



# Syllabus

## LIT 2000: Introduction to Literature

### Course Information

- *Course Number/Title:* LIT 2000: Introduction to Literature
- *Credit Hours:* 3 (lecture)
- *Academic Term:* Spring 2024

### Section Information

- *Section Number:* 01
- *Class Meeting Time:* MWF, 3:00 PM-3:50 PM
- *Class Meeting Location:* BARC-1158
- *Course Website:* <https://floridapolytechnic.instructure.com/courses/8109>

### Instructor Information

- *Instructor:* Dr. C. Wylie Lenz
- *Office Location:* IST-2064
- *Office Hours:* MWF, 1:30 PM-2:30 PM; also by appointment
- *Email:* [clenz@floridapoly.edu](mailto:clenz@floridapoly.edu)

### Course Description

#### Official Catalog Course Description

This course introduces students to readings in a variety of genres of literature, including the short story, the novel, the play, the poem and the essay; recognition of the formal elements of these genres; and written and oral analysis of specific works representing these genres. The instructor determines the breadth and focus of this survey. This course meets writing-intensive requirements (W). It also satisfies the general education Humanities State Core requirement.

- Prerequisites: ENC 1101: English Composition 1
- Communication/Computation Skills Requirement, i.e., "Gordon Rule" (6A-10.030): Yes

### Required Texts

- Henrik Ibsen, *Ghosts* [ISBN 978-0486298528]
- Jon Krakauer, *Into the Wild* [ISBN 978-0385486804]
- Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, *Watchmen* [ISBN 978-1779501127]
- Suzan-Lori Parks, *Topdog/Underdog* [ISBN 978-1559362016]
- Karen Russell, *Sleep Donation* [ISBN 978-0525566083]
- Colson Whitehead, *The Nickel Boys* [ISBN 978-0345804341]
- Miscellaneous readings (delivered via Canvas)
- [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

## Required Materials and Equipment

For each class meeting, students will need to bring a means of taking notes and the required text under discussion. For in-class exams, students will need lined paper and a pen. For work submitted via Canvas, students will need access to word processing software to create and save .doc or .docx files. (NOTE: Microsoft Office is available to students for free.)

## Course Objectives and Outcomes

### Course Objectives

To provide students with a broad introduction to:

- The formal elements of the various genres that comprise the literary arts, including novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and/or creative nonfiction.
- Major literary periods and movements.
- Modes of textual and contextual criticism and analysis particular to literature.
- Strategies for developing and communicating cohesive, coherent interpretations of literary texts.

### Course Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the structures and conventions of different literary genres.
- Communicate, orally and in writing, original and critical readings of literary texts, using different methods of interpretation and analysis, while identifying and interpreting formal and genre-related elements in the texts.
- Critically assess the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the human experience.
- Identify and explain connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading.

## Program Alignment

### General Education Competencies: Arts and Humanities

The Learning Outcomes for this course align with the Arts and Humanities competencies of the General Education Program; see the Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.floridapoly.edu/>). Through study and practice in the Arts and Humanities, students will learn how questions are posed and how insights and creative responses to them are formulated. Students will

1. Demonstrate critical thinking grounded in well-founded interpretive theory and methods and broad, cultural literacy.
2. Interpret and explain theories and methods behind forms of human expression.
3. Consider the multidirectional impacts between individuals, cultures, and the institutions and technologies they create.
4. Acquire competence in reflecting critically on the human condition.

### AHSS Certificate Outcomes

This course supports the learning outcomes for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Certificate; see the Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.floridapoly.edu/>). Students completing the AHSS Certificate program will demonstrate aptitude in the following areas:

1. **Communication:** Students completing the certificate program will demonstrate the ability to deliver highly polished verbal communication that is appropriate to audience and context.
2. **Analysis and Interpretation:** Students will demonstrate familiarity with a range of analytical frameworks associated with humanities and social science disciplines and apply them thoughtfully to social, historical, and other human phenomena.
3. **Conceptual Translation:** Students will demonstrate the ability to create connections between concepts in one area of human experience and adapt and apply them to another.
4. **Epistemic Awareness:** Students will recognize and describe different frameworks for constructing knowledge in the disciplines and the underlying assumptions, methods, and applications of that knowledge.
5. **Reflective Learning and Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate strategic and reflective learning through course content and develop a healthy critical analysis of one's own responses.

