

Community: What Do We Owe Each Other?

The University of Iowa
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Fall 2024

Interpretation of Literature: ENGL:1200: 0017

9:30 – 10:45am TTh 208 EPB

Department of English: <https://english.uiowa.edu/undergraduate>

Course ICON site: To access the course site, log into [Iowa Courses Online \(ICON\)](https://icon.uiowa.edu/index.shtml) <https://icon.uiowa.edu/index.shtml> using your Hawk ID and password.

Course Home

For Undergraduate Courses: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the home of this course, and CLAS governs the add and drop deadlines, academic misconduct policies, and other undergraduate policies and procedures. Other UI colleges may have different policies.

Instructor: Conor Hilton

Office Location: 62 EPB

Zoom Office:

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/99832493228?pwd=eVNSOGJlYnJVenBvZ1h0djkvbm0ydz09>

Student drop-in hours: 11:30-12:30 M, 10:45-11:45 TTh and by appointment.

Email: conor-hilton@uiowa.edu

Department Chair: Loren Glass, loren-glass@uiowa.edu, 308 EPB.

Department Main Office: 308 EPB

Course Supervisor: Bluford Adams, Bluford-adams@uiowa.edu, 458 EPB, (319) 335-0461.

Course Description

This course will explore the intersections of literature and community across time, space, genre, and a variety of demographics. Our discussions will be animated by questions such as, “What do we owe each other?”, “how do we build and create community?”, and “how do we balance individuality and interdependence?”.

We’ll discuss the beauty and suffering of rural America embodied in The Killers’ *Pressure Machine*! We’ll explore the obligations of a creator to their creation in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*! We’ll dig into the horror and applicability of the Salem Witch Trials as depicted in Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*!

These conversations will be enriched by our engagement with speculative short stories, contemporary poetry, blockbuster films, the history of utopian communities, and so much more.

Outcomes

- You will learn to see yourselves as readers, paying attention to the particular

ways that you read, react to, and respond to texts, reflecting on why you have that response.

- You will develop and practice a variety of ‘ways of reading’ that will help you articulate your own reader response to and interpretation of texts.
- You will use and refine your skills of reading, speaking, and writing to respond critically and thoughtfully to a variety of literary texts and other media.

Workload expectations

The University of Iowa expects a 3-hour credit course to entail at least 6 hours of outside preparation per week by students. For each semester hour credit in this course, students should expect to spend two hours per week preparing for class sessions. This is a three credit hour course, so your average out-of-class preparation per week is six hours. This will fluctuate throughout the semester; some weeks will be a bit lighter and others more intense.

List of all required texts

***Frankenstein* Recommended**

ISBN: 9780141439471

Author: Shelley, Mary

Publisher: Penguin ©2003

Approximate Price: \$10.00

***The Crucible* Recommended**

ISBN: 9780142437339

Author: Miller, Arthur

Publisher: Penguin ©1995

Approximate Price: \$16.00

Other required materials

Pen and paper or other means to take notes in class

Academic Honesty and Misconduct

All students in CLAS courses are expected to abide by the [college’s standards of academic honesty](#). Undergraduate academic misconduct must be reported by instructors to CLAS according to [these procedures](#). Graduate academic misconduct must be reported to the Graduate College according to Section F of the [Graduate College Manual](#).

Policy on the Use of AI

This course assumes that work submitted by students—all process work, drafts, low-stakes writing, final versions, and all other submissions—will be generated primarily by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and work that is presented as

original must be, in fact, original. Using an AI-content generator (such as ChatGPT) to complete coursework without proper attribution or authorization is a form of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please contact your instructor to discuss the issue. Faculty, students, and administrative staff all share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment.

For this course the following would be considered violations of academic integrity and treated as plagiarism or academic dishonesty: using artificial intelligence affordances like ChatGPT without citation, using text generated by ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence tools with proper citation but without significant revision or commentary by you, as well as having any other person or entity do writing for you.

(These policies are adapted from "Constructing a Syllabus: A Checklist" by Washington University in St. Louis Center for Teaching and Learning and "ChatGPT" by University of California: Irvine Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation.)

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own. It can occur intentionally or unintentionally. Intentional plagiarism is cheating; it's when you deliberately copy another person's words or ideas without acknowledgment. Examples of this include copying all or any portion of an encyclopedia entry or published essay, downloading a paper off the internet, and handing in a paper from a fraternity's files. Keep in mind that your instructors read widely and have a lot of experience reading student work. Believe us when we tell you that words that are not your own are easy to spot. The consequences for plagiarizing are severe: we report all cases to the college, and the usual consequences is a zero on the assignment and often failing the course.

