

**University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
English Department**

Course Code: English 3291-002: Writing About Literature I

Instructor: Sharif El Gammal-Ortiz, PhD

Credit Hours: 45 hours/3 credits

Time: We meet virtually via Zoom on Mon/Wed from 1:00 pm to 2:20 pm

Email: sharif.elgammal@upr.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description: Introduction to literary analysis, critical theory and critical writing. Students will write a series of critical essays (or perform a series of writing exercises). This course will also prepare students to do research using Internet sources and the library in order to write an effective literary paper (or prepare for a final writing exercise or exam).

Textbooks: *MLA Handbook Eighth Edition: Official MLA Style* (MLA, 2016): KINDLE or PAPERBACK

Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction, by Jonathan Culler (Oxford UP, 2000)

Tess of the D'Urbervilles, by Thomas Hardy (Norton Critical Edition, 1991)

Methods of Evaluation Table

DAILY READINGS AND DISCUSSION.....	40 pts.
WRITING CLASSWORK.....	30 pts.
FINAL EXAM.....	20 pts.
ATTENDANCE.....	10 pts.
TOTAL.....	100 pts.

Methods of Evaluation Summary

DAILY CLASS PARTICIPATION (READINGS AND DISCUSSION) (40 pts.)

Please be prepared to discuss your homework readings, individual research, and participate in active discussion. This is not a lecture course. It is important students verbalize their analysis of texts and share their findings with classmates.

WRITING CLASSWORK (30 pts.)

All writing exercises will be performed in the classroom to ensure the development of students' critical and organizational skills. Students will have the opportunity to rewrite class work following the professor's corrections.

FINAL ORAL PRESENTATION (20 pts.)

A final research outline and oral presentation on PowerPoint completes total points' requirements.

ATTENDANCE (10 pts.)

Continuous attendance is required and crucial for the successful completion of the semester. Students have a two-limit absence per semester without penalties (with or without a doctor's note). After the second absence, there will be a **deduction of 5 pts. from off the TOTAL FINAL GRADE POINTS** (with or without doctor's note).

Sexual harassment policy: "The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment, must turn to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for an orientation and/or a formal complaint.

Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con la profesora al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a.

Academic Integrity:

In keeping with the University of Puerto Rico's highest standards of promoting academic and scientific integrity, academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: fraudulent actions, obtaining grades or academic degrees by false or fraudulent simulations, copying the whole or part of the academic work of another person, plagiarizing totally or partially the work of another person, copying all or part of another person's answers to the questions of an oral or written exam, or by taking or getting someone else to take the exam of their behalf. Plagiarizing or "copy-pasting" is intellectual theft, and is punishable by law. This course **WILL NOT** tolerate plagiarism in any form. A student and/or member of the academic community guilty of plagiarism risks being expelled as well as sued by the institution of their affiliation. Not to say the party from whom they plagiarized. Any plagiarized work handed in will receive an automatic **F**.

Course Outline

Introduction: Text and Theory

This course will be completely taught online via Zoom

Week 1**Wed. Jan 20****INTRODUCTION****LECTURE: “What is a text?”****Mon. Jan 25****LECTURE: Culler: “What is theory?”****Week 2****Wed. Jan 27****LECTURE: Culler: “What is Literature and Does it Matter?”****Mon. Feb 1****LECTURE: Culler: “Literature and Cultural Studies”****Week 3****Wed. Feb 3****HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Culler: “Language, Meaning, and Interpretation”****Mon. Feb 8****LECTURE: Culler: “Rhetoric, Poetics, and Poetry”****Week 4****Wed. Feb 10****HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Culler: “Narrative”****Mon. Feb 15****NO CLASS: Presidents’ Day****Week 5****Wed. Feb 17****LECTURE: Culler: “Performative Language”****Mon. Feb 22****HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Culler: “Performative Language”****Week 6**

Wed. Feb 24

LECTURE: Culler: “Identity, Identification, and the Subject”

Mon. Mar 1

LECTURE: Culler: “Theoretical Schools and Movements”

Week 7

Wed. Mar 3

HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Hardy: “Phase the First: The Maiden”

Mon. Mar 8

LECTURE: Hardy: Hardy “Phase the Second: Maiden No more”

Week 8

Wed. Mar 10

HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Hardy: “Phase the Third: The Rally”

Mon. Mar 15

LECTURE: Hardy: “Phase the Fourth: The Consequence”

Week 9

Wed. Mar 17

LECTURE: Hardy: “Phase the Fifth: The Woman Pays”

Mon. Mar 22

NO CLASS: Abolition of Slavery

Week 10

Wed. Mar 24

HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Hardy: “Phase the Sixth: The Convert”

Mon. Mar 29

LECTURE: Hardy: “Phase the Seventh: Fulfillment”

Week 11

Wed. Mar 31

LECTURE: Lionel Johnson: “The Argument”

Mon. Apr 5

HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Virginia Woolf: “Hardy’s Moments of Vision”

Week 12

Wed. Apr 7

LECTURE: Irving Howe: “*Tess of the D’Urbervilles*—At the Center of Hardy’s Achievement”

Mon. Apr 12

LECTURE: Elliot B. Gose, Jr.: “Psychic Evolution: Darwinism and Initiation in *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*”

Week 13

Wed. Apr 14

HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Peter R. Morton: “Neo-Darwinian Fate in *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*”

Mon. Apr 19

LECTURE: Gillian Beer: “Descent and Sexual Selection: Women in Narrative”

Week 14

Wed. Apr 21

HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Gillian Beer: “Finding a Scale for the Human: Plot and Writing in Hardy’s Novels”

Mon. Apr 26

LECTURE: Raymond Williams: “Love and Work”

Week 15

Wed. Apr 28

HOMEWORK DISCUSSION: Adrian Poole: “‘Men’s Words’ and Hardy’s Women”

Mon. May 3

FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Week 16

Wed. May 5

FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Mon. May 10

FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS

END OF SEMESTER

Prepared by Dr. Nemesio Gil, revised by Dr. Sharif El Gammal-Ortiz