## Academic Support Resources

### Library

Students can access the Florida Polytechnic University Library through the University website and [Canvas](#), on and off campus. Students may direct questions to [library@floridapoly.edu](mailto:library@floridapoly.edu).

### Peer Learning Strategists (PLS)

Are specially trained student leaders who help their peers strategize approaches to course content and work through solution methods. PLS work in collaboration with the courses they support so the content and methods are aligned with your instructors' expectations. Students can meet with a PLS in The Learning Center, which is located on the first floor of the Innovation, Science and Technology (IST) building in room 1019.

### Academic Success Coaches

All students at Florida Poly are assigned an Academic Success Coach. Your Academic Success Coach can assist you with academic success strategies. Please visit the Student Success Center on the second floor of the IST building to meet with an Academic Success Coach.

### Writing Center

Located on the second floor of the IST (2059/2061), the Writing Center helps students to develop their writing and presentation skills. Consultations are available in person and virtually. For more detail, visit <https://floridapoly.edu/writingcenter>.

## Course Policies

### Attendance

Students are expected "to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as defined by the instructor" (University Policy, FPU-5.0010AP). In this class, each student is allowed **five (5) absences** for any reason without penalty. For each subsequent absence for any reason, the student's final grade will drop one letter. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. Students are responsible for keeping track of their attendance.

## Participation

Students are expected to participate in the classroom experience. Participation counts for ten percent of each student's final grade. Mere presence does not equate to participation. Students should arrive for each class with the necessary materials, prepared to answer questions and contribute to discussion. During class, students should refrain from unrelated activities on their various devices; in other words, while attending class, students may use device(s) *only* to take notes, access class materials, collaborate with classmates, and/or complete class activities and assignments (as appropriate). The use of earbuds/headphones during class is specifically not allowed. Students who engage in any of this behavior may be asked to leave the class for the day (noting exceptions for authorized accommodations). Persistent problems with participation may result in a [code of conduct](#) referral.

## Tardiness

Students should refrain from arriving late. In the event that students do arrive late, they should avoid creating disruptions when they enter the classroom. Students arriving more than ten minutes late will be counted absent.

## Assigned Readings

Students are responsible for keeping up with the assigned readings, which are identified in the Class Schedule and by week in each module. Complete the assigned readings before each class meeting. None of the readings should be considered superfluous. Moreover, the instructor is not obligated to reiterate during class all of the content of the assigned readings.

## Assignment Submission

**Students must submit all major assignments (e.g., essays, presentation, midterm exam, final exam) to receive credit for the course**, regardless of their grade. For assignments submitted electronically via Canvas, the file name should include the student's last name and the assignment title (e.g., Smith Essay 1.docx). Note: Microsoft Office 365, which includes Word, is available to students for free.

## Late Policy

A late penalty of a 10% grade reduction may be applied for each full twenty-four-hour period a major assignment is late (not to exceed 50%). Once an assignment closes on Canvas, the student must speak to the instructor before submitting it. Exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis. Additional relevant policies and considerations:

- Students must submit all major assignments (e.g., essays, midterm exam, final exam) to receive credit for the course, regardless of their grade.
- Late responses, in-class assignments, or other small assignments will not be accepted.
- All assignments must be submitted via Canvas; emailed assignments will not be accepted.
- Students are responsible for keeping track of due dates, which are posted in Canvas.
- Students are encouraged to contact the instructor in advance if they know they will be able to submit a major assignment on time, contact me before the due date.
- Students should not assume that the instructor will ask about missing assignments.

## Plagiarism

Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of college rules and regulations. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Any student found to have

committed or to have attempted to commit scholastic dishonesty is subject to sanctions described in the Florida Polytechnic University [Code of Conduct](#).

Plagiarism is a serious violation. You commit plagiarism when you present the ideas or words that you did not generate as your own. You commit plagiarism if you use without crediting the source:

- Any part of any written work, speech, or ideas not your own.
- Any part of a magazine, journal, newspaper, book, blog, social media post, webpage, etc.
- Any idea from another person or writer, even if you express that idea in your own words.

You should never copy and paste something from the internet without putting quoted material in quotation marks and providing its exact location/source.

