

**Rochester Institute of Technology**  
**Department of English**  
**ENG 210: Literature and Cultural Studies**

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**Instructor**  
Dani Garcia

**Contact Information**  
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**Office Hours**  
Email for an appointment

**Office Location**  
Zoom

**Course Description**

In this course, students will study literature, movements, and writers within their cultural contexts and in relation to modes of literary production and circulation. Students will hone their skills as attentive readers and will engage with literary analysis and cultural criticism. The class will incorporate various literary, cultural, and interdisciplinary theories--such as psychoanalytic theory, feminist and queer theories, critical race studies, and postcolonial theory. Using these theoretical frameworks in order to study texts, students will gain a strong foundation for analyzing the ways literary language functions and exploring the interrelations among literature, culture, and history. In doing so, they will engage issues involving culture, identity, language, ethics, race, gender, class, and globalism, among many others.

**Course Goals**

- To develop analytical skills through reading, discussion, and writing
- To develop critical thinking skills through close reading of literary texts, cultural artifacts, and critical/analytical essays on these subjects
- To introduce the skills, principles, and terminology of literary interpretation
- To gain an appreciation for the art and politics of literary and cultural representations
- To develop an awareness of the correlation between literary and cultural artifacts and their social and cultural contexts
- To gain a broad understanding of genres—in literary, oral, aural, and visual media—as well as how these genres can interact with one another.
- To become familiar with scholarly and popular debates over literary canons, critical analysis, and cultural studies

**Course Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze texts and themes in literature
- Analyze or construct arguments, considering their premises, assumptions, contexts, and conclusions, and anticipating counterarguments
- Interpret literary and/or cultural texts
- Identify correlations between literary and cultural texts and their social and cultural contexts
- Articulate the defining characteristics of relevant literary and/or cultural texts
- Interpret and evaluate artistic expression considering the cultural context in which it was created
- Express themselves effectively in common college-level written forms using standard American English
- Revise and improve written products

**Course Methodology**

ENG 210 is a literature course and, therefore, is reading intensive. Texts, lectures, videos, radio broadcasts, writing activities, and class discussions will be used to clarify the complexities and nuances of the literature presented in this class.

## Texts & Required Materials

This class will make use of the works of fiction listed below. In addition to these required stories, students will need to select one additional text to read outside of class. Information on this additional work of fiction will be disseminated in Week 4.

Octavia Butler, "Bloodchild"  
Ps. Apollodorus, "Theseus and the Minotaur"  
Jorge Luis Borges, "The House of Asterion"  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"  
Collected Myths "Vagina Dentata"  
Asimov, Isaac, *I, Robot*  
Hesiod, "The Myth of Prometheus"  
Mary Shelly, *Frankenstein*

To supplement the works of fiction under examination in this class, several theoretical texts will be assigned as well. All readings will be uploaded to the MyCourses course site (<http://mycourses.rit.edu>). Students are expected to bring **all** ENGL 210 notes, texts, and course documents to every class session. Also, please bring a pen/pencil and paper to each class. Furthermore, students are expected to possess basic computer skills and to have access to a working computer, printer, speaker, webcam, and microphone as well as access to the internet.

## Course Expectations and Requirements

Your final grade is calculated in the following manner:

Category	Total % value per category	<b>Participation &amp; Engagement (P&amp;E)</b> Students do not receive credit for attendance
Participation & Engagement (EP)	20%	
Discussion Questions (DQ)	5%	
Reading Check-ins (RC)	5%	
Reading Response Tasks (RRT)	25%	
Essay Tasks (ET)	45%	
Total	100%	

in this class. Instead, students will receive credit for course participation and discussion. Your original, thoughtful, and reasoned opinions, feedback, and ideas are invaluable to your classmates, so it is critical that you engage in class. Your P&E grade considers your contributions in class and your overall preparation for class discussion. To earn full points, you should do the following:

- Complete all prep work before attending class
- Bring all ENGL 210 materials to each class session
- Be present in discussions at the appropriate times (e.g., come to class on time and stay for the duration of the class period, return from breaks on time, etc.)
- Engage fully in class while avoiding distractions or becoming distracting. Use laptops or cell phones only when directed to for class work.
- Answer questions fully and thoughtfully in your own words and expressing your own independent ideas while avoiding simple or overly general comments
- Listen to others and avoid restating what has already been said
- Respond intelligently and respectfully to the comments of other students
- Offer ideas in small group discussions and work collaborative when needed
- Follow instructions
- Follow courteous listening and communication protocols and netiquette standards
- Complete the Participation & Engagement Self Evaluation and submit it on-time during the three submission periods

To earn credit for P&E students submit the Participation & Engagement Self Evaluation. This self-evaluation will be made available three times during the semester. Self-evaluations will be accepted up to 5 days late at a penalty (see late policy). Failure to submit your Participation & Engagement Self Evaluation will result in a score of zero for that submitting period. Once submitted, your responses will be reviewed and compared to the instructor's records. A score will then be assigned based on both the student's reflection and the instructor's records. Please note that consistent inaccurate self-reporting of participation and engagement is academic dishonesty and may result in penalties.

Be aware that participation and discussion cannot be made up. Students who miss class are still responsible for turning in work on time. Additionally, students are responsible for speaking with classmates to collect any documents, notes or news. I cannot recap missed classes over email. However, students are welcome to come to my office hours to review the missed material and/or address any questions.

