



ENGL 4374-01, CRN 83974
12:30-1:50, Evans 353

Dr. Audrey Murfin
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Evans 304

Office hours: T/Th 11-12 and by
appointment

Studies in the English Novel

Catalogue Description:

The study of a variety of topics and figures in the British novel. Prerequisites: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hrs. of ENGL 3000-level. Credit 3.

Course Objectives:

Students will

- 1.) Read novels from England.
- 2.) Be able to discuss major issues in the development of the novel in British literary history.
- 3.) Define and defend their own positions about literary meaning in classroom discussion and formal writing assignments.
- 4.) Research and compose a major research assignment synthesizing multiple sources and advancing an original argument.

Textbooks:

Please note: all students *must* purchase the textbooks and bring them to class. There will be substantial reading from the textbook before every, or nearly every, class session, and we will consult the text frequently during class time.

- 1.) George Eliot, *Middlemarch*, Penguin, 1994. (Other editions possible with instructor approval).
- 2.) Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*, Vintage, 2000.
- 3.) Other readings made available in class or via Blackboard.

Reading schedule

All reading is to be completed by the listed date. This schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the class.

Week one:

Thursday, August 24

Introduction. What is a novel? Introduction to primary source research.

Week two:

Tuesday, August 29

Middlemarch, Book I.

Thursday, August 31

Henry James, "The Art of Fiction" (link on Blackboard). Robert Louis Stevenson, "A Humble Remonstrance" (will be provided and read in class). Continued discussion of *Middlemarch* Book I. Primary source presentations on *Middlemarch* by **Lindsay Ohnoutka** and **Kylee Wyndham**.

Week three:

Tuesday, September 5

Middlemarch, book II.

Thursday, September 7

Mario Ortiz Robles, Preface and Chapter one, *The Novel as Event*. Primary source presentations on *Middlemarch* by **Elizabeth Barnes** and **Amy Carrington**.

Week four:

Tuesday, September 12

Reading quiz. *Middlemarch*, Book III

Thursday, September 14

Mario Ortiz Robles, *The Novel as Event*, chapter five, "Middlevoice" (goes with book three). Primary source presentation on *Middlemarch* by **Cody Doud** and **Emily Ericson**.

Week five:

Tuesday, September 19

Middlemarch, Book IV.

Thursday, September 21

Frederick Jameson, *The Antimonies of Realism* pp. 1-44. Primary source presentation on *Middlemarch* by **Gabriela Espinoza** and **Shane Goedecke**.

Week six:

Tuesday, September 26

Middlemarch, Book V

Thursday, September 28

Gillian Beer, Chapter five of *Darwin's Plots*. Primary source presentation on *Middlemarch* by **Margaret Hagemen** and **Jessica Herrin**.

Week seven:

Tuesday, October 3

Middlemarch, Book VI

Thursday, October 5

Thursday: Nancy Henry, from *The Life of George Eliot*. Primary source presentation on *Middlemarch* by **Kaci Mallet** and **Brittany Page**.

Week eight:

Tuesday, October 10

Middlemarch, Book VII. **Midterm examination.**

Thursday, October 12

500-word formal research proposals due identifying a question to be explored in final research paper. Writing workshop on research proposals. Primary source presentation on *Middlemarch* by **Rebecca Roberts** and **Kathryn Ulrich**.

Week nine:

Tuesday, October 17

Middlemarch, Book VIII

Thursday, October 19

Continued discussion of end of *Middlemarch*. Primary source presentation on *Middlemarch* by **Shelby White**. Revised research proposals due.

Week ten:

Tuesday, October 24

White Teeth, Archie (pp. 3-104)

Thursday, October 26

Continue discussion of *White Teeth*, introduction to library research.

Week eleven:

Tuesday, October 31

White Teeth, Samad (pp. 105-220)

Thursday, November 2

Continue discussion, *White Teeth*. Bibliography due. In class I will look at your bibliography and assign you your first articles to annotate.

Week twelve:

Tuesday, November 7

White Teeth Irie (pp. 221-342)

Thursday, November 9

Continue discussion, *White Teeth*. Annotations due, first article.

Week thirteen:

Tuesday, November 14

White Teeth Magid, Millat, and Marcus (pp. 343-end.)

Thursday, November 16

Continue discussion, *White Teeth*. Annotations due, second article.

