



**English 399.001: Literary and Research Methods
Spring 2014
Dr. Susan Louise Stewart**

Hall of Languages 314
susan.stewart@tamuc.edu

903-468-8624 (office phone)
903-886-5260 (dept. phone)
903-886-5980 (fax)

Office Hours:

F2F: Tuesday: 11:00-1:00; Thursday, 1-4

By appointment

By email (I will respond to emails within 24 hours M-R)

Catalog Description:

This course provides an advanced study of the basic principles and methods of literary analysis. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of formal literary terminology, a coverage of basic critical methodologies, and a thorough understanding of research techniques specific to the field. Required of all English majors.

Prerequisite ENG 1302 and sophomore standing

Required Texts:

Must use this text: Shelley, *Frankenstein*, ISBN: 9780312191269 Edition: 2ND 00 (Bedford)

Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research papers*, ISBN 9781603290241

Student Learning Outcomes:

Learners will demonstrate that:

- They can identify useful and appropriate scholarly sources for academic writing;
- They can properly incorporate (quote, paraphrase, cite, etc.) appropriate scholarship in their own texts
- They are resourceful investigators

Student Benefits:

The course will help majors and non-majors navigate and evaluate the various resources available to them, which is important to any student who is expected to engage in any kind of research.

The course will provide information regarding theoretical approaches to literature, which will help them in other courses that require students to use a theoretical “lens” in their work.

Students will engage in “close readings,” which helps them approach any text in an informed and critical manner.

Assignments and Grading

90-100%=A

80-89%=B

70-79%=C

60-69%=D

59% and below=F

Assignments (Descriptions located in eCollege)

Children’s Ghost Stories (30 pts)

Annals of Public Justice (40 pts)

Frankenstein and Different Ways (30 pts)

Frankenstein and Databases (30 pts)

Vampires and MLA (14 pts)

Shelley Scholars (22 pts)

Analysis (80 pts)

Final Project (100 pts)

Misc. Assignments/Quizzes (5-50 pts each)

Course Policies

Academic Honesty Policy: Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of academic **dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), recycling papers written for other classes, cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. See the following helpful resources regarding plagiarism:

1. your *MLA Handbook*
2. <http://www.plagiarism.org/>
3. <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

Egregious plagiarism such as recycling a paper, turning in a paper that you did not write, or similar actions will result in one or more of the following: a 0 for the assignment, an F for the class, disciplinary action administered by the university.

Late Papers, Attendance, and Incomplete Grades Policies: I seldom accept late papers, and if I do, it is at my discretion. Additionally, expect no better than a C on a paper that is turned in late.

Be here. I do not allow for make-ups on quizzes or exams. There is no extra credit. If you miss 4 classes or more, expect no better than a C. If you miss 6 classes, expect to fail the course.

Only under exceptional circumstances will I grant an incomplete for the course, and then it depends on the Dean as to whether or not the incomplete will be permitted. You will have to supply documentation in order to obtain an incomplete. That doesn't come from me. It comes from the dean.

Civility and Etiquette: Students are expected to be civil, polite, and accommodating to differences of opinion and will follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See 'Code of Student Conduct' from *Student Guide Handbook* located on page 31 at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook2009-2010.pdf>. University policy provides the means for dismissing students who do not meet these requirements, and I take politeness very seriously.

Technology Requirements:

This course is supported by e-College, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. Various readings and the grade book are available through eCollege. You will also turn in assignments through dropbox function of eCollege.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course. You will need access to the following technologies:

1. Internet access/connection – high speed recommended
2. Word Processor: MS Word [doc or docx]. If you do not have MS word, you can save your texts as rtf (rich text format) or txt (plain txt). Be aware that saving documents in rtf or txt will possibly cause problems with formatting, and formatting is important in this class in this class. If saving your document in txt or rtf, contact me, and I will identify a solution.

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you use a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

I strongly recommend that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the "myCourses" tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

What to Do First:

1. Come to class
2. Read the syllabus
3. I will announce and explain assignments in class, but you should browse the course content so that you will know what is coming up

Communication and Support and Primary Communication Tools

I rely mainly on office hours, e-mail, and comments on assignments to communicate with students.