### **Discussion Questions (DQ)**

Each student is required to submit two discussion questions about the assigned reading for a class session of their choice. These questions must be original and written by the student. They can address formal elements, interrogate choices made by the author, or engage any other form of analysis of the reading. Discussion questions will contribute to the organization of discussion during that session. Discussion questions must be submitted via MyCourses 48 hours before the selected class session (individual due dates can be found on MyCourses). Discussion questions will not be accepted late. Please note that all writings must be written by the student submitting work and written specifically for this class.

### **Reading Check-ins (RC)**

Reading Check-ins will be assigned over the course of the semester. These Reading Check-ins will be given online. Students will be given a two-day window to complete each check-in. These check-ins will cover the theoretical readings assigned in the class. Reading Check-ins will not be accepted late.

### **Reading Response Task (RRT)**

Students will be required to write and submit RRTs to MyCourses. Each RRT will respond to a provided prompt. Responses should fully address the prompt, make use of course readings, contain your original claims/thoughts, and follow the guidelines discussed in class. In each RRT, students are expected to use examples from the texts as evidence to support your claims and to cite sources. These RRTs must be completed independently unless otherwise noted. RRTs are typically graded within two weeks of the due date. RRTs will be accepted up to 5 days late at a penalty (see late policy). Further, please note that *late* tasks will be graded at the instructor's convenience and may receive little to no feedback. Please note that all writings must be written by the student submitting work and written specifically for this class.

### **Essay Tasks (ET)**

Students will be required to produce one essay (5-7 pages) that discusses an aspect of the material covered in the class. Essay Tasks will be completed over several weeks and will include multiple graded steps. A specific prompt and criterion will be disseminated in Week 4. Please keep in mind that all essays must be typed using size 12 Times New Roman Font with 1-inch margins, double spaced, and in appropriate MLA 8 format. Assignments should also bear the following information: your name, course number and title, date of submission, and your instructor's name. All Essay Tasks should be submitted via MyCourses by the indicated due date.

Essay Tasks will be accepted up to 5 days late at a penalty (see late policy). If submitted on-time, Essay Tasks will typically be graded within two to three weeks of the due date. Late tasks will be graded at the instructor's convenience and may receive little to no feedback. Please note that all writings must be written by the student submitting work and written specifically for this class.

### Grade Scale

At the end of the term your final grade will be calculated using the following grade scale:

Percentage	Plus/Minus Equivalent	Institute GPA Equivalent
93.00-100.00	A	4.00
90.00-92.99	A-	3.67
87.00-89.99	B+	3.33
83.00-86.99	B	3.00
80.00-82.99	B-	2.67
77.00-79.99	C+	2.33
73.00-76.99	C	2.00
70.00-72.99	C-	1.67
60.00-69.99	D	1.00
<60.00	F	0.00

### Late Policy

MyCourses tracks submissions and documents when a task is submitted. Please note that, for any task (P&E, DQ, RC, RRT, and ET) to be considered on-time, it must be fully completed and uploaded **before** the due date and time.

Participation & Engagement Self-evaluations (P&E), Reading Response Tasks (RRT), and Essay Tasks (ET) will be accepted late at a penalty of 7% per day (or partial day) and will only be accepted up to five days late.

Due to time constraints, Discussion Questions (DQs) and Reading Check-ins (RC) will not be accepted late except under the most extraordinary circumstances.

For example:

Kevin completed the ET3 and earned a score of 35/35. However, he submitted the task late. The table on page 6 provides a breakdown of how completing the task late will impact his score.

Adjusted Essay 1 scores example						
Starting test score	1 ns. to 24 hrs. late	24 hrs. and 1 ns. to 48 hrs. late	48 hrs. and 1 ns. to 72 hrs. late	72 hrs. and 1 ns. to 96 hrs. late	96 hrs. and 1 ns. to 120 hrs. late	120 hrs. and 1 ns.
35/35	32.55/35	30.1/35	27.65/35	25.2/35	22.75/35	0

Please note that any assignment or task submitted late will be graded at the instructor's convenience and will receive little to no feedback.

### Email Policy

Students are encouraged to email the instructor with questions, concerns, and information throughout the semester. To protect the confidentiality of student information, it is critical that students send emails via their student email account. All emails must minimally include:

- A subject line that indicates the nature of the email (e.g., A question about the essay, or Clarification on literary symbolism).
- The name of the sender
- The class name and section

Also, keep in mind that an email should include 1 to 2 specific questions or comments that can be reasonably addressed via email. Emails sent from a student email account that require a response will be replied to by the end of the following business day. Be aware that emails that do not require a response will not receive one. Therefore, it is in your best interest to ask questions explicitly.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

As an institution of higher learning, RIT expects students to behave honestly and ethically at all times, especially when submitting work for evaluation in conjunction with any course or degree requirement. The Department of English encourages all students to become familiar with the RIT Honor Code and with RIT's Academic Integrity Policy. Please pay attention to policies that pertain to plagiarism and cheating. **If plagiarism or cheating is detected, a zero will be assigned for the assignment in which the offense was discovered, and the incident will be reported to the appropriate authorities at RIT.** Be aware that leaking quiz or discussion information to students and recycling essays, discussion board posts, or homework assignments, and providing inaccurate information about participation & engagement also constitutes academic dishonesty and will be treated as serious academic misconduct.

- RIT Honor Code: <https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/p030>
- RIT Academic Integrity Policy: <https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/d080>

### **Statement on Reasonable Accommodations**

RIT is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request accommodations such as special seating or testing modifications due to a disability, please contact the Disability Services Office. It is located in the Student Alumni Union, Room 1150; the Web site is [www.rit.edu/dso](http://www.rit.edu/dso). After you receive accommodation approval, it is imperative that you see me during office hours so that we can work out whatever arrangement is necessary.