

**LIT 3300: Western Literary Tradition****Fall 2022****Tu-Th 5:30-6:45****JO 3.532****Professor Kenneth Brewer****Professor Contact Information**

Kenneth Brewer

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Office Hours: Tu-Th 11:30-12:45, and by appointment

**Course Description**

A common theme in the Western literary tradition is a character thrown into an unfamiliar environment and having to grapple with its peculiarities. We will examine new environments brought about by various causes, such as illness, plagues, disasters, and walls. How do characters react to these shocking changes? Do they succeed in finding some sort of new equilibrium (or even happiness)? What kinds of philosophical claims are made by these kinds of texts?

**Texts**Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*Watts, *Blindsight*

Sartre, *No Exit*

Haushofer, *The Wall*

Camus, *The Plague*

Saramago, *Blindness*

Alam, *Leave the World Behind*

Other readings will be available on the course eLearning site.

I have ordered high-quality, relatively inexpensive editions, but alternatives are acceptable. Electronic texts are acceptable, provided that you are able to access them on a device that is not distracting.

### **eLearning/Blackboard**

We will be using the online learning system in this class for the submission of assignments and delivery of course information. Please visit as soon as possible so that you are familiar with the interface.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

In this course, students will:

- examine and analyze a variety of literary works (poetry, short stories, and novels);

- apply considered analysis and respond to literary works as examples of human expression and aesthetic and philosophical principles;
- communicate their understanding and knowledge of texts through oral presentations and written documents.

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate:

- an ability to analyze and critically evaluate a variety of works from literature in the context of culture, society, and values;
- an ability to compare and contrast the works with each other;
- an understanding of the relationship between the structure of the works under analysis and their meaning;
- an understanding of the development and evolution of the Western Literary tradition.

### **Agenda**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading Due</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Tu August 23	Introduction to Course	
Th August 25 <i>Illness</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (eLearning)</li> </ul>	Short Writing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viet Than Nguyen, “I’d Love You to Want Me” (eLearning)</li> </ul>	
Tu August 30	Kafka, <i>The Metamorphosis</i> (eLearning)	Short Writing
Th September 1	Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher” (eLearning)	Quiz
Tu September 6	Tolstoy, “The Death of Ivan Ilych” (eLearning)	Quiz
Th September 8	Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener” (eLearning)	Short Writing
Tu September 13	Conan Doyle, <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	Short Writing
Th September 15	Swift, from <i>Gulliver’s Travels</i>	Quiz
Tu September 20	Watts, <i>Blindsight</i>	Short Writing
Th September 22	<i>Blindsight</i>	Quiz
Tu September 27	<i>Blindsight</i>	Short Writing
Th September 29	Coleridge, “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (eLearning)	Short Writing

Tu October 4 <i>The Bad Place</i>	Milton, from <i>Paradise Lost</i> (eLearning)	Short Writing
Th October 6	Peele, <i>Get Out</i>	Short Writing
Tu October 11	Sartre, <i>No Exit</i>	Quiz
Th October 13 <i>Walls</i>	Kureishi, “My Son the Fanatic” (eLearning)	Short Writing
Tu October 18	Buñuel, <i>The Exterminating Angel</i> (online UTD Library, through Kanopy)	Quiz
Th October 20	Haushofer, <i>The Wall</i>	Quiz
Tu October 25	<i>The Wall</i>	Short Writing
Th October 27	<i>Severance</i> Pilot Episode	Quiz
Th November 3 <i>Plagues</i>	Camus, <i>The Plague</i>	Short Writing
Tu November 8	<i>The Plague</i>	Quiz
Th November 10	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> (eLearning)	Quiz
Tu November 15	Saramago, <i>Blindness</i>	Short Writing
Th November 17	<i>Blindness</i>	Quiz
Tu November 29	<i>Blindness</i>	Short Writing
Th December 1 <i>Disasters</i>	Siegel, <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> (on reserve, UTD Library)	Quiz

Tu December 6	Alam, <i>Leave the World Behind</i>	Short Writing
Th December 8	<i>Leave the World Behind</i>	Short Writing

Due date of Paper to be announced

### Assignments & Grading Policy

Below are the required assignments for this course. I will provide more detailed information as the due dates approach. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about assignments.

#### **Short Writings and Quizzes: 60%**

Short response writings will be frequently assigned. These assignments will (usually) be submitted through the e-Learning site for the course. Assignments not submitted by the due date will not be accepted.

There will be frequent quizzes throughout the semester to stimulate class discussion, gauge reading comprehension, and prepare for exams. Quizzes will be based on readings, lecture material, and class discussion. Quizzes may be given at the conclusion of a class meeting.

Your lowest grade on short writings and quizzes will be dropped at the end of the semester; the lowest grade may be an assignment that you missed.

**Paper:** 30%

**Class Participation:** 10%

### **Office Hours**

You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of my (virtual) office hours to talk about class materials, your papers, and anything else that might help you.

### **Avoid Plagiarizing by Accident!**

Using another's ideas or language without acknowledging the source or passing off another's ideas or language as your own is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students often plagiarize without intending to because they are unsure about how to cite sources. Plagiarism by accident is still plagiarism (and will be punished as such), so please feel free to come see me if you are unsure about how to cite sources.

Further material on UTD policies may be found at

<http://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

