



SOCI 4199 Independent Study

Spring 2024

Instructor Information

Instructor:

Rich Kenney, MSSW
Professor of Practice in Social Work

Office:

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Faculty Profile:

Office Hours: Mon: 9-10 AM & 4-5 PM; Wed: 9-10 AM & 4-5 PM (Other appointment times available by appointment or via video conferencing)

Covid Precautions:

It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult [existing campus resources](#) for support.

Course Information

Credit Hours: 1 Credit Hour

Course Format: Online

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Online

Description of Course Content: Examines the issues of racism and prejudice by reading and writing about Allen Eskens' literary novel, *Nothing More Dangerous*. It is a coming-of-age story of "a boy struggling to understand his subconscious racism, that subtle but powerful impulse to divide people into us and them."

Student Learning Outcomes for SOCI 4199:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following outcomes

- Identify and understand the latent hold that subconscious prejudices can have on individuals.
- Identify and understand racist terms that have origins in bigotry.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically examine one's own biases.
- Develop an understanding of empathy by putting one's self in the shoes of individuals experiencing discrimination and prejudice.
- Demonstrate the ability to write well-structured, insightful papers relative to the topics of racism, discrimination, and prejudice.

Methods of Instruction:

An online class on Canvas in which students write several reaction papers to questions centered on the themes of racism, discrimination, and prejudice.

Required Textbook:

Eskens, Allen. (2019). *Nothing More Dangerous*. Mulholland Books.

Descriptions of Major Assignments

Read the novel, *Nothing More Dangerous*, by Allen Eskens.
January 16, 2024 – February 19, 2024

Section One – Due by Tuesday, February 20, 2024 (Worth 150 Points)
(*minimum of 200 words for each question*)

- How is Boady's world challenged by having the Elgin family in his life?
- How is Boady changed by his friendship with Thomas?
- Is this friendship different from the friendship Jarvis offers?

Section Two – Due by Tuesday, March 5, 2024 (Worth 150 Points)

- Discuss how *Nothing More Dangerous* explores racism. (*minimum 300 words*)
- Is Boady prejudiced when the novel begins? Elaborate. (*minimum 50 words*)
- Does he think he is? Elaborate. (*minimum 50 words*)
- How does he come to see Jessup differently? Elaborate. (*minimum 200 words*)

Section Three – Due by Tuesday, March 19, 2024 (Worth 150 Points)
(*minimum of 200 words for each question*)

- What is the difference between overt racism and prejudice?
- How does Hoke help Boady to see his own prejudice differently?
- Do you think Hoke's vision of society is right?

Section Four – Due by Tuesday, April 2, 2024 (Worth 150 Points)

- Do you think the novel would be different if it was set in 2023 instead of 1976? Why or why not? (*minimum 300 words*)
- What does Boady mean when he says, “It was as though I had been staring at a mirror all my life and that mirror suddenly turned into a window” (page 225)? (*minimum 300 words*)

Section Five – Due by Tuesday, April 16, 2024 (Worth 150 Points)

Hoke recites a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr: “Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance” (page 167).

- What does this quote mean? (*minimum 300 words*)
- Why do you think the author chose this quote for this novel title? (*minimum 300 words*)

Final Paper – Due by Tuesday, April 30, 2024 (Worth 250 Points)

- Before you read *Nothing More Dangerous*, would you have considered yourself someone with prejudices? Why or why not? (*minimum 200 words*)
- Do you feel differently about your own assumptions after reading the novel? (*minimum 200 words*)
- What does it mean to be prejudiced? (*minimum 300 words*)
- What impact has reading this book had on you? Be specific. (*minimum 300 words*)

Assignments: Scores will be assigned to written materials, based on the following criteria:

- a. **Thoroughness & Breadth** (Provides sufficient responses so as to provide coverage of the topic or in order to demonstrate a level of mastery of the skills)
- b. **Depth & Integration** (Demonstrates an integration of readings and understanding of the concepts through submitted assignments, portfolio and discussion forums on Sakai.)
- c. **Clarity & Understanding** (The submitted materials are easily readable or viewable and correct grammar and spelling are used on forums.)
- d. **Accuracy** (Extent to which the written responses are focused on the question and provide reliable information to colleagues.)
- e. **Critical Analysis** (The written materials demonstrate a critical analysis of the research literature studied.)

