

**American Literature**  
**2329-013**  
**TR 2:00-3:20**  
**Room 207 PH**

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**Instructor: Toni M. Holland**

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**Office and office hours: 605 Carlisle Hall, TR 3:30-4:30**

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**Course Description**

In this course we will survey American literature from 1945 to the present. We will begin by focusing on poets laureate, their works and national projects. We will examine the ways literature creates communities and engages with life. We will examine various ways in which multi-media enhances the interpretation of literary texts. From this, we will broaden our understanding of this survey by reviewing other genre.

**Course Goals**

1. To encourage students to see that literary studies matter and to foster enjoyment of literature as students engage with ideas and beliefs in ways that extend beyond the English classroom.
2. To help students recognize that literature does not occur as isolated events, but as complex dialogue within cultural and historical contexts.
3. To develop student's ability to read critically by studying a variety of form, structure, and style.
4. To enable students to demonstrate their understanding of and their ability to analyze literary texts both orally and in writing.

**Course Materials**

*Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Volume E, 1945 to the Present  
Academy of American Poets, [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)

**Grade Distribution**

**Grade Distribution:**

Literary Essay	30
Film and Essay Assignment	30
Community Literary Awareness and Enhancement Assignment	10
Photography Assignment	10
Midterm	10
Final	10

**Grading Standards**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

Late work will be subject of a late penalty of five points off a day, including days between class meetings. I do not accept electronic submissions.

**Final Review Week**

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long session shall be designed as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as

required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112--The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled American with Disabilities Act-(ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodation” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designed administrative channels.

Learning Outcomes

### **Academic Dishonesty**

It is the philosophy of the University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

### **Attendance**

Attendance I will grade more on actual participation than on mere attendance. However, because this course relies heavily on class discussion and because we cover a lot of material each class period, your attendance is very important. Everyone has three excused absences, which means that you needn’t tell me why you miss three classes. Each absence after three will lower your course grade five points. If you miss six class periods or more, you will probably fail the course. Given that illness and family emergencies are unpredictable, it would be wise not to use up all three excused absences in the beginning of the semester.

### **The Writing Center**

You may schedule appointments online by following directions available at [www.uta.edu/owl/appointments](http://www.uta.edu/owl/appointments), by calling 817 272-2601, or by visiting the Writing Center. If you come to the Writing Center without an appointment, you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis as tutors become available. Writing Center tutors are carefully chosen and trained, and they can assist you with any aspect of your writing, from understanding an assignment to revising an early draft to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; tutors will not correct your grammar or rewrite your assignment for you, but they will help you become a better editor of your own writing. I encourage each of you to use the Writing Center.

### **Student Support Services**

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you

connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and translation, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success.

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**Reading Schedule: All Readings and Due Dates Subject to Change**

Aug 25		Introduction; introduction of photography assignment and review those that have been taken by others from Academy of American Poets Free Verse project.
Aug 27		Postmodern Manifestos 2489
Sept 1	PL	3 Robert Penn Warren, Richard Wilbur, Howard Nemerov; Academy of American Poets
Sept 3	PL	3 Mark Strand, Joseph Brodsky, Mona Van Duyn; Academy of American Poets
Sept 8	PL	3 Rita Dove, Robert Hass, Robert Pinsky; Academy of American Poets
Sept 10	PL	3 Louise Glück, W. S. Merwin, Stanley Kunitz, Billy Collins; Academy of American Poets
Sept 15	PL	4 Ted Kooser, Donald Hall, Charles Simic, Kay Ryan; Academy of American Poets
Sept 17	PL	Community Literary Awareness and Enhancement Assignment; Poets Laureate projects; other poetry projects
Sept 22		<b>Literary Essay Due;</b> Theodore Roethke, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell, Gwendolyn Brooks; Denise Levertov, A. R. Ammons, James Merrill, Allen Ginsberg
Sept 24		Library presentation on equipment and filming digital filming process. Today we will meet in the library basement, B20.
Sept 29		<b>Photography assignment due; Presentation.</b>
Oct 1		Adrienne Rich, Gary Snyder, Sylvia Plath, Amiri Baraka; Frank O'Hara, Galway Kinnell, John Ashbury, Anne Sexton
Oct 6		Audre Lorde, Mary Oliver, Lucile Clifton, Michael Harper
Oct 8		Fanny Howe, Simon Ortiz, Gloria Anzaldúa, Yusef Komunyakaa,
Oct 13		Julia Alvarez, Joy Harjo, Cathy Song, Li-Young Lee; Lorna Dee Cervantes; Sherman Alexie
Oct 15		<b>Midterm</b>
Oct 20		"Glengary Rose," David Mamet
Oct 22		"Glengary Rose"
Oct 27		"Seeing" from "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek" Annie Dillard
Oct 29		"Petrified Man," Eudora Welty
Nov 3		"The Swimmer," John Cheever
Nov 5		"A Conversation with My Father," Grace Paley

Nov 10 "The Balloon," Donald Barthelme  
Nov 12 "Going the Meet the Man," James Baldwin

Nov 17 **Community Literary Awareness and Enhancement Report Due**  
Nov 19 "Defender of the Faith" Philip Roth

Nov 24 **Film and Essay Due: video (digital copy) and paper**  
Nov 26 Thanksgiving

Dec 1 "Cathedral," Raymond Carver  
Dec 3 **Final**