

**ENGL 2363.002 WORLD LITERATURE SINCE THE  
RENAISSANCE:  
AMERICAN IMMIGRANT LITERATURE  
Spring 2020  
MoWeFr 9:05 a.m. - 10:00 a.m  
BEP 213**



**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor Natalia Menkina Snider  
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Office CAS 241  
Office Hours MoWeFr 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m  
or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The 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 primarily from the late 19th through the end 21st centuries range from a graphic novel to memoirs, autobiography, poetry, and prose fiction to explore the few of the immigrant voices from around the world that have contributed so much to unique American literature and identity.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As the semester progresses, the successful students will:

- broaden their knowledge about and apply analysis to the rich multicultural tradition of American literature and gain a greater awareness of its aesthetic, cultural, and personal value
- develop their skills in discussion, literary analysis, and written response
- identify the ways writers express ideas and themes related to immigration
- summarize, analyze, integrate, and draw conclusions about particular works of literature
- demonstrate an ability to explain the practices (e.g. beliefs, values, perspectives) of other cultures, nations, or regions
- value difference among people and express an appreciation of cultures (language, religion, philosophy, family and community structures, and material culture)

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

*The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka (ISBN: 978-0-307-74442-5)  
*Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman (ISBN: 0394747232)  
*Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began* by Art Spiegelman (ISBN: 0679729771)  
*Growing Up Ethnic in America*, ed. Maria Mazziotti (ISBN: 0140280634)  
Selected works (accessible via Canvas)

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

**GRADING/PERCENTAGES**

Participation (Class Discussion + Group Work)	10%
Worksheets	15%
Presentation	10%
Short Term Paper	5 %
Unit Tests	60% (3 at 20% each)
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	100%

## GRADING SCALE

90-100	A	demonstrates <i>exceptional</i> competence
80- 89	B	demonstrates competence
70- 79	C	demonstrates promise of competence
60- 69	D	demonstrates probability of incompetence
< 60	F	demonstrates incompetence

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

You will be provided a calendar with major due dates. Any changes to the weekly schedule will be offered in a timely manner in at least two of the three following formats: class announcement, Canvas announcement, and Patriot email. I strongly advise checking Canvas announcements and/or your Patriot email by 8:00 a.m. each class day for updates on matters such as an emergency class cancellation, change of classroom location, or other unforeseen event. Any alteration of class assignments will be announced at least 48 hours prior to class time.

## COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (10%)

Attendance involves:

- arriving on time
- remaining the entire class period ( two “early” leaves will be counted as an absence), and
- staying mentally alert during all activities

Participation involves:

- completing scheduled readings and writing assignments on or before their due dates,
- contributing substantive information to class and group discussions,
- listening attentively to the contributions of others (the instructor's as well as classmates')
- taking notes during class discussions

The negative effects of attending sporadically, attending without participating, and/or showing disrespect for the academic setting are reflected in my policy regarding attendance and participation, which is outlined below. A word to students who hesitate to speak in class: you can earn participation points through (a) observable attentiveness—eyes always on the speaker, appropriate note-taking, body language cues, etc. and (b) emails: send me thoughtful comments, questions, insights related to assignments. To qualify, the email must arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. the day of class discussion.

### ABSENCES –EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED

Information concerning University-sanctioned absences is available online: <http://www.uttyler.edu/cas/absences.htm>  
Unexcused absences include but are not limited to missing class due to unexpected illness, doctor's appointment, personal business (no matter how urgent), car trouble, milestone events such as weddings and christenings, personal travel, and most family matters. Negotiable absences include but are not limited to serious personal illness, critical illness or death of an immediate family member, accidents requiring urgent professional medical attention during regularly scheduled class time, and natural catastrophes. I understand many of you have obligations that may conflict with the responsibilities and expectations of this course. Although I can sympathize personally, I cannot in good conscience give special consideration to select students and/or modify course expectations as outlined in this syllabus. It is the professor's prerogative to determine whether or not an absence can be excused, and all excused absences must be properly documented.

### ABSENCES--PENALTIES

Regular attendance and active participation are baseline expectations for this course. If the number of unexcused absences **exceeds 4**, it will result in a deduction from a student's final average as follows: **5 absences** will result in “F” for participation grade; **8 or more absences** will result in “0” for participation grade.

### TARDINESS

Twenty minutes after class has started, I ask that no late students enter the class. You can see me after class and get

notes from a classmate. **Two 5-15 minutes tardies** will be counted as an **absence**.

### **DAILY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Worksheets (15%)**

A worksheet is a set of questions based on assigned reading(s) that you can find in Canvas inside “Unit 1, 2, and 3.” This type of activity helps you focus on readings and teaches you to summarize, synthesize, and analyze a piece of literature. It allows to express your thoughts and ideas in writing, which, in turn, develops your critical thinking skills - one of the main goals of this course. It also prepares you for the 3 unit tests that include short essays. Additionally, it serves as a template for every class discussion and, therefore, allows to increase your participation grade. A worksheet is your daily homework. You should complete a worksheet for each reading assignment and **submit it in Canvas by start of class**. You will receive a grade for every worksheet. All grades will be posted in Canvas by start of next class period. If you are not able to attend class, you still can earn points by submitting your worksheet in Canvas by start of class. No late worksheets will be accepted. Make sure to save all your worksheets, it is your best reference for preparing for the tests.