Week fourteen:

Tuesday, November 21

In class writing workshop.

Thursday, November 23 – no class, Thanksgiving

Week fifteen:

Tuesday, November 28

Readings TBA. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their work on the final papers.

Thursday, November 30 (last class day)

Readings TBA. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their work on the final papers. **Final papers due.**

Finals week

Please check schedule for the time of the final essay examination.

Grading plan and assignments required

Reading quiz	5%
Primary source presentation	10%
Midterm examination	10%
Research proposal	5%
Bibliography (quality of sources 50%, correctness 50%)	5%
Annotations	10% (5% each)
Final research paper	40%
Final essay exam	15%

Specific instructions will be distributed in advance of the due dates.

Attendance policy

1. Participation in class is of critical important to this course. Students with more than 5 unexcused absences cannot earn an A in the course. Students will not be excused for work, routine doctor appointments, car trouble or traffic. To qualify for an excused absence, students must provide documentation. *Students who miss 25% of the course (eight class sessions) I consider to have not taken the course, and will automatically fail, regardless of work submitted, even if some of those absences are excused.* Late registration is not an exception. Note well: late arrival and early departure from class may be recorded as an absence, as will inattentive or disruptive behavior (such as failure to bring the required text to class, visiting Facebook, using a cell phone, refusal to participate in class discussions, etc.). It is the responsibility of students who are tardy to check with me to make sure I have marked you present. Three tardies (a tardy is when you arrive after I have completed attendance) or early departures will constitute one absence.
2. Athletes and others participating in SHSU events requesting excused absences must notify me well in advance of these events. Additionally, these students must hand in any assigned work *before* the due date. It is my expectation that students who intend to request days off to participate in such activities will, as representatives of the University, be extra diligent about missing classes at other times. To this end, please note that if you miss eight class sessions you will fail the course, even if some of those sessions were excused or for reasons out of your control.
3. Students who miss class are responsible for getting the information on what we covered in class from another student, not the professor. I will not accept emailed reading sheets from students who are absent.

Late work and make up policies

- 1.) Note carefully the midterm and final exam dates. Makeup examinations will only be administered for the following reasons: 1.) Illness, with documentation, 2.) Funeral attendance, with documentation, 3.) Participation in an SHSU event

(athletic, band, etc.) for which you have a signed document from a faculty advisor or coach requesting faculty excuse your absences. In the case of #3, the examination will be scheduled before the class examination. You **must** inform me three weeks in advance, and provide me with your class schedule. Do not schedule vacation during finals week.

- 2.) Assignments received late will lose one full grade (ten percent). They may be turned in for one week after the due date.
- 3.) If you miss your primary source presentation, you may be rescheduled for a makeup date later in the semester, at the instructor's discretion.

Academic dishonesty policy

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work may be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, is grounds for immediate failure from the course, regardless of work previously submitted during the semester. **If you cheat, do not anticipate that you will be given a second chance.** Be advised that gross academic dishonesty (for example, buying or downloading student papers off the internet, texting during exams) not only will result in immediate failure from the course, but also will be reported to the Dean and disciplinary action will be pursued. If you have any questions or anxieties about what constitutes plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask me or to seek help at the Writing Center.

Cell phone policy

Students will not use telecommunication devices during class time without instructor permission; devices must be turned off (not set to vibrate) and must be stowed away (not on your desk, your lap, or in an open purse). Students who fail to comply with this policy in class may be marked absent and, with multiple offenses, may face expulsion from the classroom or failure in the course. Students who fail to comply with this policy during an exam will be given zero credit for the exam and, if appropriate, be charged with academic dishonesty. If you believe you warrant special consideration (because of an imminent emergency), you may speak with the instructor *ahead of time* to get permission to use such devices.

Instructor evaluation

Students will be asked to complete a feedback form during the semester and an instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Students with Disabilities Policy

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the classroom

No visitors will be permitted in the classroom without the instructor's permission.

Recording and Intellectual Property

Students may not record lectures or discussions except as allowed by a Students with Disabilities accommodation sheet. I (Audrey Murfin) retain ownership of this syllabus, lecture notes, digital presentations, handouts given in class or on Blackboard, assignments and examinations. Students are prohibited from posting class material on the internet or disseminating it except with others enrolled in the class.