ENGL 210: Introduction to Literature (Online)
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
Spring 2019, Jan 7 - May 3
Sections U820T, U821T, U822T
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Jillian Linster

Contact information
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  ➢ via Skype, Collaborate Ultra, phone, or email

Course Description & Prerequisites
Readings in fiction, drama, and poetry to acquaint students with literature and aesthetic form.
Course Prerequisites: English 101 or consent of instructor.

Course theme: “Shifting Shadows”

Literature is often conceived of as a portrayal of the human experience; but, just as shadows
imitate yet do not perfectly replicate the object that casts them, so too literature represents
but does not exactly reproduce life. As we foray into literature’s shifting shadows, we will
learn to identify and interpret the features of this art form, thereby developing an
understanding of and appreciation for the shapes it casts around us.

Instructional Methods
Online discussion, assigned reading, recorded lectures, personalized feedback, revision
opportunities

Required Texts and Other Materials
• Connect Composition Essentials 3.0 (e-book embedded in Connect). Students are provided
  first-day access to this text through a course fee applied at registration; no bookstore
  purchases are necessary. ISBN: 978-1259113833
  ISBN: 978-0393623574
• Jackson, Shirley. We Have Always Lived in the Castle. Penguin, 2006. ISBN: 978-
  0143039976
• Regular and reliable internet access; other course materials are provided on D2L

Technological Requirements and Student Support
For information about USD’s technical, academic, and student support services, as well as how
to take advantages of these services, please refer to the Online Student Handbook, which can
also be found under the USD Getting Started widget on our D2L homepage. This document contains important information pertaining to minimum technology requirements, online etiquette, registration information, and other university services and policies.

Course Activities

**READING:** This semester, we will be reading short fiction, poetry, drama, and a short novel. You are expected to read and, often, reread the texts and be prepared to contribute to small-group and whole class discussions about them. As this is a three-credit course, expect a minimum of nine hours of course work each week. With the exception of the short novel, you should expect to read each assigned poem, story, or other literary work at least twice. Read the piece quickly the first time, only stopping to highlight, underline, or circle any interesting, confusing, or significant text. For the second reading, slow down, continuing to highlight, underline, question, comment, and dialogue with the text. Write in the margins. Note page numbers and cross-reference your notes. The practice of **active reading** strategies is an essential component in learning effective, successful literary analysis. Regular reading quizzes and whole-class discussions of our texts and corresponding prompts will help keep you accountable for completing the assigned course reading in a timely manner and enable you to demonstrate your active engagement with the texts, your classmates, and the course.

**WRITING:** This course requires that you compose a variety of writing assignments. Response papers include explication, comparison/contrast, reader response, character analysis, and engagement with literary criticism. In addition to response papers, you will engage in written discussion board posts. You will also write three formal essays of substantial length.

In short, we will be writing a lot, and your peers and instructor will provide feedback to help you strengthen your skills in reading and analyzing literary texts. Such skills improve with practice, and ideas evolve over time and through shared perspectives, so everyone is required to work through multiple drafts of each major essay; you will also present a series of sentence-level corrections as part of draft revisions. Specifically, writing assignments are as follows:

**Descriptions of Major Essays**

*Short Fiction* (research not allowed). 900-1200 words. Significant revision of one of your response papers written during the short fiction unit.

*Character Analysis* (research required). 1500-1850 words. Significant revision of one or more of your response papers written during the drama unit.

*Extended Analysis* (research required). 2100-2500 words. Critical analysis of the novel read during the course.

**Brief Writing Assignments**

*Response Papers* (no research). 250-350 words, or about one page each. Assignment details will be announced prior to due dates; will include explication, reader-response, comparison of two works, critical analysis, and summary of literary criticism. At least
two response papers will be written for each unit so that you will have options to expand on for the longer essays.

Assessment and Grading
One of the goals for this course is to encourage you to develop critical reading and analytical skills as you practice thoughtful reading and writing about literary texts. A second and equally important goal is to help you continue to develop your writing skills. Thus, you will receive detailed feedback from me on at least one draft of each major essay for this course before submitting it for grading. Final grades for each major essay will be assigned after you have had the opportunity to revise those essays.

Response papers, quizzes, and formal essays will receive letter grades as the semester progresses. Shorter assignments will receive scores within one week of the assignment due date. The longer essay assignments will take up to two weeks for scoring and feedback. You can see your total class grade at any time by clicking on the grades tab.

Minimum Requirements for Passing English 210
To pass this course, you must:
1. complete multiple drafts of three major essays, two of which must have a significant research component;
2. submit only writing that has been produced during the current semester for ENGL 210; and
3. submit all writing assignments, as required, to D2L/Turnitin.
These are the minimum requirements for passing the course. If these requirements are accomplished, your course grade will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes: 20%
Discussions: 20%
   Participation subtotal – 40%
Response papers: 10%
Sentence-level Corrections: 5%
   Process Work subtotal – 15%
Essay 1 final draft: 10%
Essay 2 final draft: 15%
Essay 3 final draft: 20%
   Formal Writing subtotal – 45%
Total Overall Grade – 100%

No incompletes will be assigned for this course.

Course Goals
This course fulfills the following goals of the South Dakota Regental System-wide Graduation
Requirements:

SGR #4, Humanities/Fine Arts: Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through study of the arts and humanities.

As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:

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<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assessment(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of values, beliefs, and ideas embodied in the human experience,</td>
<td>Reading quizzes, discussions, and response papers; three revised, graded essays written on a range of literary works, which embody a diversity of values, beliefs, and ideas.</td>
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<td>2. Identify and explain basic concepts of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities.</td>
<td>Regular quizzes and whole-class discussions in which students demonstrate knowledge of the formal properties of imaginative literature in at least three genres; three formal, revised, graded essays in which students demonstrate knowledge of the formal properties of imaginative literature in at least three genres.</td>
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In addition, as a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will be able to do at least one of the following:

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<tr>
<td>1. Identify and explain the contributions of other cultures from the perspective of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities,</td>
<td>Discussions, response papers, and three formal essays.</td>
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<td>2. Demonstrate creative and aesthetic understanding,</td>
<td>Quizzes, discussions, response papers, and three formal essays.</td>
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<td>3. Explain and interpret formal and stylistic elements of the literary or fine arts,</td>
<td>Quizzes, discussions, response papers, and three formal essays.</td>
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<td>4. Demonstrate foundational competency in reading, writing, and speaking a non-English language.</td>
<td>Discussions, response papers, and three formal essays.</td>
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