**ENGL 2413**

**EXPLORING LITERATURE: Past and Present**

TR 1:30-2:45 PM

JB 103

Instructor: Sara Gilbert Office: SU 440 (in the Writing Center)

Email: sara.gilbert@okstate.edu Office hours: Tues/Thurs 11 am – 1 pm

*“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.”*

*-*F. Scott Fitzgerald

*“If a book is well written, I always find it too short.”*

-Jane Austen

**Course Description:**

First and foremost, my goal for this semester is to make sure each of you finds excitement in literature: how it relates to your life, how we can use it to grow. I want you to love certain aspects of these stories/novels and hate others—a strong feeling when reading is good and important. I want to have passionate conversations about plots and themes and characters. Throughout the semester, I aim to create a classroom that feels comfortable, productive, and informative. It will be a space to ask questions and grow. We’ll discuss assigned novels and stories in every way we can. If you don’t like something, I want to hear it; if you love something, I want to hear it; if you have an idea about what would have made it better, I want to hear it. There are no wrong answers, only explorations.

**Course Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete ENGL 2413 will:

-Critically analyze the themes, archetypes, and tropes within different literary genres and be able to articulate that analysis within daily discussions.

-Develop an understanding of ways in which different literatures, adaptations, and types of storytelling shape diverse individual identities and voices.

-Demonstrate understanding through written or multimodal work that provides students the opportunity to enhance writing and communication skills.

-Identify, analyze, and apply understandings of basic literary constructs in a novel or story collection of the students’ choosing.

**MATERIALS:**

**Required Texts (in order):**

[*Pride and Prejudice*](https://www.amazon.com/Pride-Prejudice-Bantam-Classics-Austen/dp/0553213105/ref=tmm_mmp_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=) by Jane Austen

[*Where the Crawdads Sing*](https://www.amazon.com/Where-Crawdads-Sing-Delia-Owens/dp/0735219109/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659032660&sr=8-1) by Delia Owens

[*The Yellow Wallpaper*](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/theliteratureofprescription/exhibitionAssets/digitalDocs/The-Yellow-Wall-Paper.pdf) by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

[*Her Body and Other Parties*](https://www.amazon.com/Her-Body-Other-Parties-Stories/dp/155597788X/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659033229&sr=8-2) by Carmen Maria Machado

[*The Picture of Dorian Gray*](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-picture-of-dorian-gray/35075026/?resultid=5b588ca5-06b6-4f42-89b8-4cc40f8aacbd#edition=10209086&idiq=23846212) by Oscar Wilde

**Other materials:**

-One journal, notebook, or word doc for all in-class writings

-Daily access to Canvas (I suggest the smartphone app)

-The ability to check emails daily to see if I have sent any reminders or clarifications about assignments

**Weekly Coursework:**

-Response Writings

-Most classes will start with a 5-10 minute response write. These are nonjudgmental writings on a topic, form, or genre I assign related to the readings for that week. If you arrive late, you miss out. You will keep all of these free writings in a journal/notebook/word doc; make sure to bring this journal/notebook/word doc to class every day. Hopefully, these journals will give you ideas for your assignments, so it’s important to remember them! I will be checking these for completion at the end of the semester (as part of your final grade).

-Quizzes/Pop Quizzes

-I will ONLY give quizzes or pop quizzes if I feel as though students are not taking my class seriously/not reading the material. If/when I do give a quiz, it will be short and simple, just to make sure you are actually reading the material. These grades will go towards the homework/writing portion of the gradebook.

-Assignments

-There will be one assignment at the end of every unit. That assignment will focus on the themes and happenings of the assigned readings within that unit. For these assignments, you will have the option of either a multimodal project OR a paper—you can pick whichever one you are more comfortable with, but I suggest trying the multimodal option at least once (they’re fun and get you out of the monotony of a standard English paper). There will be more about each assignment as we move through the semester. More information about these assignments will be shared closer to the due dates. **If you need an extension on any assignment, you must ask me 24 hours in advance.**

-Discussions:

-We will have class discussions daily about assigned readings. Sometimes these will be verbal discussions, sometimes they will be group related, sometimes there will be activities online or in class that will take the place of a literal discussion. It is important that you come to class having read—pick out things you liked or didn’t, what themes worked and what didn’t, why or why not, what could have made you like things more. Each of these readings, even if you don’t like them, will have something to teach you. It’s okay to be opinionated, and it’s even okay to disagree—I actually encourage disagreeing points of view when it comes to literature.