Grading Procedures:

Each exam and assignment will be graded on a point system used to calculate the final grade for the course.

Calculation of Final Grade

Sections One through Five (750 Points) +Final Paper (250 Points)

Total Points Available for Course=1000

Final Grades

900-1000 Points = A (90%-100%)

800-899 Points = B (80%- 89%)

700-700 Points = C (70%-79%)

600-699 Points = D (60%-69%)

590 or less = F (59% or less)

Late Assignments

Students are responsible for submitting all assignments on time. There will be 5 points per day deducted for each late assignment. No assignment will be accepted after 5 days following the due date. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her work is completed on time and submitted correctly.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 3 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Attendance:

Engaged and timely participation in all assignments constitutes "attendance" for purposes of this course. This course is taught in an online format.

The **Census Date for the semester is January 29, 2024.** This is the last day students may withdraw from the course without penalty.

Schedule (see Canvas tools for specific activities/assignments)

Weeks 1 through 5 – Read *Nothing More Dangerous*

January 16, 2024 – February 19, 2024

Week 6 – Section One Due (2/20/24)

Section One – Due by Tuesday, February 20 (Worth 150 Points)
(*minimum of 200 words for each question*)

- How is Boady's world challenged by having the Elgin family in his life?
- How is Boady changed by his friendship with Thomas?
- Is this friendship different from the friendship Jarvis offers?

Week 7 – Review *Nothing More Dangerous*

Week 8 – Section Two Due (3/5/24)

Section Two – Due by Tuesday, March 5, 2024 (Worth 150 Points)

- Discuss how *Nothing More Dangerous* explores racism. (*minimum 300 words*)
- Is Boady prejudiced when the novel begins? Elaborate. (*minimum 50 words*)
- Does he think he is? Elaborate. (*minimum 50 words*)
- How does he come to see Jessup differently? Elaborate. (*minimum 200 words*)

Week 9 – Review *Nothing More Dangerous*

Week 10 – Section Three Due (3/19/24)

Section Three – Due by Tuesday, March 19, 2024 (Worth 150 Points)
(*minimum of 200 words for each question*)

- What is the difference between overt racism and prejudice?
- How does Hoke help Boady to see his own prejudice differently?
- Do you think Hoke's vision of society is right?

Week 11 – Review *Nothing More Dangerous*

Week 12 – Section Four Due (4/2/24)

Section Four – Due by Tuesday, April 2, 2024 (Worth 15 Points)

- Do you think the novel would be different if it was set in 2020 instead of 1976? Why or why not? (*minimum 300 words*)
- What does Boady mean when he says, “It was as though I had been staring at a mirror all my life and that mirror suddenly turned into a window” (page 225)? (*minimum 300 words*)

Week 13 – Review *Nothing More Dangerous*

Week 14 – Section Five Due (4/16/24)

Section Five – Due by Tuesday, April 16, 2024 (Worth 150 Points)

Hoke recites a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr: “Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance” (page 167).

- What does this quote mean? (*minimum 300 words*)
- Why do you think the author chose this quote for this novel title? (*minimum 300 words*)

Finals Week: April 29-May 3

Final Paper – Due by Tuesday, April 30, 2024 (Worth 250 Points)

- Before you read *Nothing More Dangerous*, would you have considered yourself someone with prejudices? Why or why not? (*minimum 200 words*)
- Do you feel differently about your own assumptions after reading the novel? (*minimum 200 words*)
- What does it mean to be prejudiced? (*minimum 300 words*)
- What impact has reading this book had on you? Be specific. (*minimum 300 words*)

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THIS SYLLABUS AT ANY TIME. PLEASE ATTEND CLASS REGULARLY AND PAY ATTENTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CANVAS TO KEEP CURRENT WITH ANY SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS.

Institutional Information

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 UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

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.

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 of which students need to be aware. 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)
- Schedule 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 waiver 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.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability,

including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application.

The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.utt Tyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

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.

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.

- i. "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;
 - failure 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 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 instructors has designated that the examination is not to be

removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be 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, home 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 of Texas at Tyler, 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 resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- ii. “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.
- iii. “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.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

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
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (903.566.7254)