



ENGLISH 203

World Literature: Conversations Across Texts, Times, and Places



Image Credit: detail from *The Rose (Part IV)* by Cy Twombly

Course Description

English 203, World Literature, is a reading-intensive course that will expose you to writing from a variety of genres, times, places, cultures, and perspectives. In our class we'll read groups of texts chosen to allow us to locate, discuss, and write about conversations between them. First, we'll start with *Gilgamesh*, which will be paired with selections from *The End We Start From* by Megan Hunter and *Four Quartets* by T.S. Eliot. Then, we'll study Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and consider it alongside the movie *Ex Machina*, "The Little Sea-Maid" by Hans Christian Andersen, excerpts from *The Sea* by Samantha Hunt, and selections from *The Slate of Life: More Contemporary Stories by Writers of India*. At the end of the semester, we'll discuss selections from the following texts in relation to each other: *Every Day Is For The Thief* by Teju Cole, *The Half-Finished Heaven* by Tomas Tranströmer, *Running in the Family* by Michael Ondaatje, and *Noli Me Tángere* by José Rizal.

We'll spend our class periods discussing our texts, the conversations they form, and why those conversations are necessary. To promote effective note-taking habits, we'll complete an in-class, open-note test at the end of each unit. Along with these tests, you'll also write a Preparation Paper at the end of each unit. These short papers will be completed outside of class and submitted on Canvas. They will prompt you to form a thesis statement about our unit's texts and to prove that thesis using appropriate evidence from the texts. These short papers are meant to prepare you for the Final Paper, which will be a 4-page, thesis-driven argument requiring you to discuss a conversation across texts and use evidence from them to prove your thesis. To promote writing progress, you'll also be allowed to revise and resubmit your Preparation Papers to raise the grades, if you'd like.

Quick Information

ENG 203 - H002, Spring 2023

Tu/Th 4:00-5:15 in LAB 203

Dr. Rachael Fowler

Rachael.Fowler@usm.edu

Office: LAB 338A

Office Hours: Wed. 10:00-3:00
and also by appointment

Communication The easiest way to contact me is by email. I will do my best to answer within 48 hours on weekdays, but may take longer to reply over the weekend. While you are free to email any day at any time, I also reserve the right to not answer emails after 5:00 pm. To talk in person, my office hours are on Wednesdays from 10:00-3:00 in LAB 338A. If this time doesn't work for you, let me know. We can always schedule an alternative time to meet.

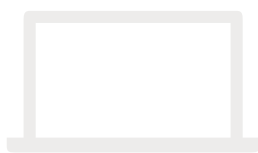
Required Materials

Global Crossroads: A World Literature Reader (Newly Revised Edition) by Luis A. Iglesias for regular required readings

Consistent Laptop/Computer Access to find provided required readings and submit all papers on Canvas

A Notebook In Class to take notes every class period and use for help with papers and open-note tests

Online Access to access the online components of this course you must first go to <https://usm.instructure.com/login/canvas>, then follow the log-in instructions. You will need to have your EMPLID and password (the same information you use to access SOAR and register for classes). If you have any questions or run into difficulty accessing the Canvas material for this course, please call the iTech Help Desk at 601-266-4357 or helpdesk@usm.edu. You can also get specific instructions on how to use components of Canvas by visiting www.usm.edu/lec.



Our Goals

Student Learning Outcomes ENG 203 is a GEC course at USM, and students taking this course are expected to meet the following GEC learning outcomes:

- Students will develop a topic and present ideas through writing in an organized, logical, and coherent form and in a style that is appropriate for the discipline and the situation.
- Students will use Standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage.
- Students will evaluate major developments in world history, the historical roots of contemporary global cultures, or the literary, philosophical, or religious contributions of world cultures.
- Students will comprehend and proficiently interpret text.

