

## *Course Syllabus*

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### Course Information

**HUMA 6300.001 Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Arts & Humanities**  
**M 4-6:45 p.m. JO 4.708** **Fall 2016**

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### Professor Contact Information

**R. Clay Reynolds**  
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**JO 4.624**  
**Office Hours: M 2-3:30; W 2-3:30 and by appointment**

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### Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

This course is intended to introduce students to the intellectual and professional requirements of advanced study in literature, history, and the visual and performing arts; the course serves as the core course in the graduate program in the School of Arts and Humanities and is required. The recommendation is that students take it earlier rather than later in their degree plans; the assumption is that students in the course have not mastered the skills the course is supposed to develop. These skills include but are not limited to critical reading, explication and interpretation of literary and historical texts and visual and performing artifacts, and the production of analytical discussion.

**NOTE:** The University of Texas at Dallas requires that a student pass this course with a grade of B or better for the course to count on a degree plan.

The theme of this semester's approach will be Texas: The State and the Legacy. Particular attention will be given to the important role Texas as both geographically defined place and idea has played in the development of both American culture and the state's own identity.

MLA style (particularly as regards punctuation and documentation method) will be required on all written work; other style or rhetorical or grammatical formats will *not* be acceptable, regardless of a student's major discipline or background. This especially applies to style manuals published by the APA, ABA, AMA, or your high school or junior college English teacher.

**Hard copy of all written work is required.** Email attachment, and other forms of electronic submission of written work are not acceptable. Specific requirements for

preparation of written work will be distributed in advance of the first written assignment.

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#### **Course Description:**

**This will be a reading-intensive course.** We will focus on the examination of texts taken from history and fiction as well as film, all produced during or devoted to the subject. Each of the selected works will be assigned for reading, examined and discussed in light of the perceived myths and realities of the State of Texas and the images of the men and women produced by it. A departure point for discussion will be *Lone Star*, by T. R. Ferhenbach, although there will be no specific discussion of this text; additionally, James Haley's *Passionate Nation* will be a seminal text for the course's foundation. Students are strongly advised to have these two works completed within the first two to three weeks of the term. Additional materials drawn from fiction and poetry and dramatic literature and from the visual and performing arts will supplement the course's content. Course format will be lecture/seminar/discussion.

#### **Course Requirements:**

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Students will be expected to read and be prepared to discuss all assigned work on the date due. Failure to complete reading assignments will be regarded as an indifferent attitude toward one's performance evaluation and duly noted as such at the point of evaluation.

For each meeting, each student will prepare a question or statement that may be used as a basis of discussion for the assigned work. Connections to previously assigned and discussed work are encouraged. The question or statement should be typed and be available to be turned in at the start of the class session, although the questions will not be routinely collected. They may be randomly collected, though, and students should arrive with the question in hand.

Each student will make one seminar presentation. These will be scheduled early in the term. Specifics regarding these assignments will be discussed during the first or second class meeting. The presentation should be accompanied by a formal summary, a three-to-five page précis of the presentation, with appropriate bibliography, which will be evaluated for grade.

Each student will write a brief (*maximum* ten-page plus bibliography) proposal for a lengthy research paper. The proposal should indicate a breadth of research and citations should be properly documented. This will be due at the end of term and will constitute the bulk of consideration for grade

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**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to examine a variety of works from the arts & humanities, particularly those connected to literature and history.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to analyze and compare and contrast the works with each other in a prescribed context.
3. Students will be able to apply considered analysis and respond to works in the arts & humanities as examples of human expression and aesthetic and philosophical principles.

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**Required Textbooks and Materials**

*Lone Star*, by T. R. Ferhenbach

*Passionate Nation*, by James Haley

*Hold Autumn in Your Hand*, by George Sessions Perry

*The Time It Never Rained*, by Elmer Kelton

*The Gay Place*, by Billy Lee Brammer

*The Last Picture Show*, by Larry McMurtry

*Strange Peaches*, by Edwin “Bud” Shrake

*The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia & The Oldest Living*

*Graduate*, by Preston Jones

*Modern Language Association Guide for Writers of Research Papers*

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**Suggested Course Materials**

A quality notebook with blank paper and antique writing implement, such as ink pen or sharpened pencil.

Works to be placed on library reserve will be published as a list and distributed as a supplement.

