

ENGL 200: Foundations of Literary Study **Unsettling the Human in Contemporary Literature and Theory**

What does it mean to be human? How has the idea of humanity been mobilized to achieve equality, equity, and inclusion? How has the concept of the human simultaneously been used to exclude, denigrate, and deny? What differentiates humans from animals or other forms of species life? How are new technologies challenging the category of the human? And what purchase does literary study have on examining this category in ways that other disciplines cannot?

This course will address these questions as a way to build the foundational skills of literary study. The assigned course material examines diverse genres, including the novel, prose poetry, short story, graphic novel, memoir, and television series. Students will develop critical reading, writing, and research skills; learn about literary stylistic techniques such as meter, topoi, and narrative structure; and encounter some of the major theoretical approaches and questions in literary study today.

Assignments will build skills in the core areas of literary analysis, including thesis-driven essays (one based in close-reading, one research-based) and an annotated bibliography. Other assignments, especially the creative rewrite, will challenge conventional genres of analysis and assessment, just as the course overall troubles the category of the human and probes its limits.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Important: Use **only** the editions listed below; search by ISBN to confirm that you have the correct edition. Only paper copies are permitted; etexts are not allowed.

Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*. ISBN: 9781400078776
Natarajan et al., *Bhimayana*. ISBN: 9788189059170
Maggie Nelson. *The Argonauts*. ISBN 9781555977351
Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric*. ISBN: 9781555976903
Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*. ISBN: 978-1101906118
Nnedi Okarafor, "Afrofuturist 419." Available on eCampus.
The Returned/Les Revenants, dir. Gobert and Mermoud, available on library reserve and eReserve.

Jonathan Culler. *Literary Theory A Very Short Introduction*. 2nd ed. ISBN: 9780199691340
Select other theoretical or critical readings, available on eCampus.

ASSIGNMENTS

Literary analysis essay 20%
Creative project and analytic response 20%
Annotated bibliography 10%
Research proposal presentation 5%
Research essay, incl. peer review 30%
E-campus responses x5 5%
Participation 10%

E-campus responses are graded pass/fail; each posting is worth 1%.
All other assignments are graded according to the rubric below (see "Grading" under "Policies").

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Interpret recently published literary texts within diverse cultural, political, and historical contexts, as well as in connection with other literary or cultural products.
- Identify and analyze genre conventions in literary texts (poetry, lyric prose, novels, graphic novel, television) and scholarly texts (textbooks, research essays, annotated bibliographies).
- Employ skills in close-reading and critical analysis to identify and analyze textual complexities or ambiguities.
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of the English language's social and structural aspects.
- Think critically about the texts examined in this class and their relation to questions of the value of literary study and the humanities.
- Engage respectfully with peers in a way that encourages collaborative thinking, intellectual stimulation, scholarly community, and individual academic development
- Demonstrate a range of contextually effective writing strategies.

POLICIES

IMPORTANT: Please read this section carefully. A syllabus is a contract so it is vital that you read these policies thoroughly before the course begins.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All WVU students must abide by the university's strict codes of academic integrity. Practices that flout these codes includes plagiarism (i.e. falsely representing someone else's work as your own); dishonesty in connection with examinations, papers, and/or projects; and forgery, misrepresentation, or fraud as it relates to academic or educational matters. **Academic dishonesty is a serious offence with serious consequences.** It is your responsibility to read the university's policies on academic integrity: <http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/#academicrightspenaltiesappealstext>

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS: West Virginia University is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). For more information on WVU's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see <http://diversity.wvu.edu/>

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required in this course for two reasons: first, students who attend classes regularly tend to earn higher grades; and second, your regular attendance improves the learning experience not only for yourself but for all class members. In taking this course you are committing to being part of an academic community, with all the rights and responsibilities that being a community member entails.

The specifics of this course's attendance policy are as follows:

- You are allowed up to three absences without penalty and without requiring a note; examples include school trips, illnesses, family emergencies, and days of special concern.
- If you miss 4-6 classes you will receive an F for participation.
- If you miss seven classes you will fail the course.

If serious circumstances arise that prevent you from attending class (for instance, prolonged illness, family tragedy, mental health or emotional well-being), please contact the Division of Student Life in Elizabeth Moore Hall (293-5611). The Dean of Student Life will authorize arrangements for you. Please also reach out to relevant support services on campus: e.g., the Carruth Center.

DEADLINES AND PENALTIES: Deadlines for work to be submitted are final. Exceptions will be made only in cases of serious illness or personal emergency, for which written documentation (e.g., a doctor's note) is required. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. If they are not handed in at the beginning of class, they will be considered late.

Penalties: For each day that an assignment is late, you will lose 10% of your grade. This penalty includes both weekend days; hence, an assignment that is due on Friday but handed in on Monday will lose 30% (i.e., 10% for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday).

EMAIL: I am happy to respond to your emails but for any kind of substantive discussion about your work you should attend office hours or make an appointment to meet with me. Please expect me to respond to emails Monday to Friday only, and allow at least twenty-four hours for a response.