In order to assist students in meeting these GEC learning outcomes, The English Department has identified specific learning outcomes for the World Literature course. At the completion of ENG 203, students will:

- have an appreciation of world cultures as expressed through the literature from various geographic, historical, and cultural locales;
- be able to engage texts more critically, and to more appropriately and accurately incorporate the ideas of others in writing;
- have familiarity with “close-reading” techniques and the skills needed to analyze a written text, making and supporting critical interpretations through the analysis of textual evidence;
- have an appreciation of the creative and formal qualities of literary writing;
- communicate more effectively using the conventions of standard edited English.

Attendance (30%)

To create a collaborative space, we depend on each other to show up prepared and ready to participate. To be counted present, you must be on time to class, be prepared, actively participate, not be distracted by technology or others, and stay the whole class period. Your attendance grade for each class period will be available on Canvas. I will keep in mind that everyone has a different comfort level with types of participation, but if your participation is lacking overall, that will be reflected in your attendance grade. If you're ever unsure about or unhappy with your attendance evaluation, I'm happy to talk one-on-one about ways to help you improve.

Our class requires consistent attendance and participation. To successfully pass this course, you'll need to do well on our tests (see below) and our papers (see below). You must be in class to take notes for use on the tests and help with writing your papers.

Open-Note Tests (30%)

We'll complete multiple in-class tests this semester that will help you to review and document important concepts from our readings and class discussions. You are allowed to use *your paper* notes during these tests, meaning you should be taking detailed notes on your own in a notebook while you read and during our class discussions. These tests are meant to help you develop effective note-taking and homework habits. Tests will be at the end of each unit. See the schedule at the end of this syllabus for test dates.

Preparation Papers (20%)

At the end of each unit, you'll write a short paper outside of class. These papers will prompt you to think about the conversation between texts from each unit, to form a thesis statement about the conversation between texts, and to prove that thesis statement using evidence from the readings and effective paragraph structure. While we'll talk about and practice close reading and using evidence during class sessions, these short papers will help you to practice the skill of close reading so that you'll be fully prepared for the Final Paper (see below).

Final Paper (20%)

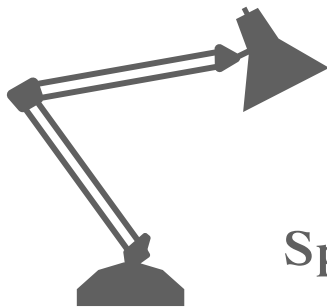
Instead of a final exam, we'll complete a Final Paper that will be a 4-page, thesis-driven argument. In this paper, you'll locate and present a conversation between multiple of our class readings. This paper will require you to form a strong thesis, to prove that thesis with appropriate evidence from your chosen texts, to use effective essay and paragraph structure, and to consider context and implication. We'll talk through writing concepts throughout the semester, practice them in your Preparation Papers (see above), and also have time in-class to write and conference.

Grade Breakdown

90-100%	= A
80-89.9%	= B
70-79.9%	= C
60-69.9%	= D
0-59.9%	= F

In order to receive at least a “C” grade in this course, you must satisfactorily complete *all* of the following:

- Consistently attend and participate in class sessions in a meaningful and respectful manner
- Complete all required in-class tests
- Submit all required Preparation Papers
- Submit your Final Paper



Spotlight on 3 Class Policies

1. Two Free Absences

You may miss 2 days of class with no penalty to your attendance grade (they’ll be marked excused on Canvas). After those first 2 absences, each additional absence will be marked 0% on Canvas. If you are absent on a day when we are completing an in-class test, you will not receive credit for that test.

2. Late Work

To promote effective student habits, late work will not be accepted this semester. Any work turned in late will receive a 0% grade.

3. Revisions

To promote writing progress, I allow revisions. To revise a Preparation Paper, you must email me within 48 hours of my feedback being posted on Canvas and request to revise. We will then discuss a deadline for the resubmission and any help you need to make revisions. Your assignment grade will be adjusted based on the quality of your revision. You can revise Preparation Papers as many times as you need to earn the grade you desire as long as you follow the revision policies outlined here.

The Final Paper (due 5/9) cannot be revised for a higher grade after submission. Open-Note Tests cannot be revised for a higher grade after submitted. All other approved revisions are due 5/4.

