**Engl 103 A08, Case Studies in Research, Spring 2018**

**Course Outline and Policies**

|  |
| --- |
| **Dr. Chowdhury**  **HC 4-73**  **Thurs: 11:00-12:30**  **And also by appointment**  **ahsan@ualberta.ca** |

**Course Description and Objectives**: This course is designed to introduce students to research methods using a selection of literary texts in English that span different time periods and cultures. Two non-fiction films and a fictional film are also included. Although the main focus is going to be on the cultural and historical contexts, we will also take time to appreciate the language, style and literary devices in these texts that contribute to meaning-making. The ultimate goal is to learn how to discuss the texts and their contexts in a thoughtful manner by placing them in a conversation with the ongoing discussion by scholars and well-informed readers and also to produce insightful and readable written appreciation of these texts. In this regard, we will learn how to cite sources using the MLA style. One of the most important topics in this course is the American Dream and its mutations across gender, class, race/ethnicity, and culture.

**Format:** The lecture will cover important stylistic as well as historical and cultural issues pertinent to the assigned readings. You should expect to be given unannounced closed-book reading quizzes and exercises on a weekly basis. You will also be required to engage in group activities and discussions. A total of 30% of class time will be devoted to writing and writing instructions that will be delivered in different formats such as take-home essay assignments, guided revision of drafts, homework, exercises, and so on. Some of these writing assignments are going to be marked while others will be counted as part of your class participation. Given this format, you must attend the lectures regularly if you wish to obtain a decent course grade.

**Required Texts:**

**Long Reading:**

*The Great Gatsby,* written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Published by Broadview Press.

. ISBN 9781551113944.

You can buy the above novel from the University Bookstore.

**Short Readings:** See eClass for PDF copies or links to a selection of short stories, poems and articles.

**Fiction Film**: (*Since we will view only selected scenes in class as we discuss the film, you are required to view the entire film on your own by borrowing the DVD version from the U of a Libraries or using some other legal source.*)

*Slumdog Millionaire*. Released in 2009 by 20th-Century Fox. Contributors:

Danny Boyle, Dev Patel, & Frieda Pinto.

**Non-fiction Films: (***These are available as streaming videos on U of A Libraries catalog. Since we will view only selected scenes in class as we discuss the films, you are required to view the entire films on your own*.)

*A Requiem for the American Dream*

https://ualberta.kanopystreaming.com/video/requiem-american-dream

*The Overspent American*

https://ualberta.kanopystreaming.com/video/overspent-american-why-we- want-what-we-do-not-need

**Evaluation:**

**Term Work: 10**0% of final grade

**Distribution of Marks for Term Work:**

**Assignments Due Dates Weight**

1. **Close-Reading Assignment May 17** 10%

(250-300 words, approx.

To be written in class)

1. **Literary Analysis Essay May 29** 25%

**with Contextual Knowledge**

(1000-1200 words, approx)

3. **Research & Final Essay Planning June 5** 10%

**Assignment**

**(400-500 words, approx.)**

4. ***Slumdog Millionaire* in-Class Essay June 7** 15%

**(300-400 words, approx)**

5. **Final Essay** (1500-1700 words, approx) **June 15** 30%

6. **Class-Participation Portfolio June 15** 10%

Will be made up of active participation,

reading quizzes, exercises, homework, and all the major graded

assignments and their drafts. Instructor

will assign the final mark based

on student’s self-assessment and his own evaluation

**Grading criteria:** timely completion, thoughtfulness, ability to

follow instructions, respect for course policies) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Term Work:** 100%

**There is no Final Examination in Engl 103. Your final course grade will be determined by your total term-work mark.**

**Grading System:**

A+ (4.0) C+ (2.3)

A (4.0) C (2.0)

A- (3.7) C- (1.7)

B+ (3.3) D+ (1.3)

B (3.0) D (1.0)

B- (2.7) F (0)

A more detailed grading chart is available on eClass.

**N. B. There are no bell curves** in this or in any other English courses offered by the University of Alberta English Department.

**English Department Grading Guidelines**: This document is available as a PDF file on eClass.

**Course Policies**: Failure to honor these policies will result in reduced marks in assignments and class participation

1. **Class Participation**—Class participation includes regular attendance, prompt arrival to class, having the reading done before class, actively engaging in class discussions, group work, and writing workshops. In addition to being physically present in class, you should aim to prove to your instructor that you have not only completed the assigned reading before coming to class but have also thought about it carefully.

You can do so by **a)** correctly answering all the unannounced reading quizzes **b)** completing all the homework on time **c)** completing all the in-class exercises on time **d)** verbally answering the questions regarding the readings asked by the instructor, and/or adding to what has already been said by another student or the instructor **e)** asking pertinent questions **f)** actively contributing to small group discussions

You should strive to contribute in all the above categories consistently well throughout the term and save all quizzes, exercises, homework, and drafts of major graded writing assignments as evidence of your participation. The class participation mark will be determined by the instructor after the 15th of June based on the following: **a**) the completeness as well as the quality of the Portfolio **b**) your own assessment of your participation in the lecture and the tutorial **c**) his own assessment. **Please find the Participation Self-Assessment Report Assignment on eClass.**

Your self-assessment must be truthful, fair (to your hardworking classmates and the long- suffering instructor), courteous, and reasonable. The instructor reserves the right to amend it should he feel that it is incompatible with his impression of your class participation in comparison with your hardworking classmates’.

If you fail to submit the self-assessment report by the due date in person, the instructor will rely on his own estimation of your participation to assign you a mark in this category.