Students must submit their own original work for this class (i.e., written by the student for the specific assignment given). Students may not have other people or generative AI write parts or all of an assignment. Students may not “recycle” work submitted for a previous class or other purpose for any assignment given in this class without prior approval; self-plagiarism is also a form of academic dishonesty.

All acts of plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment and may result in failure of the course. If students have questions regarding the definition or boundaries of plagiarism, consult the instructor. Ultimately, it does not matter whether a student has committed plagiarism intentionally or accidentally, so student should ensure that they [understand the concept](#).

See also the “Academic Integrity” section under University Policies (below).

### Statement on Intellectual Freedom

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief.

### Classroom Behavior (Civility)

In this class, both in the classroom and online, we will maintain civility. Rude or disruptive behavior will result in a reduction of a student’s final grade. Most basically, during full-class discussion students will refrain from speaking when someone else (either the instructor or a fellow student) is speaking. Additionally, students should be prepared to demonstrate respect for ideas and experiences that may differ from your own.

### Out-of-Class Communication

If you have questions or concerns regarding any aspect of this class—and *the answer cannot be found in available course materials*—I strongly encourage you to visit me during office hours, make an appointment for an alternative meeting time, and/or contact me via email (adhering to appropriate standards of professional communication). Note: It may take me up to 24 hours to respond to email during the work week, and I may be unavailable during weekends. Tip: You’ll probably get a faster reply if you use my university email address ([clenz@floridapoly.edu](mailto:clenz@floridapoly.edu)) rather than the Canvas messaging system.

## Grading Scale

Your final course grade will take the form of a letter grade that reflects a point percentage equivalent. (See also [University Grading Policy](#).)

- A = 93% and above, A- = 90%-92%
- B+ = 87%-89%, B = 83%-86%, B- = 80%-82%
- C+ = 77%-79%, C = 73%-76%, C- = 70%-72%
- D+ = 67%-69%, D = 63%-66%, D- = 60%-62%
- F = 59% and Below

## Assignments/Evaluation Methods

This is a writing-intensive course, so each student enrolled in this class must produce a significant body of writing during the course of the term to receive credit. Students are expected to spend at least two hours completing out-of-class work for each hour in class. The instructor will provide detailed instructions and evaluation criteria for each assignment. Grades will be posted to Canvas as they become available.

Each student's final grade will derive from the following:

- *Homework/Classwork* (15%). Students will complete several brief written assignments (approx. 200-400 words each).
- *Presentation* (5%). Students will give a brief (5-8 minutes) presentation on a literary text.
- *Essays* (40%). Students will write two essays (approx. 1,200-1,500 words each) developing sustained analysis of an assigned literary text.
- *Midterm Exam* (15%). Students will complete an in-class examination on course themes, readings, and discussions.
- *Final Exam* (15%). Students will complete an in-class examination on course themes, readings, and discussions.
- *Participation* (10%). Our class meetings will consist of a combination of lectures and discussions. The only way to receive full credit for participation is to keep up with the reading, remain attentive during class, and contribute to the conversation. On any given day, be prepared with questions and issues to discuss.

## Syllabus and Course Schedule

It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the contents of this syllabus and the course schedule. The syllabus and schedule are subject to change; such changes will be announced via Canvas. Refer to Canvas for access to readings, extended assignment descriptions, and specific due dates. For University deadlines, consult to general Florida Poly academic calendar (<https://floridapoly.edu/academics/academic-calendar/>).

## University Policies

### Reasonable Accommodations

The University is committed to ensuring equal access to all educational opportunities. The University, through the Office of Disability Services (ODS), facilitates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and documented eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to self-identify as a student with disabilities and register with ODS to request accommodations.

If you have already registered with ODS, please ensure that you have requested an accommodation letter for this course through the [ODS student portal](#) and communicate with your instructor about your approved accommodations as soon as possible. Arrangements for testing accommodations must be made in advance. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you are not registered with ODS but believe you have a temporary health condition or permanent disability requiring an accommodation, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS):

DisabilityServices@floridapoly.edu

(863)874-8770

The Access Point

[ODS website: www.floridapoly.edu](http://www.floridapoly.edu) > Student Affairs > Health Wellness > Disability Services

### Accommodations for Religious Observances, Practices and Beliefs

The University will reasonably accommodate the religious observances, practices, and beliefs of individuals in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. (See [University Policy](#).)