Unintentional plagiarism is by far the most common form, and usually involves improper citation of your reference sources. The best way to avoid this is to learn how to cite your sources correctly and, when in doubt, to cite anything you have consulted. Careful notetaking and a clear understanding of the rules for quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing sources, according to a recognized manual of style, will help prevent accidental plagiarism. Proper citation tells your instructors where you got your information and demonstrates to them that you are not trying to cheat.

If you are unsure about which citation form to use, check with your instructor and then visit our Style and Citation webpage at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/history/teaching-and-writing-center/style-and-citation>

Student Complaints

Students with a complaint about a grade or a related matter should first discuss the situation with the instructor and/or the course supervisor (if applicable), and finally with the DEO (Chair) of the department, school or program offering the course. Sometimes

students will be referred to the department or program's Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) or Director of Graduate Studies (DGS).

Undergraduate students should contact [CLAS Undergraduate Programs](#) for support when the matter is not resolved at the previous level. Graduate students should contact the [CLAS Dean's Office](#) when additional support is needed.

Drop Deadline for this Course

You may drop an individual course before the drop deadline; after this deadline you will need collegiate approval. You can look up the drop deadline for this course [here](#). **When you drop a course, a "W" will appear on your transcript.** The mark of "W" is a neutral mark that does not affect your GPA. To discuss how dropping (or staying in) a course might affect your academic goals, please contact your Academic Advisor. **Directions for adding or dropping a course and other registration changes can be found on the [Registrar's website](#).** Undergraduate students can find policies on dropping CLAS courses [here](#). Graduate students should adhere to the [academic deadlines](#) and policies set by the Graduate College.

Grading policies:

Participation: 15%

Major Writing Assignment 1: 15 %

Major Writing Assignment 2: 20%

Midterm Exam: 15 %

Final Presentation: 15%

Misc. Assignments: 20%

Final Portfolio (Required of all students. Students who fail to submit the Final Portfolio will have their final grade lowered by a third of a letter.)

= 100%

Participation

15% of your grade for the course will be participation. You will participate in a variety of ways throughout the semester, so all students should be able to participate, regardless of ability or personality. All participation should follow the Classroom Agreement that we will design collectively. If you have concerns about participation, please email me and we'll work to resolve them. I'll be evaluating participation on a weekly basis and will check-in with all of you periodically through the semester on what I've observed. You are also welcome to contact me at any point in the semester to discuss your participation.

We'll discuss specifics of how we want to participate together in our Classroom Agreement, but as a general rule, C level participation includes being physically present and making occasional contributions or dominating class discussions, B level participation entails regular and insightful contributions to the class discussions, and A level participation includes regular and insightful contributions, as well as working to reference other students' comments and to actively draw out insights and contributions from other students.

Students who appear to be texting or surfing the internet or otherwise are disengaged during class discussions will not receive participation points and may be marked absent.

Major Writing Assignment 1

15% of your grade for the course is the first major writing assignment. This will be a 4-5 pg close reading of a text or two that we have read. This paper requires no outside research.

Major Writing Assignment 2

20% of your grade is the second major writing assignment. This 5-7 pg paper builds on the first major writing assignment and contains both critical and creative components.

Midterm Exam

15% of your final grade will be your midterm exam grade. The midterm will be a take-home essay exam. You will prepare a response to a specific prompt, tied to the overarching themes and questions of the course. The exam is designed to be completed in roughly 60-90 minutes.

Final Exam

15% of your final grade will be your final exam grade. The final exam will be a presentation given during the last week of classes, reflecting on 'community' and what it means to you, inspired by our readings and discussions over the semester.

Misc. Assignments

20% of your grade will be determined from miscellaneous assignments throughout the semester, primarily weekly quizzes. You will also be expected to participate in the course question document, offer class recaps at the end of our discussions, engage with periodic discussion board posts, etc.

Final Portfolio

The portfolio consists of all the major writing assignments from the course along with a final 2-3 page reflective paper on what you have learned during the course.

Grading System

A	94-100%	A-	90-93.9%	B+	87-89.9%
B	84-86.9%	B-	80-83.9%	C+	77-79.9%
C	74-76.9%	C-	70-73.9%	D+	67-69.9%
D	64-66.9%	D-	61-63.9%	F	60% and below

Attendance policy

Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time. That said, occasionally everyone needs to miss class, whether it is due to illness, family or personal emergency, or even being overwhelmed by work for other classes. Therefore, I allow each student **four absences** without penalty. You do not need to provide any excuse for these absences, though if you know ahead of time you will be missing class, an email is always appreciated.