**If you miss classes, you are responsible for a) collecting the class notes from a classmate b) coming to the instructor’s office to establish that you are caught up with the readings.**

1. Food, Drink, and Gadgets—I do not allow any electronic devices in class unless you are using a laptop or iPad to take class notes or an EBook reader to follow the assigned reading. **Voice recorders and cameras are forbidden unless I expressly allow you to use them**. Although you may bring a bottle of water or a soda and discrete snacks (cereal bars, for instance) you may not bring any substantial food to class.
2. **Essays**—out of class essays and assignments are due **(typed, printed, and stapled) at the beginning of class on the due date**. Your essays should not be faxed or e-mailed to me or to the Department of English and Film Studies. Unless otherwise specified, essays will be returned within **two-three** weeks from the date they were submitted. **Late assignments will be docked 5% per day unless accompanied by a doctor’s note clearly stating that you require an extension for missed school work**. If you know that you are going to be absent on the due date because you have to travel out of town, you must arrange for the essay to be delivered to the classroom on the due date or submit it in advance. The instructor may permit you to email the assignment under extenuating circumstances on the condition that you will submit an identical printout as soon as you return to class. **This policy applies to all students, including U of A athletes**.
3. **Missed Assignments, Make-Ups, and Extensions**: It is your responsibility to inform the instructor immediately—within 48 hours of the due date—that you missed an assignment for a valid reason**. Vague physical or mental discomfort, heavy work load, registering late for this course, car breaking down, missing the bus, printer or computer malfunction are not valid excuses**. Only if you can establish that you had a valid reason (ex: serious illness documented by a doctor or traffic accident documented by a police officer) for missing an assignment, the instructor will allow you to make up. Otherwise, he reserves the right to assign you an ‘F’ for missed assignments.
4. **Contacting the Instructor**—I have listed my office location, office hours, and e-mail address at the top of this syllabus. I encourage you to contact me with any questions, concerns, or thoughts you have regarding the course content, your assignments, and/or your progress. You do not need to make an appointment to see me during my office hours. I will receive and respond to your message within two business days**. Please maintain a courteous tone in your email messages and proofread them carefully before pressing the send button**.
5. **Course Outlines**—“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar” (GFC 29 Sep 2003).
6. **Plagiarism and/or Cheating**: “The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour available online at

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>)

and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003)

For the department of English and Film Studies Department guidelines on plagiarism and/or cheating, consult the PDF file available on eClass.

Also, consult the following online citation guides to learn how to document sources: the official citation style for this course is the MLA style

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/citing>

U of A Centre for Writers is a valuable resource with regards to citation and other essential writing skills

<http://c4w.ualberta.ca/>

1. **Appeals**—Students should consult the procedures regarding reassessment of term work and final examination in the *Regulations Pertaining to First Year Courses* available in PDF format on eClass.
2. **Special Needs and Accommodations**: If you are a student who has a documented special need, it is your responsibility to register with the SAS (Students Accessibility Services) located at

**1-80 Students' Union Building  
 8900 - 114 Street  
 University of Alberta  
 Edmonton AB T6G 2J7**

**Email:**[**sasrec@ualberta.ca**](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca)**Phone: 780-492-3381  
 Fax: 780-248-1665  
 Website:**[**www.ssds.ualberta.ca**](https://deanofstudents.sitecore.ualberta.ca/sitecore/shell/Controls/Rich%20Text%20Editor/www.ssds.ualberta.ca)

Please provide the instructor with an official letter from the SAS clearly indicating the nature of necessary accommodation.

1. **Student Conduct in Classroom**: Please refrain from engaging in personal conversations, loud laughter, texting, net surfing, doing homework or reading for another class, and any other unacceptable activity that could interrupt the class. If you have an emergency and need to arrive late or leave the classroom early, please notify the instructor ahead of time. **Please understand that if emergencies occur frequently, they stop being “emergencies” and become a “problem.”**

Your class participation mark could be drastically reduced (staring at 10% to up to 50% depending on the seriousness of violations) if you do not honor the above policies.

**Tentative Weekly Schedule**

**(All these are due dates meaning that you are required to complete the reading or writing assignment before coming to class)**

**Week 1**

May 8:

-“Richard Cory” by Edwin Arlington Robinson

-“The American Dream” by Ron Wallace

-“American Dreams” by Louis Marrantz Simpson

- “Volar” by Judith Ortiz Cofer

May 10:

-“Barn Burning” by William Faulkner

- *Requiem for the American Dream* non-fiction film discussion

- Article(s) about the American Dream

**Week 2**

May 15:

-“Entrepreneur” by Angie Pelekidis

- “Cathedral” by Raymond Carver

- Article(s) about the American Dream

May17:

-“On being Brought from Africa to America” by Phillis Wheatley

-“A Letter from Phillis Wheatley” by Robert Hayden

- “Ode to a Nightingale” by John Keats

- **Close-reading Para written in class (10%)**

**Week 3**

May 22:

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald chap. 1-3

- *The Overspent American* non-fiction film discussion

May 24:

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald chap. 4-5

- TBA

- **First Draft of Literary Analysis Essay due for peer-edit in class**

**Week 4**

May 29:

- **Final draft of Literary Analysis Essay (25%) due for marking**

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald chap. 6-7

- TBA

May 31:

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald chap. 8-9

- *Slumdog Millionaire* Discussion

**Week 5**

June 5:

- **Research & Essay Planning Assignment (10%) Due for marking**

- *Slumdog Millionaire* Discussion

- TBA

June 7:

- ***Slumdog Millionaire* mini-essay (15%) written in class**

- “Border Crossing” by Susan Thornton

Week 6

June 12:

- TBA

- Course Review

June 15:

**- Final Essay (first draft + final draft 30%) due for marking**

- **Class Participation Self-Assessment and Portfolio (10%) due for marking**

**at Instructor’s office between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.**