Writing Center The Writing Center is a friendly space that provides free, individualized feedback and support to help Southern Miss students succeed with writing assignments for any class. The Center offers one-to-one consultations for any stage of the writing process, from understanding the assignment and brainstorming ideas to revising and editing. To make an appointment, visit usm.edu/writing-center. Select “Schedule an Appointment” and create a WC Online account. The Writing Center is located in Cook Library 112, between Starbucks and the Speaking Center. For more information, visit usm.edu/writing-center or call the center at (601) 266-4821.

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Student Accessibility Services (SAS) is Southern Miss’s designated office to assist the University in its commitment to protect the civil rights of students with disabilities. SAS protects students from discrimination and offers reasonable accommodations to give them equitable access to university courses and resources. Disabilities covered under the ADA may include but are not limited to ADHD, learning disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic health disorders, temporary injuries, and pregnancies. If a student feels that they need classroom or housing accommodations based on a disability they should contact SAS by phone at 601-266-5024, by email at sas@usm.edu, in person by visiting the SAS office located in Bond Hall Room 114, or online at www.usm.edu/sas.

Mental Wellbeing USM recognizes that students sometimes experience challenges that make learning difficult. If you find that life stressors such as academic workload, anxiety, depression, relationship problems, difficulty concentrating, alcohol/drug problems, or other stressful experiences are interfering with your academic or personal success, consider contacting Student Counseling Services on campus at 601-266-4829. More information is also available at <https://www.usm.edu/student-counseling-services>. All students are eligible for free, confidential individual or group counseling services. In the event of emergency, please call 911 or contact the counselor on call at 601-606-HELP (4357).

Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create and maintain a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as a faculty member. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on USM’s campus with certain University officials responsible for the investigation and remediation of sexual misconduct. The information will remain private and will only be shared with those officials necessary to resolve the matter. If you would like to speak in confidence, resources available to students include Confidential Advisors with the Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention, the Counseling Center, Student Health Services, and Clergy. More information on these resources and University Policies is available at <https://www.usm.edu/sexual-misconduct>.

Academic Integrity Statement Academic misconduct involves deception to improve a grade, earn course credit, complete a degree, or create an unfair academic advantage for oneself or disadvantage to another in the academic community. All students at the University of Southern Mississippi should familiarize themselves with the Student Academic Integrity Policy to become familiar with what actions constitute academic misconduct, a violation of that policy. Southern Miss values “an approach to academics, research, and personal conduct based on integrity and civility” and the Student Academic Integrity Policy supports that University value. Forms of academic misconduct may include, but are not limited to:

Cheating - Cheating is a broad category of academic misconduct characterized by an attempt to gain academic advantage through inappropriate means or impede the academic achievement of others.

Plagiarism - The use of another person's or source's words, creative works, or ideas without appropriate quotation or attribution; claiming or submitting for academic credit the work of another.

Lying - The misrepresentation of one's academic work, lying to an instructor to increase a grade, or lying to an instructor regarding an academic integrity violation.

Acquiring or Distributing Information Inappropriately - The act of distributing or obtaining course assignments or examination questions or answers from sources not approved by the instructor or proctor (includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized use of the Internet, test banks associated with course text and previous student work).

Fabrication or Falsification of Data - Any statement of untruth in any matters related to the academic experience, including but not limited to forgery; false claims of authorship; falsification of information, data, or results derived from or related to research or to laboratory experiments.

Stealing or Defacing - The act of intentionally taking, transferring, defacing, or destroying, without right or permission, any property related to the academic mission of the University, including an attempt to impede others.

Multiple Submissions - The submission, more than once, without authorization by any instructors involved, of substantial portions of the same work, including oral reports or work submitted for retaken courses.

Conspiracy - The act of agreeing or planning with any person to commit any violation of the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

If you commit an act of academic misconduct, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur to the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.” Should you be accused of academic misconduct, please visit the [Academic Integrity Website](#) or email integrity@usm.edu for any questions you may have about your rights and about the academic integrity process. Southern Miss provides many campus resources that are detailed in this syllabus and will be discussed by your professors; please utilize those to help you learn. At Southern Miss, we care about your personal work and learning journey.