GRADING: Grades will be provided as letter grades, corresponding to the following percentage range:

A range	90-100%	A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79
B range	80-89%	A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76
C range	70-79%	A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72
D range	60-69%						
F	0-59%						

See also <http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/enrollmentandregistration/#gradestext>

PARTICIPATION: Participation is a crucial component of this course but it encompasses far more than just answering questions in class. It also includes completing the required reading on time, being punctual and professional, bringing detailed notes and/or questions to class, contributing to discussion, demonstrating active listening skills, and engaging respectfully with other people's ideas.

Participation will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

A	up to 3 absences and excellent participation
B	up to 3 absences and strong participation
C	up to 3 absences and weak participation
D	up to 3 absences and no participation
F	more than 3 absences

PUBLIC WRITING: The writing that you produce for this course is public work. You should expect to share your writing with your classmates as well as with me. You will share some of your work online, through eCampus, as well as in class.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND FORMATTING: All assignments *must* be printed out and handed to me. I will not accept emailed assignments. Assignments are due at the start of class unless otherwise stipulated, and they will be considered late if they are not handed in by this time.

Papers should be typed in a legible 12pt font and should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Always number your pages and staple them together. Cover pages are not required; instead, include your name, my name, and the date on the first page of your paper. Always use MLA style (see below for links). Finally, always provide an informative title for your assignments.

Resources

Many resources are available on campus to support your educational attainment and emotional and physical wellbeing. Please make use of them! Here are just some of the resources you can use (this list is by no means exhaustive):

ACADEMIC SUPPORT (at WVU and ONLINE)

MLA Style: <https://lib.wvu.edu/instruction/guides/mla.pdf>; & <https://lib.wvu.edu/instruction/guides/citation/>

WVU Library: <https://lib.wvu.edu/collections/>

Online Writing Lab (“OWL”) at Purdue University: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Grammar: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/>

Mechanics: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/4/>

MLA Style: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

The Eberly Writing Studio: <http://speakwrite.wvu.edu/writing-studio>

Writing handouts: <http://speakwrite.wvu.edu/writing-studio/writing-handouts>

Speaking resources: <http://speakwrite.wvu.edu/writing-studio/speaking>

GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Counseling Services at the Carruth Center: <http://carruth.wvu.edu/>

Dept. of English Advising: <http://english.wvu.edu/students/current-undergraduate-students/advising>

Diversity Initiatives: <http://diversity.wvu.edu/home>

Division of Student Life: <http://studentlife.wvu.edu/about>

Emotional and Physical Wellbeing: <http://well.wvu.edu/>

Office of Accessibility Services: <http://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/accomm>

Student Support Services (for first-generation students): <http://sss.wvu.edu/>

Title IX Office: <http://titleix.wvu.edu/>

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT & STUDENT SUPPORT: WVU does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or relationship violence [BOG Policy 44]. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of university administration, faculty, or staff, but keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the **Carruth Center, 304-293-9355** or **304-293-4431** (24-hour hotline), and locally within the community at the **Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC), 304-292-5100** or **304-292-4431** (24-hour hotline). For more information please consult WVU policies at <http://titleix.wvu.edu>.

NB: The course outline below is subject to change. If changes are made, adequate notice will be given and a new schedule will be distributed. Please expect one or two additional short readings to be added.

SCHEDULE

Date	Reading	Assignments Due
R 8/17	Introduction: The Human in Literary Studies	
T 8/22 R 8/24	What is Literature? Why Read? Eagleton (eCampus) and Culler Ch. 2 How to Read Literature Culler Chs. 1, 3, & 4	eCampus #1: Weds 8/23 6pm
What Makes a Human?		
T 8/29 R 8/31	Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>Never Let Me Go</i>	eCampus #2: Weds 8/30 6pm
T 9/5 R 9/7	Culler Chs. 6 & 7	
Race & the Human		
T 9/12 R 9/14	Claudia Rankine, <i>Citizen</i>	Essay 1 Due
T 9/19 R 9/21	Culler Chs. 5 & 8	
Unsettling Gender & Sexuality		
T 9/26 R 9/28	Maggie Nelson, <i>The Argonauts</i>	eCampus #3: Weds 9/27 6pm
T 10/3 R 10/5	Culler Ch. 9	
The Posthuman		
T 10/10 R 10/12	Han Yang, <i>The Vegetarian</i>	Creative Project Due
T 10/17 R 10/19	Nnedi Okarafor, "Afrofuturist 419" RESEARCH METHODS CLASS	
Caste & the Subhuman		
T 10/24 R 10/26	Natarajan et al., <i>Bhimayana</i> Excerpt re. graphic novels; available on eCampus	eCampus #4: Weds 10/25 6pm
T 10/31		
Forced Migration & the Once-human		
R 11/2	<i>Les Revenants/The Departed</i>	eCampus #5: Weds 11/1 6pm
T 11/7 R 11/9		
T 11/14 R 11/16	PRESENTATIONS PRESENTATIONS	5-min. research presentations 5-min. research presentations
T 11/21 R 11/23	THANKSGIVING BREAK; University closed	
T 11/28 R 11/30		Annotated bibliography due
T 12/5 R 12/7	LAST CLASS. Complete draft paper due for peer review Final paper due via eCampus at 12 noon.	Draft paper due Final paper due: 12 noon