

INGL3291-002: Writing about Literature I

Fall Semester 2021

Professor: Francisco Mojica

Class Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m.-11:20 a.m.

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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 you to do research using Internet sources and the library in order to write an effective literary paper [or prepare for a final writing exercise].

Due to the current COVID-19 global pandemic, this course will be **completely online**. All work and meetings will be done via internet. This course will use **Moodle, Zoom, Microsoft Word, Kindle, any streaming service for films (student is free to choose), and the UPR institutional email**. These are the online platforms that will be used for this course. The student should verify if they have access to these platforms as soon as possible. If the student does not, then they should notify the professor, via institutional email, in order to find alternatives.

Moodle: This platform will be used for writing assignments and updates on the class.

Zoom: This will be used to meet once a week with the class. This meeting will take place once a week from 10-11:20 a.m. This will be to connect the classroom to discuss topics and assignments. If the student cannot attend, they should notify the professor as soon as they can (whether before or after the meeting) via institutional email.

Microsoft Word: This platform will be for writing response papers and the final paper.

Kindle: This platform will be used to read one purchased text from Amazon digitally. This is a free app for both cellphones and desktop use. It allows for immediate reading of the purchased text from Amazon. The student should purchase the kindle version of the required reading specified by the professor and should have access via the app to read from the screen. This is not mandatory but it is **highly** recommended. If the student strongly prefers a physical copy of the text, then the student is allowed to purchase the required book physically. However, to minimize contact due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the required text is available on Kindle (a free app) and the book can be purchased on Amazon for immediate reading. If the student has another preferred platform, they can use it at their own discretion. The professor recommends that the student minimizes contact due to Covid-19. If the student ultimately purchases the book physically, the professor suggests that they do so as immediate as they can to obtain the book in time for the writing assignment.

Streaming service for films: The professor will assign a film to watch and write about. The student should find an online streaming service (such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Vudu, ect.) to watch the assigned film. This choice of service is in the student's hands so long as the

assigned film can be accessed by the chosen platform. If this is not possible for the student, then the student should notify the professor, via institutional email, as soon as possible to find an alternative.

UPR Institutional Email: The student should have access to their own institutional email. From this email, the professor will be sending extra reading materials and important information about the course.

Requirements: The first requirement is that the student read. From there, students are required to write 2-page response papers about texts assigned by the professor. There will be a total of 3 response papers. A guideline for this assignment will be sent. **They are all to be double-spaced, Times New Roman, and font size 12.** Late work will not be accepted unless there is a documented excuse attached. There is a final paper which will be discussed during the month of November and will be due in December. The professor will give more details as the semester develops.

**Participation**                      10%

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the in-class discussions will be held on Zoom. If there is any difficulty in attending, contact the professor to discuss solutions and/or alternatives. Ultimately, the student should keep in contact and show initiative in the course's content.

**Response Papers**                      60%

Each student must turn in a two-page, double-spaced response paper for every main text assigned. The student will choose a topic connected to the theme related to the main text. They will then explore that subject in a concise and concentrated paper. This paper should be proofread and organized. There will be a document detailing what the professor expects from each paper. A schedule will also be sent as a reminder for students on which texts they should be writing on. It will also provide a date of when the professor should be receiving the assignment. Due to this, the student should plan ahead of time to work on these assignments. Late work will not be accepted unless there is a doctor's excuse attached. These papers will be evaluated using the A, B, C, D, and F model.

**Final Paper**                              30%

At the end of the semester, as a final grade and final evaluation, the student will produce a research paper on a text and topic of their choice. They will need to add secondary sources to help construct a compelling argument. Details will be given during the month of November.

**The following book will need to be found by the students, but it is not the only text that will be read for the course:**

*The Ballad of Black Tom* by Victor LaValle

[https://www.amazon.com/Ballad-Black-Tom-Victor-LaValle-ebook/dp/B0166PX1Z8/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=ballad+of+black+tom&qid=1597692417&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Ballad-Black-Tom-Victor-LaValle-ebook/dp/B0166PX1Z8/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=ballad+of+black+tom&qid=1597692417&sr=8-1)

*Parasite* (film)

*Parasite* can be found on Vudu as a rental. student can rent the film digitally from different platforms. The professor will also discuss options for this as the semester takes off. If streaming of films is not possible for the student, then the student should contact the professor, via institutional email, to discuss alternatives.

Additional Readings: There will be additional readings that will be sent to the student's institutional email by the professor and/or uploaded to Moodle. These will usually be in PDF format.

**Rules for the class:** Students shall respect classmates, the professor, and the course. If not receiving any material via email from the professor, immediately bring up the issue with the professor. Do not wait till the last minute to fix this.

- **Plagiarism:** INTERNET PLAGIARISM WILL EARN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE AND CAN RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE ENTIRE UPR SYSTEM. If you copy anything from the internet while writing, you must cite it properly.

**Teaching strategies:** Class meetings will consist of analysis and discussion of reading assignments, and conceptual understanding of related issues. The writing assignments are meant to be the rigorous practice of writing skills, and a demonstration of the student's understanding of concepts and subject-matter. Due to Covid-19, classes will be held for only one hour a week to not strain synchronous meetings. Most of the activities and assignments must be completed on the student's own time. The synchronous meetings are to clarify concepts and instructions as well as to add a brief social aspect to the course. The asynchronous work is designed to keep the student engaged in practicing writing and reading skills in the course's subject-matter. There will also be **NO** recordings.

- Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a 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 Impedimiento (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.

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.

**Integridad académica:** La Universidad de Puerto Rico promueve los más altos estándares de integridad académica y científica. El Artículo 6.2 del Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR (Certificación Núm. 13, 2009-2010, de la Junta de Síndicos) establece que “la deshonestidad académica incluye, pero no se limita a: acciones fraudulentas, la obtención de notas o grados académicos valiéndose de falsas o fraudulentas simulaciones, copiar total o parcialmente la labor académica de otra persona, plagiar total o parcialmente el trabajo de otra persona, copiar total o parcialmente las respuestas de otra persona a las preguntas de un examen, haciendo o consiguiendo que otro tome en su nombre cualquier prueba o examen oral o escrito, así como la ayuda o facilitación para que otra persona incurra en la referida conducta”. Cualquiera de estas acciones estará sujeta a sanciones disciplinarias en conformidad con el procedimiento disciplinario establecido en el Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR vigente.