Georgia Institute of Technology

LMC 3202: DARK ACADEMIA (STUDIES IN FICTION)

School of Literature, Media, and Communication
3 Credits, Spring 2027

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Amy E. Elkins

General Course Information

Description

You know it when you see it: tweed blazers, a pile of leatherbound books read by dripping candlelight, Gothic architecture, boarding schools, crunchy leaves, and old paintings. Dark Academia is an internet subculture devoted to the material and visual culture of universities and student life, but it's also an aesthetic shaped by literary history and the socioeconomics of higher education. In this class, we will use Dark Academia as a lens for reading deeply in the history of the novel and working to understand a range of theoretical orientations. Students will also learn to conduct archival research in the Institute's Special Collections Library.

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 directs 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*.

Key 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, aesthetic, and philosophical theories.
3. Students will lean 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.

Required Course Materials

Primary texts to purchase in physical copies, specific editions:

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
978-1400078776

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
Penguin ISBN 978-0-14-143957-0

On Beauty by Zadie Smith
Penguin ISBN 9780143037743

The Secret History by Donna Tartt
Knopf 978-1400031702

Film/TV: Assigned film/TV media are course texts.

Dead Poet's Society (1989, dir. Wier)

The Chair (2021, dir. Longino) [all 6 episodes]

Other readings by visiting poets, scholarship/criticism, and selected multimedia texts (including social media examples) will be posted to Canvas. Find a place to print these readings early in the semester since you will be required to bring them to class.

Grading Policy

Final grades in this course are based on the weighted components listed below. Each assignment is designed to assess different aspects of your learning, including analytical reading, academic and reflective writing, and collaboration. At Georgia Tech, final course grades are awarded on a scale of A-F with no +/- grades (A = 90–100; B = 80–89; C = 70–79; D = 60–69).

Portfolio: In-Class Responses	**40%**
Archive Visit Reports (3 total)	**15%**
Mood Board with Research Questions	**5%**
Final Creative-Critical Archive Projects	**30%**
Extracurricular Attendance and Participation	**10%**

Description of Graded Components

Portfolio Students will respond to writing prompts and experiential activities throughout the semester. Get a composition notebook to use as your Portfolio.
Archive Visit Reports: You will visit the Institute archives three times—after each visit, submit a report of what you saw, what research you did, and what class connections you made.
Final Creative-Critical Archive Projects: Students will prepare a final group project with their assigned "learning cohort."
Extracurricular Attendance and Participation: Students are required to attend extracurricular events that will develop skills in professional communication, literary analysis, primary source research, and historical awareness. Consistent, active engagement in your cohort, detailed notetaking, and participation required.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

This course requires your attendance and participation in discussion, writing exercises, author events, and small group learning. Come to class on time and prepared.

Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Any suspected violations of the Honor Code will be referred to the Office of Student Integrity. Students are expected to adhere to the Georgia Tech Student Code of Conduct and maintain respectful and professional behavior in all course interactions.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can

have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Campus Resources for Students

Academic Success and Advising

Academic Success and Advising, a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success, provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Communication Center

The Communication Center supports writers and communicators from across the Georgia Tech community with communication skills and projects related to their academic work, careers, and civic and community lives. As an inclusive resource, the center welcomes those of all identities, languages, and ability levels. If you need support with a writing or public speaking assignment, I encourage you to schedule an appointment with a trained consultant at their location in 447 Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons.

Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A comprehensive list of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being and can be found here: https://students.gatech.edu/student-resource-guide. Stamps Health Services (SHS), a department within the Division of Student Engagement and Well-Being, is an outpatient facility designed to meet the health needs of students and their spouses/domestic partners. SHS's mission is to promote the health and well-being of the Georgia Tech community so each student can pursue their academic success. They are located within the Joseph Brown Whitehead Building. You may make an appointment online, in the patient portal, or by phone at (404) 894-1420.

Counseling and other mental health services are available at the Center for Mental Healthcare and Resources. They work with all students who visit to develop an individualized care plan based on your unique needs. Their staff of case managers and counselors specialize in mental health concerns that affect college students, and they provide students with evidence-based and data-driven interventions to help you to improve your functioning and get back on track with your personal, social, and academic goals. They are located in 238 Smithgall Hall and can be reached at (404) 894-2575.