1st Group of Readings		
Read, Discuss, Review, Write, Revise		
Day	In Class	Due on Canvas by midnight
Thursday, 1/19	Discuss the syllabus, introduction to “conversation,” tips on how to read for our class, notes on reading <i>Gilgamesh</i>	
Tuesday, 1/24	Discuss “Introduction to <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> ” and <i>Gilgamesh</i> Tablets I-III in <i>Global Crossroads</i> , answer syllabus questions	
Thursday, 1/26	Discuss <i>Gilgamesh</i> Tablets IV-VII	
Tuesday, 1/31	Discuss <i>Gilgamesh</i> Tablets VIII-XI	
Thursday, 2/2	Discuss excerpts from <i>The End We Start From</i> by Megan Hunter	
Tuesday, 2/7	Discuss selections from <i>Four Quartets</i> by T.S. Eliot, discuss Test 1 and Preparation Paper 1 (see samples for the paper)	
Thursday, 2/9	Open-Note Test 1, discuss prompt for Preparation Paper 1	
Monday, 2/13		Preparation Paper 1

2nd Group of Readings Read, Discuss, Review, Write, Revise		
Day	In Class	Due on Canvas by midnight
Tuesday, 2/14	Reflection, introduction to 2nd Group of Readings	
Thursday, 2/16	Discuss <i>The Tempest</i> Act 1	
Tuesday, 2/21	Mardi Gras Break — No Class	
Thursday, 2/23	Discuss <i>The Tempest</i> Acts 2-3	
Tuesday, 2/28	Discuss <i>The Tempest</i> Acts 4-5	
Thursday, 3/2	Introduce, watch, and discuss <i>Ex Machina</i>	
Tuesday, 3/7	Watch and discuss <i>Ex Machina</i>	
Thursday, 3/9	Out-of-Class Writing Day	
Tuesday, 3/14	Spring Break — No Class	
Thursday, 3/16	Spring Break — No Class	
Tuesday, 3/21	Finish and discuss <i>Ex Machina</i>	
Thursday, 3/23	Discuss “The Little Sea-Maid” by Hans Christian Andersen	
Tuesday, 3/28	Discuss excerpts from <i>The Seas</i> by Samantha Hunt	
Thursday, 3/30	Out-of-Class Writing Day	
Tuesday, 4/4	Discuss selections from <i>The Slate of Life: More Contemporary Stories by Writers of India in Global Crossroads</i>	
Thursday, 4/6	Open-Note Test 2, discuss prompt for Preparation Paper 2	
Monday, 4/10		Preparation Paper 2

Class Schedule

3rd Group of Readings Read, Discuss, Review, Write, Revise		
Day	In Class	Due on Canvas by midnight
Tuesday, 4/11	Reflection, introduction to 3rd Group of Readings, discuss prompt for the Final Paper	
Thursday, 4/13	Discuss selections from <i>Every Day Is For The Thief</i> by Teju Cole	
Tuesday, 4/18	Discuss selections from <i>The Half-Finished Heaven</i> by Tomas Tranströmer	
Thursday, 4/20	Discuss selections from <i>Running in the Family</i> by Michael Ondaatje	
Tuesday, 4/25	Discuss <i>Noli Me Tángere</i> by José Rizal in <i>Global Crossroads</i>	
Thursday, 4/27	Open-Note Test 3	

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Final Paper</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Draft, Conference, Revise, Submit</p>		
Day	In Class	Due on Canvas by midnight
Tuesday, 5/2	In-class work and conferences for the Final Paper	
Thursday, 5/4	In-class work and conferences for the Final Paper	All approved revisions
Tuesday, 5/9	Final Exam Week — No Class Period	Final Paper

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify course dates/assignments as necessary. All changes will be announced in class, communicated by email, and reflected on Canvas.