

ENGL 2201W -- American Literature: Justice in the Nineteenth Century

Section 002 | Fall 2019

T/TH 12:30pm-1:45pm | GENT 101

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Office Hours: Tues&Thurs, 2-3pm

Course Description: This course examines the role of justice in nineteenth-century American literature. As a young nation determined to prove its durability, the United States was heavily invested in the concept of justice. But justice for whom? In this course, we will examine what the idea of justice meant to Anglo men and women, Native Americans, and African Americans. Utilizing the works of authors such as Phyllis Wheatley, William Apess, Henry David Thoreau, and Mary Wilkins Freeman, among others, we will attempt to outline the different concepts of justice in nineteenth-century American literature. Additionally, we will test out these various conceptions of justice upon issues we are faced with today.

This course, as a "W" course, requires 15 pages of revised writing, which we will split across two separate essay assignments. In addition, shorter, "lower-stakes" writing will be required to enable you to investigate a variety of ideas about the texts. Please note that, according to university policy for W courses, you *cannot* pass this course unless you receive a passing grade for the writing assignments.

Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol B (1820-1865) 978-0393264470

Uncle Tom's Cabin (Broadview, 978-1551118062)

Other readings as assigned on HuskyCT

Grading:

Short close-reading paper; research paper: 40%

Class participation, presentations, and quizzes: 20%

Midterm: 15%

Reading responses: 10%

Annotated bibliography: 10%

See course assignment sheet for further information.

Because of the collaborative nature of this course, turning in assignments on time is essential. Please be aware that late papers will result in *half* a letter grade being subtracted from your final grade for the assignment. This includes rough drafts as well as final drafts, which means that submitting both a rough draft and a final draft late for an assignment will result in the loss of a full letter grade. Extensions may be granted, but only with advanced notice. ***Please note that essays submitted online must be in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx). This is a free download so no excuses! Essays submitted in other formats will be treated as late papers and will be docked accordingly.***

Participation and Electronic Devices

Class participation in a course such as this one is essential. Students are expected to take part in class discussions, which will be largely guided by written reading responses. Therefore, absences will be taken seriously.

While the use of electronic copies of the texts is acceptable, phones are absolutely forbidden. Use of a phone during class time will result in an automatic F for that day's participation grade. Additionally, you

will be expected to either bring a written copy of the text *or* a laptop or tablet (if using an e-book) to every class. Students who attend class without either a paper copy of the texts or a laptop/tablet to reference an electronic copy will be given an automatic F for that day's participation grade. Due to the nature of the texts we are reading for this course, use of a phone to reference a text during class is forbidden.

Email and Communications

Please be aware that I frequently use the announcement feature in HuskyCT. You are responsible, therefore, for regularly checking your UConn email, especially if classes are canceled. Note, too, that I will only respond to emails from your official UConn email address.

Writing Center

I strongly encourage you to make use of the Writing Center for your projects. This is a free service and can help you identify weak points in your work. Visit <http://writingcenter.uconn.edu> for more information.

Ethical Scholarship. It is crucial to find and use source legally and ethically. Review and abide by the University's code on academic misconduct (plagiarism and misuse of sources); you will be held responsible for understanding these materials. Anyone found plagiarizing will fail the essay or the course.

Disabilities. If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (Wilbur Cross 2013, 860-486-2020). They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate and provide me with a letter describing those accommodations. All information and documentation is confidential. Please speak with me if you have concerns.

****Please note that course schedule is subject to change**

Week	Day	Date	Due
1	Tuesday	08/27/19	Introductions
	Thursday	08/29/19	Phyllis Wheatley poems (HuskyCT); Lydia Howard Huntley Sigourney (pp. 106-14)
2	Tuesday	09/03/19	William Apess, "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man" (pp. 135-39); Zitkala-Sa, selections from <i>American Indian Stories</i> (HuskyCT)
	Thursday	09/05/19	Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" (pp. 950-68)
3	Tuesday	09/10/19	Mini close-reading assignment due by class time (printed); Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener" (1469-95)
	Thursday	09/12/19	Nathaniel Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineaux" (pp 332-44); "The Minister's Black Veil" (pp. 368-376); "Rappacini's Daughter" (405-24)
4	Tuesday	09/17/19	Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (pp. 1197-1228)
	Thursday	09/19/19	Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (pp. 1197-1228)
5	Tuesday	09/24/19	Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (pp. 1197-1228)
	Thursday	09/26/19	Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" (pp. 1236-38)
6	Tuesday	10/01/19	Individual conferences; rough drafts of Close Reading paper due by conference time
	Thursday	10/03/19	Individual conferences; rough drafts of Close Reading paper due by conference time
7	Tuesday	10/08/19	Short Close Reading paper due by 11:59:59pm
	Thursday	10/10/19	Coates, "The Case for Reparations" (HuskyCT)
8	Tuesday	10/15/19	Midterm
	Thursday	10/17/19	Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
9	Tuesday	10/22/19	Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
	Thursday	10/24/19	Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
10	Tuesday	10/29/19	Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
	Thursday	10/31/19	Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
11	Tuesday	11/05/19	Rebecca Harding Davis, "Life in the Iron Mills" (HuskyCT)
	Thursday	11/07/19	Harriet Jacobs, excerpts from <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (pp. 909-930)

