

# ENGL: 2201.XXX Literary Heritage Foundations of Creative Writing

Professor: Courtney Miller Santo

E-mail: [cmsanto@memphis.edu](mailto:cmsanto@memphis.edu)

Class:

Class Meets in Patterson Hall

Office Hours: (Patterson Hall 416)

## Course Information

This is a special topics section of Literary Heritage that will focus on the foundations of creative writing. Students will be asked to write their own poems, essays and stories as well as write a literary critique of published works.

## Catalog Description

Major texts of literary heritage; modes of literary expression and cultural context; emphasis on works as products of their historical contexts and as processes shaping human consciousness; composition and critical thinking beyond levels expected of freshmen.

## Extended Description

This section of Literary Heritage is designed for students who want to write literature as well as write about literature. The selected texts will introduce students to the creative writing discipline through the study of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. Our study will focus on learning to read as a writer and write with an awareness of the craft elements within the different genres. The texts and assignments will provide a working vocabulary for analyzing a variety of texts as well as critiquing peers' writings. Two-thirds of this course will focus on the academic study of published works and requires students to critically assess these works and the rest will focus on the students' own creative writing. This section of Literary Heritage is highly recommended to students who wish to pursue a creative writing major, or minor as well as any students who want to explore their own creative work.

## Objectives

Upon completion of the course students will be able to: Identify basic literary forms by defining and applying literary terms; recognize the role of language in shaping and reflecting human experience; identify, defend and/or challenge the theme, subject, tone, audience, etc. of a

literary work. Establish criteria for assessing the quality of literature and use that criteria to assess works through written critique.

## Attendance

Attendance and participation in person and in a classroom are vital to your success in this class. If you cannot come to class due to illness and/or personal issues, you will need to do the following:

- Email the professor to acknowledge the absence ([cmsanto@memphis.edu](mailto:cmsanto@memphis.edu)). This email MUST include your **name** and the **date** of the absence. I do NOT need to know the reason for your absence. If it is COVID related, you must also email the Dean of Students ([deanofstudents@memphis.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@memphis.edu))
- Complete a 250-word discussion post on ecourseware in the Discussion Board titled Dynamic Lecture Make-Up. The directions for this assignment are in the discussion board.
- Review the pdf of the Poetics slides and write a 100-word summary of what you learned on the Poetics Discussion Board. The full directions are on the discussion post.
- The make-up work MUST be completed within **two weeks** of the absence. The exception is any work missed during the last two weeks of class must be made up before the end of study day during finals week.
- You will be held responsible for **all** material covered during any absence. It is your job to get notes from other members of the class. If you need to make up a test or get an extension on an assignment, you should email the professor.
- Excessive absences, even if the student makes up the work, may still result in a lower grade and/or failing the class. If you are in danger of this, the professor will email you to set up a time to meet to discuss the issue.

## Student Accommodations Including Covid-19

Students with accessibility issues or learning accommodation issues due to a disability should contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to submit an official request for course accommodations. Contact DRS at 901.678.2880 or at [drs@memphis.edu](mailto:drs@memphis.edu). (<https://www.memphis.edu/drs/index.php>)

## Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class in addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional disciplinary procedures. (<https://www.memphis.edu/osa/students/academic-misconduct.php>)

## Prerequisites

A grade of C or better in English 1010 and 1020, or the equivalent

## Academic Dishonesty

The University of Memphis Code of Student Conduct (<http://saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs>) defines academic misconduct as all acts of cheating, plagiarism, forgery and falsification. For this class, it is expected that all writing assignments be solely of your own work. In addition, students should not **collaborate** or share answers in preparation for the tests or essays.

## Accommodations for Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please notify me and contact the Student Disability Services Office at 110 Wilder Tower (901) 678 2888

## Grading policy

This course does use +/- grading. Please refer to the University's grading policy at <http://www.memphis.edu/registrar/students/records/gpa.php>

## Drop-Withdrawal Policy:

Students should check with the Financial Aid and/or Scholarship Offices, if they have issues with dropping this class. More information is available in the Schedule of Classes, and on the web site: <http://academics2.memphis.edu/registrar/calendars/semester.htm>

## Course Logistics

### Texts

Electronic copies are acceptable.

1. *Poetics*, Aristotle
2. *The Hot Wing King*, Katori Hall
3. *White Magic*, by Elissa Washuta
4. *Silencer* by Marcus Wicker
5. *Her Body and Other Parties* by Carmen Maria Machado

## Assignments

The assignments for this class include an eight page critical assessment of one of the texts, craft critiques, creative writing (poems, essays, short fiction) and peer review.

### **Late Papers and Assignments and Make Up Work**

Please see the attendance section for information on make-up work and late papers.

### **Weekly Coursework and Points Value:**

You have the opportunity to earn up to **1,000 points** in this class. Those points are distributed among writing, participation and tests. A brief outline of those assignments follows:

#### **Participation**

200 points

Graded pass/fail

Each act of participation per class period will earn a student 10 points. There is an opportunity to earn up to 200 points in this category. Participation will include contributing to discussions, homework, peer review, and in-class group assignments.

#### **Creative Work**

100 points each, four total are due (400 points)

Graded on a letter scale

During the course students will write poetry, essays and short stories. These will be shared in the classroom and critiqued.

#### **Literary Craft Critiques**

50 points each, four total are due (200 points)

Graded on a letter scale

These will be short critiques of the works read for class. The focus will be on addressing each writer's use of craft as it pertains to their specific genre (poetry, nonfiction, fiction).

#### **Literary Analysis**

200 points

Graded on a letter scale

During the course, students are to write a literary analysis and critique of one of the following: *Silencer*, *Her Body and Other Parties*, *Little Devil in America*, or *Hot Wing King*. This paper will evaluate the technical and aesthetic merits of the work and also address the concepts learned during lecture and the discussions of *Poetics*.

#### **Extra Credit**

Maximum of 50 points

Students may earn extra credit up to 50 points. These opportunities will be decided as the class progresses

## Course Schedule of Lectures and Assignments

### January 18 to February 13: Unit One Drama

- ☐ *The Hot Wing King* by Katori Hall
- ☐ Poetics Sections 1 thru 8
- ☐ 10 minute play
- ☐ Literary Craft Critique

### February 14 to March 6: Unit Two Poetry

- ☐ *Silencer* by Marcus Wicker
- ☐ Poetics Sections 9 thru 16
- ☐ Three poems
- ☐ Literary Craft Critique

### [March 7 to March 13: Spring Break]

### March 14 to April 3: Unit Three Short Fiction

- ☐ *Our Body and Other Parties* by Carmen Maria Machado
- ☐ Poetics Sections 17 thru 22
- ☐ Short Fiction
- ☐ Literary Craft Critique

### April 4 to April 24: Unit Four Creative Nonfiction

- ☐ *White Magic* by Elissa Washuta
- ☐ Poetics Sections 23 thru 26
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Literary Craft Critique

### April 25 to April 27: Literary Analysis Paper

- ☐ Paper Due
- ☐ This class does not have a final exam