

Syllabus for English 4: Why Literature Matters

Semester & Year:Fall 2020

Course ID & Section #: ENGL-4: E9749

Course units: 3

Dr. Sean Thomas

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Course Texts:

1. Kelly J. Mays (ed). *Norton Introduction to Literature* (Shorter Thirteenth Edition)

Publisher: W.W. Norton and Co. (2018/2019).

Paperback ISBN: 978-0393664942

Electronic textbook ISBN: 978-0393664942

1. Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (Vintage Edition-this is important!)

Publisher: Vintage (1995)

Paperback ISBN: 978-0679732761

Catalog Description

Explore representative works from major genres to learn how humans use literature in various ways, and in different historical and cultural contexts (including both oral and written traditions) to represent themselves, others, and the world around them. Develop your close reading and analytical writing skills, and gain a deeper understanding of how and why literary expression matters, culturally, historically, and aesthetically.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Discuss the shaping influence of major historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts on literature.
2. Utilize literary terms and concepts effectively in their written work/
3. Demonstrate the ability to use close- and analytical-reading strategies in writing critically about literature.

Prerequisites

ENGL1A - College Composition

From the official course outline of record: "As the C-ID descriptor for its equivalent course (English 120) states, students who take English 4 should have previously completed English 1A or its "equivalent." In order to successfully work with the course content and complete the assignments, students should have already demonstrated the following:

- the "capacity to read, analyze and evaluate non-fiction texts in support of academic inquiry and argumentation" (ENGL 1A, CLO #1);
- the ability to "utilize flexible strategies for writing expository and argumentative college-level essays" (English 1A, CLO #2);
- and the understanding of how to "incorporate primary and secondary sources into essays using appropriate documentation format" (ENGL 1A, CLO #3)."

Accessibility

Students will have access to online course materials that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Students who discover access issues with this class should contact the instructor.

College of the Redwoods is also committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

During COVID19, approved accommodations for distance education classes will be emailed to the instructor by DSPS. In the case of face to face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments cannot usually be accommodated.

Support for online learners during COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, College of the Redwoods moved the majority of its courses online to protect health and safety. As the faculty and students adjust to this change, clear communication about student needs will help

everyone be successful. Please let me know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. I want every student to thrive.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

My approach to professorship involves using a grading contract and co-creating the course as much as is possible with students. During the first week of class, we will establish the grading contract. This method for assigning final grades at the end of the semester allows you to earn a grade that is based upon the work that you put into the course and a transparent set of criteria that we establish collaboratively. I will post those criteria here once they are set for our class.

It is very important that instructors and students have regular, effective contact. Here is my commitment to you when it comes to communication and feedback:

- Within the framework of my work schedule, I will reply to your messages within 24 hours
- I will create meaningful learning activities that connect directly to the skills you will be learning in this class, with real-time feedback so you can see when you're making progress.
- I will facilitate and monitor regular threaded discussions between students in both small and big groups, so you learn skills in a highly interactive and supportive cohort.
- I will read and evaluate your critical practices within one week of submission, including your discussion posts.
- I will grade your essays within two weeks of submission, and if I'm unable to meet that deadline, I will let you know why.
- I will post Weekly Announcements that relate directly to the progress you've made as a class and the direction you're headed.
- I will adjust elements of the class, syllabus, and schedule if they aren't working for some reason. You can e-mail me or send me a Canvas message if you don't think something is working.
- To provide you with one-to-one and/or group support, I will meet with you in person, on the phone, or through video conferencing during office hours, or outside of office hours, including my weekends and holidays if arranged in advance. Because I am working from home due to COVID-19, you may use my personal cell phone to call or text me.

Assignments

“Low-stakes” assignments

In a typical week of this class, you will watch or listen to short video lectures and podcasts that I generate in response to the learning needs of the class as we move along. You also will be reading, quite a bit actually, in addition to engaging in discussion forums, taking low-stakes quizzes to reinforce your learning, and completing other online assignments, such as FlipGrid dialog, collaborative reading activities in Perusal, and group document analysis in Pages. These assignments are meant to foster interaction between everyone in the class and help you achieve the learning objectives in a manner at least equivalent to an onsite course.

“High-stakes” assignments

Two formal essays using MLA format and documentation style.

Short-essay midterm.

Short-essay final exam.

Course Schedule

During the first week of class, we will co-create our sequence of reading selections from the material presented in the Norton Introduction to Literature. There's just one exception to this collaborative model: I happen to be studying the Harlem Renaissance right now, so I am picking Chapter 28 as something that we will read in mid-November before turning to one of my all-time favorite novels, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*.