12	Tuesday	11/12/19	Mary Wilkins Freeman, short stories (HuskyCT); research paper topic conference
	Thursday	11/14/19	Research paper topics due by class time
13	Tuesday	11/19/19	Research day
	Thursday	11/21/19	Annotated bibliography due by 11:59:59pm
14	Tuesday	11/26/19	Thanksgiving Break
	Thursday	11/27/19	
15	Tuesday	12/03/19	In-class writing workshops; Research paper rough drafts due by class time
	Thursday	12/05/19	In-class writing workshops

Details on Course Assignments

Reading Responses

Four reading responses are required from each student, submitted through the HuskyCT discussion board. Reading responses are due 24 hours before class time; should be at least 200 words; and refer to the reading section we are discussing in class that day. These should be thoughtful responses; mere summaries of the assigned reading will not be accepted. Students who submit reading responses should come to the following class prepared to guide class discussion that day.

Close Reading Assignment

Working Texts:

- Anything we have read so far

Writing Prompt: You will complete a close reading of your chosen text to demonstrate your perspective of this work. This is an expanded version of the mini-close reading assignment, but here you will do a close reading of the entire text, as opposed to just a paragraph. You do not have to use the same text as you used in the mini-close assignment. If you are using the same text, however, you may incorporate elements from your mini-close reading if they are appropriate. No outside research is allowed here, only an argument based on the text itself is required.

Submission Information

- Rough draft is due by the time of the mini-workshop you have signed up for. Please upload it to the Google Drive folder -- 2019F ENGL2201W/Close Readings -- in a folder with your name on it.
- Your final paper should be at least 4-5 pages (or 1,200-1,500 words) and in MLA format with a Works Cited page.
- Please upload your essay to the 'Close Reading Assignment' folder under 'Upload Papers Here!' on HuskyCT. Essays must be submitted in Word format.
- **Due: Tuesday, Oct. 1st by 11:59:59pm**

Evaluation Criteria: Successful papers will present a cohesive argument about the chosen text using a close reading analysis. Writers should strive to utilize close reading skills to present an original perspective of the work (not just a summarization). Detailed explanations of the author's word choice and phrasing, uses of repetition and cadence, etc. will be necessary to accomplish this. And, of course, papers should be in MLA format.

Annotated Bibliography

You will curate an annotated bibliography of the research you've completed thus far on your paper. Think of this as an organizational tool -- it is a journal of your research. This should be in proper MLA format with a short summary of the piece of research and a sentence or two about how you *might* use it in your rough draft. You don't have to commit to using any of these sources in the final draft; unless you've done really thorough research early on, some of these will likely be dropped, while others will be added. **Note that this is a graded assignment; poor or improper citations will affect your grade.**

Final Paper Assignment

Working Texts:

- Anything we have read this semester

Writing Prompt: You will write a research paper on a specific nineteenth-century concept of justice that appeals to you. You should utilize at least one writer we've read this semester; I recommend not using more than three. Utilizing research both about your nineteenth-century texts and modern news and academic sources, attempt to assess the efficacy of this form of justice. How does this concept you've identified hold up against current issues in American society? What are the benefits and drawbacks from using this concept?

Submission Information

Four separate submissions are required:

1. A 1-2 page explanation of your paper topic. If you're undecided, list the options you're considering. This will be counted as a quiz. **Due: Thursday, Nov. 14th by class time in the Google Drive 'Final Papers' folder under a folder with your name.**
2. Rough draft (at least 6 pages) is **due Tuesday, Dec. 3rd by class time in the same Google Drive folder.**
3. A final draft of 11-12 pages (or about 3,300-3,600 words) is **due Saturday, December 14th by 11:59:59pm.** This must be uploaded to HuskyCT under "Upload Papers Here!" and must be in Word format (.doc. or.docx). Papers submitted in alternative formats will be counted as late submissions with the consequent penalties.

Evaluation Criteria: Successful papers will present a cohesive argument about the chosen text using adequate and relevant research. **At least eight secondary sources must be utilized, half of which must come from peer-reviewed sources.** Papers should not merely represent a collection of other research out there, but should represent the writer's own unique theory of the texts. And, of course, all papers should be in MLA format.