While I reply to individual e-mails with non-campus e-mail addresses, if I send out a mass e-mail, it will go to the email address identified in eCollege. Please check your campus e-mail frequently.

eCollege Student Technical Support:

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on “Live Support” on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the “Help” button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

University Student Technical Support

The writing center located in the Hall of Languages is a great resource. Be sure to take advantage of their expertise.

University Procedures/Policies

Drop a Course: Students may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled “Drop a class” from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

Administrative Withdrawal: I reserve the right to administratively drop students for excessive absences.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

e-mail: StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Website: Student Disability Resources & Services at <http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/studentLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Course Schedule

Follow Course Schedule under the Course Schedule Tab in eCollege—
that will be your current schedule

Please note this is subject to change, but I will give notice. Make sure you're in class or you might miss schedule revisions!

- Please note that you should have the full text read by the first day it's mentioned. The "continued" simply means we will continue our discussion. Again, though, have the entire text read by the class period it's mentioned.
- Always bring your *MLA Handbook* with you
- Never use Wikipedia or similar sources.
- Assignments are due prior to class unless otherwise noted.
- I will take up to 50% off of materials that aren't documented according to MLA; you're shooting for meticulous documentation.
- I will very possibly add assignments to the following, depending on the needs of the class.
- Word counts do not include Works Cited.

Week 1	T: 1-14	Introductions	
	R: 1/16	Meet at library (library classroom, 2nd floor)	
Week 2	T: 1/21	Meet at library (library classroom, 2nd floor)	
	R: 1/23	<i>Case Studies</i> (CS) Introduction through Chapter 11	
Week 3	T: 1/28	CS Chapter 12-Conclusion	
	R: 1/30	CS Contextual Documents, 190-233	
Week 4	T: 2/4	CS Critical History, 237-261	
	R: 2/6	Assignment: Children's Ghost Stories	
Week 5	T: 2/11	CS Psychoanalytical Criticism, 262-295 During class, be able to identify what makes the Collings chapter a psychoanalytical reading. Expect a quiz.	
	R: 2/13	Assignment: Annals of Public Justice	
Week 6	T: 2/18	CS Feminist Criticism, 296-333 During class, be able to identify what makes the Smith chapter a feminist reading. Expect a quiz.	
	R: 2/20	Playing Catch up!	
Week 7	T: 2/25	Assignment: <i>Frankenstein</i> and Different Ways	
	R: 2/27	CS Gender Criticism, 334-367	

		During class, be able to identify what makes the Michel chapter a gender reading. Expect a quiz.	
Week 8	T: 3/4	Assignment: <i>Frankenstein</i> and Databases	
	R: 3/6	CS Marxist Criticism, 368-395 During class, be able to identify what makes the Montag chapter a Marxist reading. Expect a quiz.	
Spring Break!	3/10-14	SPRING! BREAK!	
Week 9	T: 3/18	CS Cultural Criticism, 396-431 During class, be able to identify what makes the Zakharieva chapter a Marxist reading. Expect a quiz.	
	R: 3/20	Assignment: Vampires and MLA	
Week 10	T: 3/25	Find the article in <i>Rhetoric Review</i> published in 2005, written by 3 authors that discusses Whiteness Studies. Print, read, and make notations on the article. Bring the article to class. Be able to discuss what Whiteness Studies means. Expect a quiz.	
	R: 3/27	“Desiree’s Baby.” Be prepared to discuss how whiteness studies applies to “Desiree’s Baby.”	
Week 11	T: 4/1	Assignment: Shelley Scholars Discuss the analysis and final project Discussing the final project	
	R: 4/3	TBA—Be in class!	
Week 12	T: 4/8	TBA—Be in class!	
	R: 4/10	More on the final project	
	S: 4/11	Analysis Due	
Week 13	T: 4/15	TBA—Be in class!	
	R: 4/17	TBA—Be in class!	
	S: 4/19	TBA—Be in class!	
Week 14	T: 4/22	TBA—Be in class!	
	R: 4/24	TBA—Be in class!	
Week 15	T: 4/29	TBA—Be in class!	
	R: 5/1	TBA—Be in class!	
Finals Week	5/5-5/9	Final Project Tuesday, 5/6, noon	