

The Literature of Citizenship
ENGL2201 // Literary Heritage // Fall 2017

Professor: Donal Harris
(e) donal.harris@memphis.edu

Class Information:
T / Th, 11:20a – 12:45p

Course Summary: This course introduces major texts, time periods, and modes of expression in literature, while also teaching some of the basic skills of literary studies. Students will study the literary modes of narrative, lyric, and drama, and engage in synthesizing ideas through writing and discussion based on a range of literature representing a variety of cultures and literary forms. They will read texts from a range of time periods (including at least one work written before 1500), historical perspectives, and styles, including both Western and non-Western cultures.

To provide some intellectual purchase on this wide range of material, we will focus on a single, major theme: how authors across history have represented the expectations, possibilities, and limitations of citizenship. We'll look at the idea of the citizen from ancient Greece to the contemporary United States; or, more specifically, from Sophocles' tragedy *Antigone* to Claudia Rankine's poem *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

Course requirements will probably include: regular discussion board posts, a midterm, a creative assignment, and a final research project.

Required Texts:

Booth, Alison and Mays, Kelly J., ed. *The Norton Introduction to Literature, Portable Eleventh Edition*. New York: Norton, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-393-91339-2

Rankine, Claudia. *Citizen: An American Lyric*. New York: Graywolf, 2014.
ISBN: 978-1555976903

Saunders, George. *The Brief and Terrifying Reign of Phil*. New York: Penguin, 2005.
ISBN: 978-1594481529