Week One: Sept 7-13: Intro to the class

Week Two: Sept. 14-20. Fiction. Reading TBA

Week Three: Sept. 21-27. Fiction. Reading TBA

Week Four Sept. 28-October 4. Fiction. Reading TBA **10/4: Essay #1 Due**

Week Five October 5-11 Fiction: Reading TBA

Week Six October 12-18. Fiction: Reading TBA

Week Seven October 19-25 Poetry: Reading TBA **10/25: Midterm Due**

Week Eight October 26-November 1: Reading TBA

Week Nine November 2-8 11/8: Reading: TBA

Week Ten November 9-15. Reading: Norton Chapter 28 **11/15: Essay #2**

Week Eleven November 16-22 *Invisible Man*

Week Twelve November 30-December 6 *Invisible Man*

Week Thirteen December 7-13 Reading TBA

Finals week: December 14-17 **12/15 Final due**

Other Important Information

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies

Fall 2020 Dates

- *Classes begin: 8/22/20*
- *Last day to add a class: 8/28/20*
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 9/4/20*
- *Labor Day (all-college holiday): 9/7/20*
- *Census date: 9/8/20 or 20% into class duration*
- *Last day to petition to file P/NP option: 9/18/20*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: 10/29/20*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): 10/30/20*
- *Last day for faculty initiated W (no refund): 10/30/20*
- *Veteran's Day (all-college holiday): 11/11/20*
- *Fall break (no classes): 11/23/20-11/28/20*
- *Thanksgiving (all-college holiday): 11/25/20-11/27/20*
- *Final examinations: 12/12/20-12/18/20*
- *Semester ends: 12/18/20*
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately 1/8/21*

Students who have experienced extenuating circumstances can complete & submit the ***Excused Withdrawal Petition*** to request an Excused Withdrawal (EW) grade instead of the current Withdrawal (W) or non-passing (D, F & NP) grades. The EW Petition is available from the Admissions and Records Forms Webpage. Supporting documentation is required.

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Setting Your Preferred Name in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. It does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help-Student>

Canvas online orientation workshop: <https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Home/Student-Resources/Canvas-Resources>

Community College Student Health and Wellness

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).

[Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu.

Emergency procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones. Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into WebAdvisor <https://webadvisor.redwoods.edu> and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions. For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel

Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

Del Norte Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [Crescent City campus emergency map](#) for campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

Eureka Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [campus emergency map](#) for evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information on Public Safety go to the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#) It is the responsibility of College of the Redwoods to protect life and property from the effects of emergency situations within its own jurisdiction.

In the event of an emergency:

1. Evaluate the impact the emergency has on your activity/operation and take appropriate action.
2. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
3. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111 and inform them of the situation, with as much relevant information as possible.
4. Public Safety shall relay threat information, warnings, and alerts through the Everbridge emergency alert system, Public address system, and when possible, updates on the college website, to ensure the school community is notified.
5. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet, (evacuation to a safe zone, shelter in place, lockdown, assist others if possible, cooperate with First Responders, etc.).
6. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
7. Do not leave campus, unless it is necessary to preserve life and/or has been deemed safe by the person in command.

Klamath Trinity Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the responsibilities of, and procedures used by, the College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to communicate to faculty, staff, students and the general public during an emergency. It is the responsibility of College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to protect life and property from the effects of emergency situations within its own jurisdiction.

1. In the event of an emergency, communication shall be the responsibility of the district employees on scene.
2. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
3. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
4. If safe to do so, personnel shall relay threat information, warnings, to ensure the school community is notified.
5. Contact Jolene Gates 530-625-4821 to notify of situation.
6. Contact Hoopa Tribal Education Administration office 530-625-4413

7. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111.
8. In the event of an emergency, the responsible district employee on scene will:
9. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet.
10. Lock all doors and turn off lights if in lockdown due to an active shooter or similar emergency.
11. Close all window curtains.
12. Get all inside to safe location Kitchen area is best internal location.
13. If a police officer or higher official arrives, they will assume command.
14. Wait until notice of all is clear before unlocking doors.
15. If safe to do so, move to the nearest evacuation point outside building (Pooky's Park), directly behind the Hoopa Tribal Education Building.
16. Do not leave site, unless it has been deemed safe by the person in command. Student Support Services (required for online classes)

Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides financial assistance, support and encouragement for eligible income disadvantaged students at all CR locations.
- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#)
- The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821