Each unexcused absence beyond the permitted four will lower your **final grade in the course** by **1/3 of a letter grade**. So, with five unexcused absences, an A becomes an A- and a B- becomes a C+. With six unexcused absences, an A becomes a B+, a B- becomes a C, etc.

There may also be other circumstances in which a student must miss class because of illness, military service obligations, religious holy day obligations, University-sponsored activities, or "unavoidable circumstances" as defined by CLAS. Students with mandatory religious obligations or UI-authorized activities must discuss their absences with me as soon as possible. Religious obligations must be communicated within the first three weeks of classes. **I will excuse these absences only if you provide proper documentation (within two weeks of the absence) and make up all missed coursework.** These excused absences **will** count towards the aforementioned four, though you will not be penalized for excused absences accrued beyond the allowed four. For example, if you miss four classes for University-sponsored activities and then decide to skip a fifth class later in the semester, it will lower your final grade. However, if you need to miss a fifth class because of a documented illness, it will not lower your final grade. For information on excused and unexcused absences, see <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>

Please note: I will explicitly tell you if an absence is excused. **Otherwise, you should assume the absence is unexcused. I will keep an updated record of your absences on ICON, so you can keep track of how many you have.**

STUDENTS WITH 9 OR MORE ABSENCES FAIL THE COURSE

You will automatically fail the class if you accumulate more than eight total absences, which is over one full month of the semester. **This rule does not apply to student athletes and others who miss more than nine classes while participating in University-sponsored activities. Those absences, which must be documented by the sponsoring University program or office, will not be included in their total tally of absences.**

Tuition Insurance: Any student who fears they cannot meet these attendance requirements should consider the tuition insurance available through the UI Billing Office.

Please note that an absence is not the same as an extension, and I still expect you to turn in via ICON any written assignments due that day. The only exception is in-class reading quizzes, which you will not be penalized for missing as long as the absence is excused or one of your allotted four. If the absence is not one of the four or otherwise excused, you will also receive a 0 on the reading quiz for that class.

***Any student seeking an SDS absence accommodation should meet with me at the beginning of the course as should any student who feels that they will be unfairly impacted by these attendance policies.**

GEL Policy on Exam Conflicts:

Per University policies, “[w]hen there is conflict between an exam scheduled outside of class time and a regularly scheduled course, the regularly scheduled course will take precedence.” Hence, students enrolled in GEL will not be excused from class to take an exam for another course. University policies further state that “[i]nstructors must offer reasonable options, including makeup time and location, without penalty to students who miss exams due to conflicts described above.” Students who anticipate missing an exam due to a conflict with their GEL course should contact the instructor giving the exam to request an alternative time to take it. If a student chooses to miss their GEL class to take an exam for another class, the absence will not be excused.

Late Assignment Policy

Late work will be **docked 1 letter grade** for every day late, beginning as soon as the original due date has passed. A paper due at 12 p.m. turned in at 12:30 p.m., for example, will be docked 1 letter grade. Late major work submitted over four or more days after the due date will receive an automatic F. If you miss class, you are still responsible for submitting work on time via ICON or email.

Communication: UI Email

Students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for any communication with instructors or staff in the UI community. For the privacy and the protection of student records, UI faculty and staff can only correspond with UI email addresses.

Where to Get Academic Support for this Course

I am happy to discuss your work during my drop-in hours (listed at the top of the syllabus), or by appointment. Other resources that might be helpful for this course include the Tutor Iowa central academic support site: <https://tutor.uiowa.edu/> and the following:

The Writing Center offers suggestions and feedback on all sorts of writing, including course papers, articles intended for publication, theses and	110 English Philosophy Building (319) 335-0188 Writing-Center@uiowa.edu http://writingcenter.uiowa.edu
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dissertations, creative writing, and multimedia projects.	
In cooperation with the Department, University of Iowa Libraries offers support to help students become better researchers, including one-on-one meetings with librarians. One 30-minute meeting can help students: locate reliable resources; develop and revise research topics; learn how to search library databases, and more. To schedule an appointment or learn about drop-in services: www.lib.uiowa.edu/research/consultations	http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/research/consultations/

Mental Health Resources and Student Support

Students are encouraged to be mindful of their mental health and seek help as a preventive measure or if feeling overwhelmed and/or struggling to meet course expectations. Students are encouraged to talk to their instructor for assistance with course-related concerns. For additional mental health support, please see the guidance and resources at mentalhealth.uiowa.edu, including the 24-7 [UI Support and Crisis Line](#).