#### **In-Class Activity Charts**

We will use in-class activity charts for each in-class discussion. These charts structure discussion and serve as effective notes that you can use later to study for the tests. They are not for your assessment, but rather for your personal use and organizing your thoughts and ideas. All charts are posted in Canvas inside Units 1, 2, and 3.

#### **Group Discussions**

You will be divided into groups to discuss the assigned reading(s). When groups are given class time to prepare contributions, they are expected to use the allotted time preparing the best possible answers to the question(s) provided by the instructor. This is an effective way of exchanging opinions and generating new ideas. This activity is a part of your Participation grade.

#### **In-class Discussion**

Because this is a discussion-based class (I am not giving lengthy lectures), your active contribution to class discussion is crucial. You will be given participation points after each class period, which will directly affect your participation grade.

### **PRESENTATION (10%)**

Throughout the semester you will be asked to give **one** presentation based on the theme or/and historical, political, social, or/and cultural **context** of one of the readings **from the course**. The purpose of this presentation is to better understand the reading discussed in class in terms of its multiple contexts (not content). While the presentation should not be long (no more than 10-12 minutes), it should be well-organized and informative. An additional handout with further information will be forthcoming. No late presentations will be accepted.

### **SHORT TERM PAPER (5%)**

In the end of the semester, you will have to turn in a short (2 pages) term paper to discuss the topic offered by the instructor. Paper topic and guidelines will be posted in Canvas later.

### **EXAMS (60%)**

This course includes three unit tests, each worth 20% of your final grade. These tests measure not only knowledge and comprehension but also higher level of thinking skills such as analysis and synthesis. Students who miss an exam without prior excuse and appropriate documentation will receive a zero on the exam. Upon the student's request, it is the professor's prerogative whether or not to permit the unexcused student to take a make-up exam. A student can make-up only one exam. All make-up exams will be given in the end of the semester; the day and time will be discussed later.

## **International Food Day**

International food day is one-class event when students and the instructor prepare dishes from different cultures and bring them to class. This activity allows to not only try traditional cuisines from different countries, but introduces students to historical and/or cultural background of each dish. You will be asked to research the history of the dish you bring and submit it to Canvas (counted as a Worksheet).

## **CANVAS/INTERNET ACCESS**

You will need internet access for various tasks, including but not limited to accessing online texts, performing independent research, and downloading and printing course materials. If you have a portable electronic device, you may use it in class to access online assignments; otherwise, you will need to bring print copies. In the event of personal problems accessing any required websites, you are responsible for working with UTT's computer help resources to resolve problems. The help desk is located on the third floor of RBN building.

## **EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS**

I do not give work for extra credit. Improving one's grade average requires improving performance on regular assignments. I strongly encourage students worried about grades to meet with me personally to discuss their concerns.

## **CLASS ETIQUETTE**

The general rule: A breach of etiquette is any willful behavior that another member of the class, including me, might find distracting. Examples: (1) Electronic devices.: The rule applies to all functions on all devices: turn them off and put them beyond easy reach before class begins. ONE EXCEPTION: I allow laptops for note-taking but reserve the right to change this policy at my discretion. Unless I specifically ask you to do so, you should not access the Internet during class, even for information pertaining to a discussion. (2) "Hall passes": Class periods are 55 minutes long; if you come, please plan to stay for the entire time. If an unforeseen event occurs and you must leave in the middle of a session, please do not return to the classroom. You will be counted absent for that day. (3) Unauthorized small group activities: No note-passing, chatting, or untoward body language among yourselves once class has started. If the discussion is on topic, share it with the class; if it isn't, save it till later. (4) Sleeping: If you cannot stay awake for the duration of the class, please stay home and catch up on some much-needed rest. Students who fail to respect these and similar policies may be asked to leave the classroom and/or will be counted absent for the day.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR**

I encourage students to contact me throughout the semester by email or in person during my office hours or at an appointed time. VERY IMPORTANT: Every email related to the course should have " ENGL 2363.002" and YOUR FULL NAME in the subject line. This applies especially if your email address does not include your name. Although I check my email regularly even on weekends, please do not expect to receive a reply to weekend emails (those sent between late afternoon Friday and Monday morning before 8:00 a.m.). If an issue legitimately requires immediate attention, please mark it "URGENT" in the subject line (along with "ENGL 2363.002").

## **UT TYLER RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto: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 (903.565.5746). The 24 hour Crisis Line can be reached by calling 903.566.7254 during regular business hours as well as nights and weekends.

## **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 UT Tyler, 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](http://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 résumés, 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)
- 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 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 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.uttyler.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.

**IMPORTANT DATES OF THE SEMESTER**

- JANUARY 20 - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
- SEPTEMBER 9 - CENSUS DATE
- MARCH 9-14 - SPRING BREAK
- MARCH 30 - LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM ONE OR MORE CLASSES
- APRIL 28 - MAY 1 - FINAL EXAMS; NO CLASSES