-Homework:

-All homework will be turned in using MLA formatting. One inch margins, double spaced, Times New Roman, size 12 font. Always create an **original creative** **title** for every assignment. For the header, (top left corner) type the following in this order:

Your name

Gilbert

ENGL 2413

Date

**\*\*REMINDER: SAVE ALL WORK\*\*** Create a folder on your hard drive or computer for this class!

**Classroom Conduct:**

I expect common courtesy and mutual respect in the classroom. Treat everyone the way you want to be treated. Speak kindly and patiently. Rudeness, disrespect, and hateful comments toward anyone in the class will not be tolerated. Also, this class is a safe space: nothing shared within the course can be repeated elsewhere.

**Grading:**

Most of your work will be graded on a labor-based grading scale. That means that if I can tell you’ve put a lot of thought and work into the assignment, you will receive a good grade. However, grades are earned, not given, so you are the one that will be deciding how much effort to put in, and therefore what your grade will be. If you are unsure of where you stand in this course, feel free to talk with me during office hours, but I will not discuss grades through email.

**Grade Breakdown:**

Participation: 15%

Homework/in-class writings/quizzes: 10%

Assignment 1: 15%

Assignment 2: 20%

Assignment 3: 25%

Final: 15%

\*\*NOTE: showing up, trying your best, being courteous, engaging in class discussion, and doing the work are the best way to succeed!\*\*

**Expectations:**

**Participation:**

I understand literature may not be everyone’s passion, but each class member is expected to participate as much as possible. It is worth it to communicate, be vulnerable, engage in thoughtful, respectful dialogue with your peers and myself. Participation is 15% of your final grade, so make sure you are talking in every class meeting. If there are any reasons you cannot share in class, please let me know on the first day of class.

**Preparedness:**

Do your assignments, bring necessary materials to class, keep up with your readings, and give your 100%.

**Email Etiquette:**

I will communicate with you over email regularly (weekly, if not daily). Make sure you are checking your OSU and Canvas emails multiple times a day. If possible, I recommend setting up your email notifications on your phone. When you email me, please write in a professional tone—include a subject, salutation, and your name as a signature.

**Punctuality:**

Come to class on time. Being late will mean that you miss writing activities or discussions. If there is an emergency, get in contact with me as soon as possible. I understand life can happen in ways we don’t expect (especially post-pandemic). If you’re sick or need an extension, literally just let me know via email BEFORE THE DEADLINE.

\*\***If you think you could have COVID-19 or have been exposed to it:** **DO NOT COME TO CLASS**. Simply email me and we’ll figure it out (maybe have a zoom option), but everyone reacts to the virus differently and I don’t want anyone to get sick because of my class.\*\*

**Technology:**

No texting, tweeting, snapchatting, instagraming, tiktoking, etc. during class unless it is directly related to an assignment/activity.That means no laptops or phones out unless otherwise specified or approved. Having your phone out will lower your participation grade by 5% each time. However, if you feel more equipped to use technology, please let me know on the first day. I understand everyone has different learning needs.

**Office Hours:**

Come visit me during my office hours! I’m here for you and want you to succeed and grow as a writer, reader, and academic. We can chat about books, writing, or life or whatever. My first literature classes changed my life and made me want to continue exploring and discussing books, and I hope my class will affect one of you in the same way.

**English Department Policies and Procedures**:

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a qualified disability and need special accommodations for this course, you should notify your instructor and request verification of elegibility for accommodations from the Office of Student Disability Services (315 Student Union) as soon as possible. Accommodations for disabilities cannot be made until the instructor receives a verification letter from the SDS office, and accommodations cannot be made retroactively for assignments already completed or absences already accrued. For more information, call 405-744-7116 or go to <http://sds.okstate.edu>.