Additionally, the Office of the Dean of Students can help students navigate personal crisis situations. They can provide one-on-one support, help with identifying options, and access to [basic needs resources \(such as food, rent, childcare, etc.\)](#). Student Care and Assistance: 132 IMU, dos-assistance@uiowa.edu, or 319-335-1162 and more info: dos.uiowa.edu/assistance

University Policies

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. If a student has a diagnosed disability or other disabling condition that may impact the student's ability to complete the course requirements as stated in the syllabus, the student may seek accommodations through [Student Disability Services](#) (SDS). SDS is responsible for making [Letters of Accommodation \(LOA\)](#) available to the student. **The student must provide an LOA to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, but requests not made at least two weeks prior to the scheduled activity for which an accommodation is sought may not be accommodated.** The LOA will specify what reasonable course accommodations the student is eligible for and those the instructor should provide.

Free Speech and Expression

Absences for Religious Holy Days

Classroom Expectations

Non-discrimination

Sexual Harassment/Misconduct and Supportive Measures

Sharing of Class Recordings (if appropriate)

WEEK ONE: 26 Aug – 1 Sept

T INTRO

Th “Is This Kansas”, Eula Biss

Quiz #1

Fri: Self as Reader Essay Due

WEEK TWO: 2 Sept – 8 Sept

T “Bartleby, the Scrivener”, Herman Melville

Th Brene Brown excerpt

Quiz #2

WEEK THREE: 9 Sept – 15 Sept

T *The Crucible* Act 1

Th *Pressure Machine*, The Killers

Quiz #3

WEEK FOUR: 16 Sept – 22 Sept

T *The Crucible* Act 2

MWA1 Proposal Due

Th “The Prophetess of Mars”, Theric Jepson

Quiz #4

WEEK FIVE: 23 Sept – 29 Sept

T *The Crucible* Act 3

Th “An Ode We Owe”, Amanda Gorman <https://www.thehummingbirdpost.com/home-page/2022/9/22/amanda-gorman-ode>

Quiz #5

Fri: MWA Rough Draft Due, 11:59pm

WEEK SIX: 30 Sept – 6 Oct

T *The Crucible* Act 4

Th *The Crucible* + “The Lottery”

MWA1 Workshop, in class

Quiz #6

WEEK SEVEN: 7 Oct – 13 Oct

T Slam Poetry

a. “Remember How We Forgot”, Shane Koyczan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBVjuA0jr6Y>

b. “Pursuit of Happyness”, Ed Mabrey:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwRphYeVraA>

c. “Accents”, Denice Frohman: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtOXiNx4jgQ>

Th “The Man I Saw Them Kill”, Liz Bruenig

Quiz #7

Fri: MWA1 Final Draft Due

WEEK EIGHT: 14 Oct – 20 Oct

T *Frankenstein* 1 (“Letter One” – Chapter VIII)

Th **MIDTERM**

Quiz #8

WEEK NINE: 21 Oct – 27 Oct

T “Cat Person”, Kristen Roupenian

MWA2 Proposal Due

Th *Frankenstein* 2 (Chapter IX – Chapter XVII)

Quiz #9

WEEK TEN: 28 Oct – 3 Nov

T “Wild geese”, Mary Oliver

Th *Frankenstein* 3 (Chapter XVIII – the End)

Quiz #10

WEEK ELEVEN: 4 Nov – 10 Nov

T *Film*

Th **NONFIC**

Quiz #11

Fri: MWA2 Rough Draft Due

WEEK TWELVE: 11 Nov – 17 Nov

T Martin Luther King Jr’s Last Christmas Sermon <https://onbeing.org/blog/martin-luther-kings-last-christmas-sermon/>

Th “Oneida: Utopia LLC”, Nice Try! Podcast:

<https://archive.curbed.com/2019/6/20/18683610/nice-try-podcast-oneida>

MWA2 Workshop (In Class)

Quiz #12

WEEK THIRTEEN: 18 Nov – 24 Nov

T *Beowulf* excerpt

Th **FILM**

Quiz #13

Fri: MWA2 Final Draft Due

Week 14: 25 Nov - 1 Dec

FALL BREAK

NO CLASS

POSTLUDE

WEEK FIFTEEN: 2 Dec – 8 Dec

Tues: Wrap-Up

Thurs: Wrap-Up

Quiz. #14

WEEK SIXTEEN: 9 Dec – 14 Dec

Tues: Final Presentations

Thurs: Final Presentations

Quiz #15

Fri: Final Portfolios Due

WEEK SEVENTEEN: 15 Dec – 22 Dec

FINALS WEEK

NO CLASS

The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information.