

LIT 2000 Literature and Culture: Essays // Spring 2023 Course Policies

Section 4 (MWF 8:20AM-9:35AM,
Taylor Hall 105) // 2 Units // LJWL Dept.

Professor: *Robbie Maakestad*

Office: *Bond Academic Center, 119*

Office Hours: *[MWF 9:45-11:45am and
TR 10:45-11:45am by appointment]*

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PLNU MISSION

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Literature 2000: Literature and Culture: Essays is a course designed as a “study of representative works of literature and cultural contexts.” We will be reading and discussing works of nonfiction by a diverse group of writers who explore American and world issues, as well as the contexts in which these essays were written. By the end of this course, students will be familiar with essays as a form of nonfiction, as well as a variety of essayistic subgenres.

GENERAL EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and cultures.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation.
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts:

- a. Standard literary terminology
 - b. Modes/genres of literature
 - c. Elements of literary genres
 - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
 - e. Extra-literary research
3. Connect the works with their own lives and with the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the works and their authors.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Best American Essays 2017, Edited by Leslie Jamison and Robert Atwan
ISBN-13: 978-0544817333

Additional readings will be posted to Canvas—you will need to print these out and bring them with you to class the day they are assigned so that you can access the documents in class during discussion. If you print double-sided, and more than one .pdf page per printed page, this will lower the printing cost for you this semester. I would recommend getting a 3-ring binder to organize the essays posted to Canvas.

Please bring a notebook and writing utensil to each class to take notes, as well as the textbook/assigned essays that will be discussed for that class period.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading/Reading Quizzes:

Dates for the readings are clearly indicated on the schedule. Complete all reading prior to the class session when the text will be discussed. You will be expected to read and annotate (take notes in the margins) all assigned course readings. Reading quizzes will total 200 points, but there is no set number of quizzes planned: rather, the quiz grades will be totaled across the semester and then the percentage will be taken out of 200. Example: Fifteen 10-point reading quizzes in a semester and you get 80% total on them (120/150). You would then score 160/200 (80%) for this category.

Discussion:

The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of class discussions. Each of you must feel comfortable contributing to discussions. And each of you should bring any questions you have about the reading to our attention during the course of our discussions.

Writing:

Each student will complete a mid-term exam and a final exam in class—consisting of a written and multiple-choice component, and a reflection essay written outside of class. Students cannot pass the course without completing each of these major assignments. See **TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS** for info on late work.

Writer's Symposium

During the final week of class, instead of our usual class period, each student will attend two of the three Writer's Symposium evening interview events (tickets cost \$5 with the code STUDENT, and I would recommend that you buy them ASAP to guarantee yourself a seat as attending two evening events is required for this assignment). Order tickets here:

<https://www.pointloma.edu/events/28th-annual-writers-symposium-sea> Students should take a selfie of themselves at each event (as proof of attendance) and include it in their Writer's Symposium Written Reflection which is a short analysis paper reflecting on what they learned at each of the two events. Attendance of two events and the written reflection will total 100 points.

Attendance and Participation:

Coming to class well-prepared is critical in a discussion-based course like this one. I expect you to come to each class prepared—that means not just doing the reading, thinking about it, and digesting it, but also *bringing your book and printed .pdfs to class* because we will often reference the texts during class discussion. Coming to class without the assigned reading for the day will result in a loss of participation points. You should also be prepared to actively engage in class discussions, peer reviews, and other in-class activities.

Class attendance and participation will be graded out of 200. Each class day is worth 10 points, up to a max of 150 points (17 non-exam MWF meetings). You can miss two classes without it affecting your grade (any attendance points above 150 to a max of 170 will be counted as extra credit)—but you are still responsible for the readings/homework due on the days you're absent. If you miss class or are significantly unprepared for class, you'll earn a zero for that day. **Each absence above two will result in 10 additional points being subtracted from the participation category.**

If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings [for this course, that's more than 2 class periods], the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. **If the absences exceed 20 percent [for this course, that's 4 class periods], the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.** See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

For the remaining 50 points of your participation grade, you'll earn a 42 if you're doing the basics of engaging with the class and participating in discussion; you'll earn a 43+ if I see you regularly leaping in and making strong contributions; you'll earn a 41 or lower if you are frequently late, unprepared, inattentive, disruptive, or do not regularly participate in discussion.