Plagiarism:

Please write original work in this course (all assignments will go through Turnitin.com, a plagiarism software). This includes work you completed in high school or here at OSU for another class. According to University Policy, plagiarism is “presenting the written, published, or creative work of another as the student’s own work. Whenever the student uses wording, arguments, data, design, etc., belonging to someone else in a paper, report, oral presentation, or other assignment, the student must make this fact explicitly clear by correctly citing the appropriate references or sources. The student must fully indicate the extrent to which any part or parts of the project are attributed to the others. The student must also provide citations for paraphrased materials.” Plagiarism can result in failure of the course or suspension from the university. For more information, please see the policies listed at <http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu>.

Avoiding Plagiarism:

College can be a demanding and stressful environment, which may make meeting the requirements of an assignment difficult at times. If you are having difficulty completing an assignment, meeting with your instructor and visiting the Writing Center are very productive ways to get back on track. Seeking help from Student Disability Services and from University Counseling Services can be very beneficial as well, depending on your needs. Regardless of where you seek assistance, it is always better to communicate with your instructor (me) when you realize you are having trouble completing something rather than copying someone else's work. Submitting your own work is not only a better choice ethically, but you will get more out of the course and grow more as a writer if you do.

Writing Center:

I am an Assistant Director at the OSU Writing Center and really suggest you use the WC services whenever you can. It is a huge asset, so please remember to utilize it! If you have any issues or questions about the WC, email me or visit the Writing Center's website for information on locations and hours: <http://osuwritingcenter.okstate.edu/>

The Writing Center is a resource for all students, staff, and faculty, not just those who feel that they struggle with writing. Clients are encouraged to make appointments with consultants for any paper for additional feedback. When visiting the Writing Center, it is best to make an appointment in advance, especially during midterms or finals week. The Writing Center is a useful resource, but it is not a proofreading/editing service and it cannot guarantee any specific grade on a completed paper. Instead of simply proofreading or editing, the goal of the Writing Center is to provide tools that enable students to revise, edit, and proofread their own work. Students will need to bring the following items to their consultations:

- The assignment sheet provided by the instructor

- Any rough drafts, prewriting, or process materials

- Any pertinent instructor comments

- Specific questions for the consultant

\*\*This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion—including, but not limited to, my right to move this section online for one or more classes in case of illness or rise in pandemic cases.\*\*

**Schedule**

**(subject to change)**

\*Two classes in September will be held online due to me needing to travel.

Week 1: COURSE INTRODUCTIONS

Tuesday: Syllabus Day

Thursday: What we read and how we read it

Unit 1: Coming of Age

Week 2: *Pride and Prejudice*

Tuesday: Chapters 1-10

Thursday: Chapters 11-20

Week 3: *Pride and Prejudice*

Tuesday: Chapters 21-30

Thursday: Chapters 31-40  
Week 4: *Pride and Prejudice*

Tuesday: Chapters 41-50

Thursday: Chapters 51-61  
Week 5: Coming of Age in other modes

Tuesday: -no readings-

\*Thursday: -no readings-  
Week 6: Assignment: Create your own Coming of Age OR analyze a TV show season

\*Tuesday: Aspects of a Coming of Age story / Conferences

Thursday: Workday  
  
Unit 2: Unreliable Narrators  
Week 7: *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Tuesday: Chapters 1-14

Thursday: Chapters 15-28  
Week 8: *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Tuesday: Chapters 29-43

Thursday: Chapters 44-57

Week 9: *The Yellow Wallpaper*

Tuesday: First half

Thursday: Second half  
Week 10: Assignment: Create an unreliable narration OR analyze a text

Tuesday: Aspects of Unreliable Narration / Conferences

Thursday: Workday

Unit 3: Pushing Boundaries

Week 11: *Her Body and Other Parties*

Tuesday: The Husband Stitch, Mothers

Thursday: Especially Heinous, Real Women Have Bodies

Week 12: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Tuesday: Chapters 1-5

Thursday: Chapters 6-10  
Week 13: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Tuesday: Chapters 11-15

Thursday: Chapters 16-20  
Week 14: start assignment: Murder Mystery Project

Tuesday: Explanation

Thursday: Workday

Week 15: THANKSGIVING WEEK—NO CLASS

Week 16: Finish assignment: Murder Mystery Project / Finals Prep

Tuesday: Workday/Conferences

Thursday: Workday

Week 17: FINALS WEEK—NO CLASS  
ANALYSIS DUE BY THURSDAY DECEMBER 15 BY 11:59 PM