

## LMC 2060: Introduction to Literary Studies

Skiles 370; MW 9:30am-10:55pm

Professor Amy Elkins

Office Hours: by appointment.

### **Course Description:**

This course will provide introduction to the study of literature at the university level. After a brief unit on reading methodology, the course will first offer short historical survey of literature in English. The course will then shift to a survey of selected theoretical approaches to literature. The goal is to help you leave this course with a solid background in literary history and analysis, and increased knowledge of critical and theoretical methodologies.

### **This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

• How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

• Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies: Ethical Reasoning; Information Literacy; Intercultural Competence

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will learn to analyze and interpret works of film, literature, and new media.
2. Students will learn how to apply a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories.
3. Students will learn the traditions and conventions of various forms of narrative art.
4. Students will become familiar with the way historical forces shape artistic production.
5. Students will be able to organize and express information clearly and accurately.

### **Assignments:**

Written work includes one reading response (1 page), one short paper (3-4 pages), one long paper (around 8 pages), as well as a series of quizzes. In addition, you will participate in one (group) oral presentation. All assignments must be completed to attain a passing grade. **Attendance and participation will count toward the final grade.**

Essays are due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS and are to be submitted in person. Late papers will not be accepted. Any material in a paper not composed by the author, or borrowed without attribution, will be considered plagiarized. **Plagiarism is a serious offence** and will be dealt with according to the Academic Honor Code (<http://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code>). **When in doubt, use quotation marks and cite sources.** Sanctions for plagiarism can range from a failing grade in the course to expulsion.

This course is meant in part to improve and evaluate your writing ability. For this reason, for the purposes of this class, any student found to have used AI technologies or programs (e.g. Chat GPT) to compose part or all of any submitted work will face the same penalties as a student who submits plagiarized work (i.e. a failing grade in the course). To repeat: AI-generated work will be treated as equivalent to plagiarized work.

**Required Texts:**

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (Penguin) ISBN: 0140439889

Sayaka Murata, *Convenience Store Woman* (Grove) ISBN: 0802129625

William Shakespeare, *King Lear* (Dover) ISBN: 0486280586

**Grading:**

Participation and Attendance	15%	Short Paper	20%	Quizzes	15%
Group Presentation	20%	Long Paper	25%	Response	5%

Note: Excellent participation will be defined as making productive, thoughtful and original comments/question on a regular basis (i.e. most classes); very good participation as producing such comments/questions on a semi-regular basis (every couple of classes); satisfactory participation as producing such comments /questions more than once a month.

## WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE:

(all texts on Canvas unless otherwise indicated)

<b>August</b>	24	Syllabus Review and Course Introduction	
	26	“Beginnings and Endings”	
	31	Verse: Blake, “Chimney Sweeper”; Donne, “Valediction”; Lorde, “Litany”	
<b>September</b>	2	Prose: Cheever, “The Swimmer”; Kincaid, “Girl”	
	7	LABOR DAY (no class)	
	9	<b>Classical:</b> Marcus Aurelius (selections); Catullus 4, 85	
<b>History</b>			
	14	<b>Medieval:</b> “The Wanderer”; <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> (excerpt)	
	17	<b>Renaissance:</b> Sonnets [selection on Canvas]	
	21	<b>Renaissance:</b> <i>King Lear</i> , Acts 1-3. [TEXT]	<b>QUIZ</b>
	24	<i>King Lear</i> , Acts 4-5	
	28	<b>C18:</b> Behn, <i>Oroonoko</i> [TEXT]	
	30	<b>C18 &amp; 19 Poetry:</b> Gray, Wordsworth, Keats	
<b>October</b>	5	<b>FALL BREAK</b> (no class)	
	7	<b>Modernism [Poetry]:</b> Eliot, “Prufrock”; Auden, “Musee des Beaux Arts”	
	12	<b>Modernism [Short Story]:</b> Chopin, “Story of an Hour”; Mansfield, “Garden Party”; Joyce, “The Dead”	
	14	American Poetry: Whitman, Bishop, Hughes, Brooks	<b>SHORT PAPER DUE</b>

	19	Postcolonial Stories: Walcott, “Homecoming: Anse La Raye”; Achebe, “Dead Men’s Path”; Unigwe, “Losing my Voice”	
	21	Latin American Short Stories	<b>QUIZ</b>
	26	Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” Feminism: Cixous, Lorde	Note: full titles of critical essays on Canvas
	28	NO CLASS	
<b>November</b>	2	Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily” Marxism: Althusser, Williams	
	4	“A Rose for Emily” Reader Response: Fish, Iser	
	9	Poe, “The Purloined Letter” Poststructuralism: Barthes, Derrida	
	11	“Purloined Letter” Psychoanalytic Criticism: Freud, Lacan	<b>QUIZ</b>
	16	Theory Workshop	
	18	Murata, <i>Convenience Store Woman</i> [TEXT]	
	23	Group Presentation Workshop	<b>RESPONSE PAPER DUE</b>
	25	<b>Holiday</b>	
	30	Presentations	
<b>December</b>	2	Presentations	
	7	Presentations (overflow)	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE</b>