I expect you to attend class and to arrive on time—but I also understand that things come up. In the case of an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss what arrangements can be made.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the midterm and final examinations **on their scheduled days**. The Midterm will consist of a multiple-choice component and an in-class essay. The Final Exam will consist of a multiple-choice component and an in-class essay. The final examination schedule is posted on the Class Schedules site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This class is interactive and discussion-based. So you'll need to come to class prepared to talk and write about the literary texts we're reading and contribute to and lead discussions, small groups, and peer reviews. You will not understand what is happening during our classes if you haven't done the reading and you will miss out on valuable perspective and insights from your classmates if you do not attend class. The same goes for the writing assignments: they are designed to increase your understanding of the texts and make class more productive. Students who attend regularly, stay engaged in the class activities, and keep up with all of the assigned reading and writing usually succeed in this course.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

CANVAS

Throughout this course, students will be required to utilize Canvas to post homework responses, receive course grades, and access any changes to the *Course Schedule* throughout the semester. If the *Course Schedule* is updated, students will be notified well in advance, but will need to download the updated schedule, which the instructor will post on Canvas.

CANVAS SUPPORT

If you have questions about the content you find in my Canvas course or need clarification on assignment instructions please let me know. If you are unsure how to use any given feature in Canvas you will find the [Canvas Guides](#) to be a very helpful resource. If you cannot access something in my Canvas course or it appears that some part of the course is not working properly, please contact the Office of Instructional Technology for support at oit@pointloma.edu. Include specific information in the request (course ID, section, assignment or module name, etc.) to expedite the troubleshooting process. Screenshots are super helpful!

PLNU EMAIL

Students must regularly check their PLNU email account for updates on assignments and scheduling.

RESPECT

Practice basic respect and consideration toward your peers and professor. There will likely be some tricky moments in this class because the literature we read may bring up some conversations about sensitive issues, challenging topics, and difficult language. Remember that we are interested in inquiry, especially critical inquiry, not in establishing one common view. Students who do not actively pay attention and participate in class and will lose participation points.

CONTENT WARNING

As mentioned above, this class will ask you to engage with challenging topics and sensitive issues. Content warnings will not be provided by the professor for individual assigned readings because students should be empowered to judge content for themselves; if content is triggering, or if students determine class discussion of a specific

reading will not be a positive or safe space for them, they should contact the professor to discuss alternatives.

TECHNOLOGY

Refrain from using technology during class time unless a classroom activity calls for it to be used. This means cell phones, laptops, iPads, and other electronic devices. Taking notes by hand has been shown to aid long-term comprehension much more so than typing notes, so by all means, *please take handwritten notes* in class. Unauthorized use of technology during class will result in lost participation points.

TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be turned in on Canvas by the deadline specified on Canvas.

Late assignments are those turned in any time after the specified due date. Late assignments will lose a letter grade for each calendar day they are late (so an A becomes a B after one calendar day, and so on). Late assignments will not be accepted after a week from the due date. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignment is uploaded to Canvas on the day it is due. **I will not accept late homework, and missed in-class work and quizzes cannot be made up.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU strives to be a place where students grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain, or if you have prayer requests, you can contact the [Office of Student Life and Formation](#).

PERSONAL NEEDS

Counseling is available in the Wellness Center for undergraduate students at PLNU. They are open Monday through Friday during the academic school year to offer morning, afternoon, and evening appointments. Please call (619) 849-2574 to schedule a counseling appointment.

COURSE GRADING OVERVIEW

100 points – Writer's Symposium Attendance and Reflection
100 points – Reflective Essay
200 points – Attendance and Class Participation
200 points – Reading Quizzes
200 points – Midterm Exam
200 points – Final Exam

LETTER GRADE GUIDELINES

880 - 899 points	B+	920 - 1000 points	A	900 - 919 points	A-
780 - 799 points	C+	820 - 879 points	B	800 - 819 points	B-
680 - 699 points	D+	720 - 779 points	C	700 - 719 points	C-
		620 - 679 points	D	600 - 619 points	D-

WHAT ESSAY EXAM GRADES ACTUALLY MEAN

A: Exceptional Work: complex understanding and insightful application of skills and concepts; sophistication and depth in interpretation and style; proficiency in standard grammatical form and documentation conventions; high competence in all or almost all categories of the grading rubric.

B: Very Good Work: clear, thoughtful understanding and sound application of skills and concepts; correct written presentation; high competence in most categories of the grading rubric.

C: Adequate Work: obvious, general, or vague understanding and application of skills and concepts; acceptable written presentation; basic competence in many categories of the grading rubric.

D: Less-than-Satisfactory Work: limited understanding and weak application of skills and concepts; poorly presented written work; low competence in many categories of the grading rubric.

