



ENGL 2363

World Literature since the Renaissance

BECOMING AMERICAN

- Semester: Spring 2026 | Section: ENGL 2363.001
- Meeting Time: M/W/F 1:25-2:20 (CAS 257)
- Instructor: Prof. Menkina Snider | Email: nmenkina@uttyler.edu
- Office: CAS 241 | Phone: 903-566-6316
- Student Hours: M/W/F 11:15-1:15 p.m.; M/W 2:30–3:30 p.m.; and by appointment (Zoom available)

► Start Here

Read this syllabus, then go to Modules → Week 1.

📁 Major Assessments

Participation, short assignments, presentation, 2 unit tests, and portfolio.

📅 Course Calendar

See the “Course Calendar” section below & in Modules.

📌 Course Description

Course Description

This course includes texts written by multigenerational authors with multiethnic backgrounds that include Eastern and Western Europe, the continent of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Readings—from the late 19th through the end of the 20th centuries—range from a graphic novel to memoirs, autobiography, poetry, and prose fiction to explore some of the immigrant voices from around the world that have contributed to unique American literature and identity.

🎯 Course Objectives

As the semester progresses, successful students will be able to:

- Broaden their knowledge about, and apply analysis to, the rich multicultural tradition of American literature and the world around them.
- Implement effective literary techniques to analyze literature across genres in discussions and writing assignments.
- Identify, compare, and contrast the ways writers express ideas and themes related to immigration from different periods and countries.

- Value difference among people and express appreciation of cultures (language, religion, philosophy, family and community structures, and material culture).
- Refine research and digital skills when presenting contexts related to immigration.

Required Textbooks & Readings

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- *Maus I: My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman (ISBN: 0394747232)
- *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began* by Art Spiegelman (ISBN: 0679729771)
- Selected works (available in Canvas)

Note 1: *Maus* can be purchased as a single volume: *The Complete Maus, 25th Anniversary Edition* (ISBN: 0679406417).

Note 2: All books are available at the UT Tyler Bookstore.

Grading & Percentages

Assessment	%
Short Assignments	15%
Tests	40%
Presentation	15%
Participation	10%
Becoming American Portfolio	20%

Communication with Instructor

Communication with Instructor

I will hold regular office hours and am available for Zoom appointments. Please reach out to discuss any aspect of the class—short conversations can do a lot to alleviate anxiety.

- The best and fastest way to contact me outside of class/office hours is via email.
- All students must use their Patriot email in accordance with UT Tyler policy. Emails from personal accounts will not be answered.
- Zoom office hours/meetings require UT Tyler credentials; students who do not use UT Tyler credentials cannot join.

- Include “ENGL 2363.001” and your full name in the subject line of every course email.
- I check email regularly, including weekends, but replies to weekend emails (late Friday afternoon through Monday 8:00 a.m.) may be delayed. Mark truly urgent messages as “URGENT – ENGL 2363.001”.
- Emails should be written in a professional tone: full sentences, reasonably correct grammar, and a clear overview of the topic.

Weekly Schedule Information

Weekly Schedule Information

You will be provided a calendar with major due dates. Any changes to the weekly schedule will be communicated in at least two of the following formats:

- Class announcement
- Canvas announcement
- Patriot email

Check Canvas announcements and/or your Patriot email by 8:00 a.m. each class day for updates (emergency cancellations, room changes, etc.). Assignment changes will be announced at least 48 hours before class time.

Attendance & Participation (20%)

Attendance involves:

- Arriving on time
- Remaining for the entire class period
- Staying mentally alert and engaged

Participation involves:

- Completing assigned readings, worksheets, and quizzes on time
- Contributing substantive ideas to class and group discussions
- Listening attentively to classmates and the instructor
- Taking notes during lectures and discussions

If you are hesitant to speak in class, you can earn participation points by using the Q & A Forum in Canvas to share your thoughts and ideas before class.

Absences

Regular attendance and active participation are baseline expectations. If the number of unexcused absences exceeds 4, your final average will be reduced:

- 5 absences → F for participation grade
- 8 or more absences → 0 for participation grade

Unexcused absences include (but are not limited to) personal business, car trouble, personal travel, and most family matters.

Negotiable (potentially excusable) absences include serious personal illness (such as COVID), critical illness or death of an immediate family member, accidents requiring urgent medical attention during class time, and natural catastrophes. The instructor determines whether an absence is excused, and documentation is required.

Tardiness

If you are 15 minutes or more late, please do not enter the classroom. You may see me after class and get notes from a classmate.

Ground Rules for a Productive Learning Environment

- Arrive on time and prepared with assigned work.
- Stay for the entire class unless you've notified me in advance.
- Be respectful of classmates' opinions and use an appropriate tone.
- Avoid disruptive behavior (phones, side conversations, sleeping, etc.).
- Follow assignment guidelines and submit work on time.
- Contact classmates first to ask what you missed if absent; then contact me if needed.