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## **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

### **Calendar**

**The dates and assignments below are subject to change and adjustment as the semester progresses. Please be aware of announcements regarding revisions and alterations in the course schedule.**

#### **August**

**22—Course Introduction I; Dr. John Gooch, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies**

**29—Course Introduction Continued; Texas Identity and History**

#### **September**

**5—Labor Day (No Class)**

**12—Course Introduction II; Texas Identity and History, Discussion, Reports**

**19—Reports, George Sessions Perry**

**26—Reports, Elmer Kelton**

#### **October**

**3—Larry McMurtry, Guest Speaker half period Hispanic Writers in Texas.**

**10— Film**

**17— Reports—Billy Lee Brammer**

**24—Reports—Edwin Shrake**

**31--Film**

#### **November**

**7—Guest Speaker, Half Period--Texas Women Writers**

**14—Reports**

**21—Fall Break & Thanksgiving Break (No Class)**

**28—Reports, Preston Jones**

#### **December**

**5—LAST CLASS MEETING (Papers Due)**

## Grading Policy

The final grade in this class will be determined by an evaluation of the student's written work, class participation, and general attendance. Written work will be evaluated for content quality, organizational and structural integrity, *and* grammatical correctness and proper format.

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## Course & Instructor Policies

Absentee policy is very simple. The class will meet once weekly, save for Spring Break. If for some reason the class cannot meet at a scheduled time, then there will be no meeting. Otherwise, students will be *required* to attend *all* meetings, to be *on time* and prepared to begin when the class commences. Class participation is a vital part of the student grade. Students who must miss class for *any* reason are subject to grade penalty, even failure of the class.

Late or incomplete work is *not* acceptable; incompletes will *not* be given in this class.

Please note: With the exception of those students making presentations, the use of tape recorders, personal or laptop computers, *cellular telephones*, beepers or other electronic gimmickery and geegawery is not permitted during this class. Students are encouraged, however, to take notes in long-hand. Children, pets, and other guests are not permitted in class without prior permission of the instructor.

Special Note: Plagiarism, confederate or counterfeit work, cheating of any sort or kind, however practiced, will be dealt with under a policy of zero tolerance. Any student deemed to be involved in any sort of dishonest presentation or representation of work as his or her own that has been taken without permission and due and properly formatted credit and citation from another source, will be subject to the maximum penalties that can be imposed by the university. Ignorance is no excuse! Be aware of this policy for your own well-being.

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The Following is offered at the instruction of the Office of the Provost:

### Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email, in person, or within assignments or exams should be aware that faculty members and teaching/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-883-2527 or after hours 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), the Women's Center (972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), the clergyperson (or other legally recognized

religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (i.e., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-2218. Additional information and resources may be found at <http://www.utdallas.edu/oiec/title-ix/resources>.

## Campus Carry

Senate Bill 11 (SB 11), also known as “campus carry,” permits handgun license holders to carry their weapons onto the campus and into the general buildings of public universities and colleges in Texas. Passed by the 84th Texas Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott, SB 11 took effect Aug. 1, 2016. As part of the law, the University was allowed to establish reasonable rules, regulations or other provisions regarding the carrying of concealed handguns, including campus locations where concealed carry is prohibited, subject to amendment by the UT System Board of Regents. The purpose of the UT Dallas policy is to comply with the law while maintaining the maximum safety and security of UT Dallas students, staff, faculty and guests.

### Facts





- A person must have a license to carry a concealed handgun on campus. Requirements include being at least 21 years of age and a legal resident of Texas for the six-month period preceding the date of application.
- Concealed carry is prohibited in these buildings: Callier Center-Richardson (CR); Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory (RL); Bioengineering and Sciences Building (BSB); University Commons Residence Halls (RHNW, RHN, RHS, RHSW, RHW); Dining Hall West (DHW); Recreation Center West (RCW); Callier Center-Dallas; the Center for BrainHealth; and the Center for Vital Longevity. (See map below).
- Solely occupied offices can be designated as exclusion zones, prohibiting the concealed carry of a handgun in that space. If occupants choose to exercise this discretion, they must provide oral notice that concealed carry is prohibited in the office. The use of signage does not satisfy notification requirements.
- License holders cannot carry concealed handguns at University sporting events, patient care facilities, including the Galerstein Women’s Center, the Student Health Center and the Student Counseling Center, disciplinary hearing or mediation facilities, and areas where schoolchildren are present.
- Open carry is not allowed. If the license holder carries a visible handgun, or if the handgun is intentionally displayed in plain view of another person, it is considered a criminal offense.
- The University will not provide storage of a license holder’s handgun.

### Exclusion Zones



In accordance with SB 11, signs will be posted on entry points of buildings deemed exclusion zones, where concealed carry is prohibited. In addition to the [Center for Vital Longevity](#), the entire facilities of the [Center for BrainHealth](#) and the [Callier Center campus](#) in Dallas, the highlighted buildings have been designated as exclusion zones.

### Related Links

- [Texas Senate Bill 11](#) 
- [Statement from Chancellor McRaven](#)
- [Memo on implementation](#) 
- [UT System Working Group Report](#) 
- [Letter to System with UT Dallas' Recommendations](#) 
- [Statement from UT Dallas](#)
- [Amendment memo](#) 