F: Unsatisfactory Work: inadequate understanding and incorrect application of skills and concepts; unacceptable written presentation; incompetence in most categories of the grading rubric.

LIT 2000 COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	READING	ASSIGNMENTS DUE (in bold)
WEEK 1—INTRODUCTION TO THE ESSAY		
Tuesday, January 10	First Day of Class; <i>Best American Essays (BAE)</i> : Foreword and Introduction	
Wednesday, January 11	[<i>Canvas</i>]: Monson’s “Essay as Hack,” and Heman’s “The Aquarium”	
Friday, January 13	[<i>BAE</i>] Arment’s “Two Shallow Graves” and Kushner’s “We Are Orphans Here”	
WEEK 2		
Monday, January 16	MLKJ DAY—NO CLASS	
Wednesday, January 18	[<i>BAE</i>] Resnick’s “H.”	
Friday, January 20	ONLINE CLASS [<i>Canvas</i>] Doyle’s “Leap,” Junod’s “Falling Man,” and Abdurraqib’s “Fear In Two Winters”	
WEEK 3		
Monday, January 23	[<i>BAE</i>] Maloney’s “Cost of Living” and Golbach’s “White Horse”	
Wednesday, January 25	[<i>BAE</i>] Jackson’s “The City that Bleeds” and [<i>Canvas</i>] Hustvedt’s “Tear Them Down: On Old Statues, Bad Science, and Ideas That Just Won’t Die”	
Friday, January 27	[<i>Canvas</i>] Ross’s “Ghost World I – Heritage,” Abdurraqib’s “My First Police Stop” and Cooper’s “Arrest Record”	
WEEK 4		

Monday, January 30 [Canvas] Long Soldier's "On Wounded Knee and the Murder of George Floyd,"
Nguyen's "What Mr. Miyagi Taught Me About Anti-Asian Racism in America," and
Kwon's "A Letter to My Fellow Asian Women Whose Hearts Are Still Breaking"

Wednesday, February 01 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Friday, February 03 [Canvas] Baldwin's "Stranger in the Village," and
[BAE] Ghansah's "The Weight of James Arthur Baldwin"

WEEK 5

Monday, February 06 [BAE] Moore's "The Book of the Dead"

Wednesday, February 08 [Canvas] Charles Mann's "1491" and
Lee's "Track Changes in English"

Friday, February 10 [Canvas] Foster Wallace's "Consider the Lobster" and
[BAE] Lightman's "What Came Before the Big Bang?"

WEEK 6

Monday, February 13 [BAE] Marshall's "If I Only Had a Leg"
[Canvas] McAllister "What To Do With My Body in the Event that I Die in a Mass Shooting," and
greathouse's "The Constituent Parts"

Wednesday, February 15 [Canvas] Jamison's "The Digital Ruins of a Forgotten Future" and
O'Gieblyn's "Ghost in the Cloud"

Friday, February 17 Writer's Symposium Readings TBD

WEEK 7

Attend two of four Writer's Symposium evening interview events.

Tickets cost \$5 with the code STUDENT upon purchase.

<https://www.pointloma.edu/events/28th-annual-writers-symposium-sea>

Monday, February 20 [Canvas] Cantu's "Bajadas,"
Cantu's "Seeking Refuge, Legally, and Finding Prison"
*****FINAL DAY TO TURN IN REFLECTIVE ESSAY*****

Tuesday, February 21 **ATTEND WRITER'S SYMPOSIUM:**
Extra Credit Afternoon Session: Anthony Doerr @ 3pm in Fermanian
Required Interview Option (\$5 Code: STUDENT):
Anthony Doerr @ 7:00pm

Wednesday, February 22

ATTEND WRITER'S SYMPOSIUM:

Extra Credit Afternoon Session: William Finnegan @ 3pm
in Fermanian

Required Interview Option (\$5 Code: STUDENT): William
Finnegan @ 7:00pm

Thursday, February 23

ATTEND WRITER'S SYMPOSIUM:

Extra Credit Afternoon Session: Maria Hinojosa @ 3pm in
Fermanian

Required Interview Option (\$5 Code: STUDENT): Maria
Hinojosa @ 7:00pm

Friday, February 24

ATTEND WRITER'S SYMPOSIUM:

Required Interview Option (free on Zoom): N. Scott
Momaday @ 7:00pm

WEEK 8

Monday, February 27

FINAL EXAM IN CLASS

*****FINAL DAY TO TURN IN WRITER'S SYMPOSIUM REFLECTION*****