Technological Distractions

Please refrain from unauthorized use of technology during class (anything unrelated to our learning activities). Repeat or egregious violations may be considered disruptive and may result in being asked to leave class.

UT Tyler AI Policy (Course Guidelines)

AI Policy Summary

UT Tyler encourages thoughtful discussion of AI tools and their implications. All AI use must be acknowledged and must not involve protected or copyrighted materials. AI-generated content may be incomplete, inaccurate, or biased, and is not a substitute for traditional research. You are responsible for the accuracy and integrity of any information you submit.

Important for this course: If you submit anything AI-generated without substantially revising and citing it, it will be considered plagiarism and will receive a “0.” If your written response includes information or citations that do not come from the assigned texts, that activity will receive a “0.”

Acceptable Use of AI	Unacceptable Use of AI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming and refining your ideas. • Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts. • Checking grammar, style, and citations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impersonating you in classroom contexts (completing worksheets, DB posts, essays). • Writing any draft of a writing assignment. • Writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete class assignments.

Classroom Mobile Phone Policy

To help everyone stay focused and get the most out of each lesson, personal mobile phones may not be used during class unless they are required for coursework and approved by the instructor. Phone distractions reduce attention and comprehension, making it harder for students to learn effectively.

Course Activities

1) Worksheets

Once a week, you will complete a worksheet based on assigned reading(s). Worksheets help you summarize, synthesize, and analyze literature, prepare for unit exams, and contribute to discussions.

- Complete worksheets by the start of class; late worksheets are not accepted.
- If you cannot attend class, you can still earn points by submitting your worksheet in Canvas by the start of class.
- Save all worksheets—they are your best reference when preparing for exams.

Submitting Worksheets: Upload work to the appropriate Canvas assignment as a Microsoft Word or PDF file. If I cannot open your file, it is considered late. Do not submit zipped files.

2) Reading Quizzes

For each Wednesday class (or the second class of the week), you will complete a quiz based on your understanding of the assigned text(s). Late quizzes are not accepted.

3) Weekly Journaling

Each **Friday**, in class, you will complete a short journal entry in response to the week's assigned reading. I will suggest a couple of possible prompts each week, but you may also reflect on something that personally interests you. Your entries must clearly demonstrate that you read and engaged with the assigned text(s). Journals are **informal and low-stakes**—the focus is on honest engagement, not polished writing. You will use these journal entries to create your Becoming American portfolio.

4) Participation (In-Class Discussions)

This is a discussion-based class. Your active contribution to discussion is crucial. Participation points are awarded after each class period.

Students who are shy about speaking in class may use the Q & A Forum in Canvas to earn participation points by posting ideas about the readings before class.

5) In-Class Activity Charts

We will use activity charts to guide each discussion. These charts double as structured notes for exam preparation. They are not graded but are posted in Canvas for your use.

6) Presentation

Each student will give one presentation based on the theme and/or context of one of our readings. The goal is to enhance class understanding of the chosen text.

- Presentations should be well-organized and informative.
- Time limit: 8-10 minutes.
- An additional handout with details and grading criteria is available in Canvas.
- Late presentations will not be accepted.

Note: At the end of the semester, your 5 lowest worksheet/quiz scores will be dropped.

Expected Workload

Expected Workload

Research shows that for each hour in class, students should spend 2–3 hours outside of class reading, studying, planning, and completing assignments.

Because this is a 3-credit in-person course, you should expect an additional 6–9 hours per week of work outside class. Reading and analyzing literary texts can be challenging and may require extra time.

Develop a working schedule, be patient with yourself, and work consistently (ideally a little bit every day) to succeed.

Unit Exams

Unit Exams (20% each)

The course includes 2 exams that together make up 40% of your final grade. Exams are given at the end of each unit and measure knowledge, comprehension, and higher-level thinking skills such as analysis and synthesis.

Each exam includes two parts:

- A 350–500 word essay over the texts covered in that unit.
- An essay over the skills you are learning in the course.

A thorough study guide will be provided for each exam. Students who miss an exam without prior excuse and documentation will receive a zero.

Upon student request, it is the professor's prerogative whether to allow a make-up exam. A student may make up only one exam (in case it is an excused absence). Exams cannot be revised or rewritten once graded.

