

Introduction to Literature

ENGLISH 200

Dr. David J. Bell

Course Information

English 200, Section 701 • Online Course—Fall 2024

This is an online course. Regular, substantive interaction will occur through weekly announcements, videos, follow-up on discussion board posts, and feedback on assignments including the exams and final paper.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Bears Discover Fire by Terry Bisson

Bloodchild by Octavia Butler

Shane by Jack Schaefer

True Grit by Charles Portis

Various Handouts on Blackboard

Required Work

TWO EXAMS 50%

You will take two exams on Blackboard. They will each count for 25% of your final grade.

FINAL PAPER 20%

You will write a final paper at the end of the semester. This will be due during finals week.

DISCUSSION BOARD PARTICIPATION 20%

Three times during the semester—once during each unit—you are required to post on the discussion board in response to a question I ask. These questions will be broad in nature and allow you to gather and express your thoughts as we discuss the reading. I will share a video during the first week of classes explaining this in further detail.

BLACKBOARD THESIS DISCUSSION 10%

During the last weeks of class, you are required to share the thesis from your final paper. This is an opportunity to receive feedback on the thesis from the class and from the professor as you draft the paper. I will share a video discussing this when the time comes.

Course Policies

A WORD ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated and will be grounds for failure of the assignment and possibly the course. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following:

- Using someone else's words, ideas, or sentence structure as your own without proper citation.
- Stealing an assignment and passing it off as your own.
- Borrowing an assignment (from either someone you know or someone you don't know with or without their permission). This includes copying information from the internet without proper citation.
- Paying or hiring someone else (again, either someone you know or someone you don't know) to complete your assignment. (This includes buying assignments or essays from the internet or elsewhere).
- Turning in the same assignment for more than one class (a.k.a. "double dipping").

Please also refer to the WKU code of conduct for the University policy regarding academic misconduct.

ADA NOTICE

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room A200, Downing University Center. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Course Schedule

The schedule below reflects what we will be discussing via video. You are expected to read the material or complete the assignment in advance of watching the video in order to be prepared.

August 19-23: Introductions, syllabus review. Introduction of discussion board requirements. Read Hughes "I Too" and Hall "White Apples." **Respond to discussion board question #1 by September 1st.**

August 26-30: Read Olds "I Go Back...", Dove "For Sophie...", and Brooks "Kitchenette Building"

September 2-6: Read Tafolla "Voyage", Forche "Colonel", Arnold "Dover Beach", and Miller "Black Mens' Closets"

September 9-13: Exam Review

September 13: Poetry Exam on Blackboard

September 16-20: Read Schaefer Chapters 1-4, Chapters 5-10, Chapters 11-16. **Respond to discussion board question #2 by October 1st.**

September 23-September 27: Read Portis 11-67, Read Portis 68-111, Read Portis 112-224

September 30-October 4: Review for Exam #2

October 4: Exam #2 on Blackboard

October 7-11: Read Butler “Bloodchild”, “The Evening and the Morning...”, and “Speech Sounds.” **Respond to discussion board question #3 by November 1st.**

October 14-18: Read Butler “Amnesty” and “Book of Martha”

October 21-25: Read Bisson “Bears Discover Fire”, “They’re Made Out of Meat”, and “Press Ann”

October 28-November 1: Read Bisson “George”, “Next”, and “Are There Any Questions?”

November 4-8: Read Bisson “Two Guys”, “Toxic Donut”, and “Cancion Autentica...”

November 11-15: Read Bisson “Partial People”, “Carl’s Lawn and Garden”, and “The Message”

November 18-22: Review for Final Paper. **Share Thesis Draft on Blackboard by November 22nd.**

December 4: Final Paper Due

SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE