>A Girl Walks Home...</i> Response	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
Final Exam	-	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	22.5

* - assignment requires rough draft and final draft

Bolded – letter-grade assignments

All other assignments are Credit/Half Credit/No Credit

✓ Grading Information

About Grades

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper's effectiveness, which is broken down into three major areas: argument (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and analysis.

An "A" range essay is organized and well-developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment, written in a unique and compelling voice. It will show the student's ability to use language effectively with a solid command of grammar, mechanics, and usage.

A "B" range essay demonstrates competence in the same categories as an "A" essay, but it may show slight weakness in one of these areas. It will respond to the topic suitably and may contain some grammatical, mechanical or usage errors.

A "C" range essay will complete the requirements of the assignment, but it will show weaknesses in fundamentals, such as development. It may show weakness in mastery of grammar, mechanics, usage, or voice.

A "D" range essay will neglect to meet all the requirements of the assignment or may be superficial in its treatment of the topic. It may lack development or fail to stay on topic. It may contain grammatical, mechanical, and/or usage errors that interfere with reader comprehension.

An "F" essay does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (63-66); D- (60-62); F (<60)

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/23	<p>Listen: "Wendigo Story," Isaac Murdoch (https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-105-unreserved/clip/15945425-isaac-murdochs-wendigo-story).</p> <p>Read: "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," Washington Irving (https://www.bartleby.com/lit-hub/hc/rip-van-winkle-the-legend-of-sleepy-hollow/the-legend-of-sleepy-hollow-2/).</p> <p>First Half: Intro</p> <p>Second Half: Discuss "Wendigo"; Discuss Irving</p> <p>On Canvas: Monster Diagnostic due 8/26, 11:59PM</p>
2	8/30	<p>Read: "What Was It?" Fitz-James O'Brien (https://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/WhatWas843.shtml); "The Damned Thing," Ambrose Pierce (https://www.gutenberg.org/files/23172/23172-h/23172-h.htm).</p> <p>First Half: Discuss O'Brien, Pierce</p> <p>Second Half: Watch "The Masque of the Red Death," Edgar Allan Poe (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaTcEdbIDXQ); Discuss film</p>
3	9/6	<p>First Half: Watch <i>Bride of Frankenstein</i> (dir. James Whale)</p> <p>Second Half: Discuss film; Introduce Close Reading/Assign Essay #1</p> <p>On Canvas: <i>Bride of Frankenstein</i> Response due 9/9, 11:59PM</p>

4	9/13	<p>Read: <i>Grendel</i>, John Gardner (first half); Beowulf excerpt (https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/cms/lib/GA01000549/Centricity/Domain/4972/Beowulf%208-10.pdf)</p> <p>First Half: Introduce <i>Beowulf</i>, <i>Grendel</i></p> <p>Second Half: Discuss Gardner</p>
5	9/20	<p>Read: <i>Grendel</i>, John Gardner (second half)</p> <p>First Half: Finish discussing Gardner</p> <p>Second Half: Peer Review Workshop #1 (Monster Imagery Analysis)</p> <p>On Canvas: Monster Imagery Analysis Final Draft due 9/25, 11:59PM</p>
6	9/27	<p>First Half: Watch <i>Night of the Living Dead</i> (dir. George Romero)</p> <p>Second Half: Discuss Film</p> <p>On Canvas: <i>Night of the Living Dead</i> Response due 9/30, 11:59PM</p>
7	10/4	<p>Read: <i>Dawn</i>, Octavia Butler (first half)</p> <p>First Half: Discuss Alien Monstrosities</p> <p>Second Half: Discuss Butler</p>
8	10/11	<p>Read: <i>Dawn</i>, Octavia Butler (second half)</p> <p>First Half: Discuss Butler</p> <p>Second Half: finish discussing Butler</p> <p>On Canvas: <i>Dawn</i> Response due 10/14, 11:59PM</p>
9	10/18	<p>First Half: Assign Monster Profiles</p> <p>Second Half: Group Work Time</p>
10	10/25	<p>First Half: Monster Profile Presentations</p> <p>Second Half: Monster Profile Presentations</p>

11	11/1	<p>First Half: Watch <i>The Fly</i> (dir. David Cronenberg)</p> <p>Second Half: Discuss Film</p> <p>On Canvas: <i>The Fly</i> Response Due 11/4, 11:59PM</p>
12	11/8	<p>Read: <i>Mongrels</i>, Stephen Graham Jones (First Half)</p> <p>First Half: Discuss the Werewolf, Introduce Jones</p> <p>Second Half: Discuss <i>Mongrels</i></p>
13	11/15	<p>Read: <i>Mongrels</i>, Stephen Graham Jones (Second Half)</p> <p>First Half: Finish discussing Jones</p> <p>Second Half: JSTOR Workshop</p> <p>On Canvas: <i>Mongrels</i> Response Due 11/18, 11:59PM</p>
14	11/22	<p>First Half: Watch <i>A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night</i> (dir. Ana Lily Amirpour)</p> <p>Second Half: Discuss film</p> <p>On Canvas: <i>A Girl Walks...</i> Response Due 11/25, 11:59PM</p>
15	11/29	HOLIDAY - NO CLASS
16	12/6	<p>First Half: Peer Review Workshop #2</p> <p>Second Half: Office Hours</p> <p>On Canvas: Final Draft Final Paper due 12/12, 11:59PM</p>
	12/17	On Canvas: Final Exam due (9:30AM)