Becoming American Portfolio (Final Project)

Becoming American Portfolio (20%)

This is the final course project. This project gives you the opportunity to reflect on how our course texts illustrate the theme of becoming American. Through weekly journaling, you will connect the readings to your own experiences and perspectives. By the end of the semester, you will turn these reflections into a creative, polished portfolio that shows both your growth as a writer and your evolving understanding of identity, migration, and belonging.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit

No extra credit projects are offered; however, there are **3 extra credit quizzes** available. Students worried about their grade are strongly encouraged to meet with me as early as possible to discuss strategies for improvement.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center – 903.565.5995, writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center – 903.565.5964, tutoring@uttyler.edu
- Mathematics Learning Center – RBN 4021
- UT Tyler Counseling Center – 903.565.5746
- 24-hour Crisis Line – 903.566.7254

University Policies & Procedures

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UTTyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit

www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

"**Cheating**" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper; using during a test materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failing to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes." The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation only if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned to or kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of the university, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct;
- and misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or \sum s, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or injuring another student academically or financially.

"**Plagiarism**" includes, but is not limited to:

- the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

"Collusion" includes, but is not limited to:

- the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

"Falsifying academic records" includes, but is not limited to:

- altering or assisting in the altering of any official record of the university or the University of Texas System,
- the submission of false information or the omission of requested information that is required for or related to any academic record of the university or the University of Texas System.
- Academic records include, but are not limited to, applications for admission, the awarding of a degree, grade reports, test papers, registration materials, grade change forms, and reporting forms used by the Office of the Registrar. A former student who engages in such conduct is subject to a bar against readmission, revocation of a degree, and withdrawal of a diploma.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Scheduling adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Student Accessibility and Resources

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Important Dates – Spring 2026

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- **January 12** – Classes begin
- **January 19** – Martin Luther King Holiday
- **January 26** – Census Date
- **March 9–14** – Spring Break
- **March 30** – Last day to withdraw from any class
- **April 27–May 1** – Finals Week

Course Calendar (Subject to Change)

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class, on Canvas, and/or via Patriot email.

Week	Dates	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	Jan 12–16	Introduction to the course Syllabus	Spiegelman, Maus I (1) Reading quiz	Spiegelman, Maus I (2-4) Journal entry
2	Jan 19–23	Martin Luther King Day	Spiegelman, Maus I (5-6) Reading quiz	Spiegelman, Maus II (1-3) Journal entry
3	Jan 26-30	Spiegelman, Maus II (4-5) Worksheet	Duggin, “Learning My Father’s Language” Reading Quiz	Gillan, “Carlton Fredericks and My Mother” Journal entry
4	Feb 2-6	Gold, “Bananas” Chaplin’s narrative Worksheet	Pupin, “The Hardship of a Greenhorn” Reading Quiz	Papashvily, “The First Day” Journal entry
5	Feb 9-13	Rich, “Prospective Immigrants Please note” Ferrarelli, “Emigrant/Immigrant” Worksheet	Antin, from The Promised Land Reading quiz	Gro Sevnsden’s letters Journal entry
6	Feb 16-20	Exam 1	Poetry of Angel Island Reading quiz	Sui Sin Far, “In the Land of the Free” Journal entry
7	Feb 23-27	Tan, “Rules of the Game” Worksheet	Lahiri, “When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine” Reading quiz	Rustomji, “Thanksgiving in a Monsoonless Land” Journal entry
8	Mar 2-6	Benerjee, “Goddess of Learning” Worksheet	Nye, “Red Velvet Dress” Ramanathan, “I Worry” Discussion Board No class - Conference	Que-Doan-Do, “The Rootless People” Discussion Board No class - Conference
9	Mar 9-13	Spring Break		
10	Mar 16-20	Uchida, “Tears of Autumn” Worksheet	Yamada, “I Learned to Sew” Reading quiz	Lee, “Finally ... My Two Dads” Journal entry

11	Mar 23-27	Otsuka, The Buddha in the Attic Worksheet	Otsuka, The Buddha in the Attic Reading quiz	Hughes, Displacement Journal entry
12	Mar 30- Apr 3	Exam 2	Bruchac, "Ellis Island" Crawford, "Grandfather" Reading quiz	Zitkala-Sa, from American Indian Stories Journal entry
13	Apr 6-10	Chief Seattle, "This We Know" A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison Worksheet	Hughes, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" McKay, "The Tropics in New York" Reading quiz	Perez, "Remembering My Spanish" Gutierrez, "Spanglish" Journal entry
14	Apr 13-17	Rodriguez, Hunger for Memory Worksheet	Cofer, "American History" Cofer, "Arrival" Reading quiz	Anzaldua, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue"
15	Apr 20-24	Mhute, "What's in a Name" Dumas, "The F Word" Worksheet	Wesley, "My American Reality" Azua, "Learning to Walk on Black Ice" Reading quiz Becoming American portfolio	Becoming American Portfolio discussion Portfolio comments
16	Apr 27- May 1	Finals/No classes		