### Title IX

Florida Polytechnic University is committed to ensuring a safe, productive learning environment on our campus that prohibits sex discrimination and sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to your professor, but your professors have an obligation to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. It is an educational goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions and in one-on-one meetings. However, it is requirement for university employees to share information with the Title IX Coordinator regarding disclosure. However, please know that your information will be kept private to the greatest extent possible. You will not be required to share your experience. If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the Florida Polytechnic University [Ombuds Office](#), BayCare's Student Assistance Program, 1-800-878-5470 and locally within the community at [Peace River Center](#), 863-413-2707 (24-hour hotline) or 863-413-2708 to schedule an appointment.

### Academic Integrity

A The faculty and administration take academic integrity very seriously. Violations of [academic integrity regulation](#) include actions such as cheating, plagiarism, use of unauthorized resources (including but not limited to use of Artificial Intelligence tools), illegal use of intellectual property, and inappropriately aiding other students. Such actions undermine the central mission of the university and negatively impact the value of your Florida Poly degree. Suspected violations will be fully investigated, possibly resulting in an academic integrity hearing and sanctions against the accused student if found in violation. Sanctions range from receiving a zero on the exam or assignment, to expulsion from the university. Repeat offenders are subject to more severe sanctions and penalties.

See also the "Plagiarism" section under Course Policies (above).

## Recording Lectures

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use.

Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance. Recordings may not be published or shared in any way, either intentionally or accidentally, without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements is a violation of state law (subject to civil penalty) and the student code of conduct (subject to disciplinary action).

*Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), and invited guest speakers **is prohibited**.*

## Course Schedule

Week	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction What is literature? Critical lexicon	Orientation Module Reading and Writing about Literature A Short Guide to Close Reading for Literary Analysis Using Literary Quotations Quoting and Paraphrasing	Orientation Quiz Questionnaire Participation
Week 2	Poetry	Reading poetry: questions Shakespeare, <a href="#">Sonnet 18</a> Shakespeare, <a href="#">Sonnet 130</a> Donne, <a href="#">"The Flea"</a> Shelley, <a href="#">"Ozymandias"</a> Dickinson, <a href="#">"Because I could not stop for Death"</a> Yeats, <a href="#">"The Second Coming"</a>	Participation
Week 3	Poetry Drama	Brooks, <a href="#">"We Real Cool"</a> Larkin, <a href="#">"This Be the Verse"</a> Olds, <a href="#">"I Could Not Tell"</a> Levine, <a href="#">"What Work Is"</a> Brown, <a href="#">"Dear Dr. Frankenstein"</a> TBA Structuring a Literary Analysis Essay Reading drama: questions Ibsen, <i>Ghosts</i>	Response Participation
Week 4	Drama	Ibsen, <i>Ghosts</i> Parks, <i>Topdog/Underdog</i>	Presentations Participation
Week 5	Drama	Parks, <i>Topdog/Underdog</i>	Response Presentations Participation
Week 6	The novel	Reading fiction: questions Whitehead, <i>The Nickel Boys</i>	Presentations Participation
Week 7	The novel	Whitehead, <i>The Nickel Boys</i>	Essay Presentations Participation
Week 8	The novel	Russell, <i>Sleep Donation</i>	Midterm Exam Presentations Participation
Week 9	Spring Break	n/a	n/a



Week 10	The novel The short story	Russell, <i>Sleep Donation</i> Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wall-paper" Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" TBA	Response Presentations Participation
Week 11	The short story	Kincaid, "Girl" O'Brien, "The Things They Carried" TBA	Presentations Participation
Week 12	The short story Literary nonfiction	Lethem, "Super Goat Man" TBA Krakauer, <i>Into the Wild</i>	Presentations Participation
Week 13	Literary nonfiction	Krakauer, <i>Into the Wild</i>	Response Presentations Participation
Week 14	Graphic literature	Moore and Gibbons, <i>Watchmen</i>	Presentations Participation
Week 15	Graphic literature	Moore and Gibbons, <i>Watchmen</i>	Response Presentations Participation
Week 16	Graphic literature Conclusions	Moore and Gibbons, <i>Watchmen</i>	Essay Presentations Participation
Finals	n/a		Final Exam