

Lit 3052 Diverse Voices in American Literature // Fall 2020

Course Policies

Section 2 (MWF 1:30-2:25 PM,
RLC 101)
3 Units // LJWL Department

Professor: *Robbie Maakestad*
Office: *Bond Academic Center, 119*
Office Hours: *[By appointment:
MWF 8-9AM and TTH 11-12PM]*

LJWL Office: *Bond Academic Center*
Phone: *619-849-2437*
E-Mail: rmaakest@pointloma.edu

“Art is a mystery and our critical prose only begins to penetrate it.” –Gerald Stern, Introduction to *Rose*

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 3052: Diverse Voices in American Literature is a course designed to allow students to listen to the voices of American writers representing groups who have often been oppressed or marginalized by the dominant culture in the United States. We listen to these voices with the hope that they can teach us more about both the promise of the American experience and the challenges we face in striving to be a nation that lives up to that promise for all of its citizens. Content will vary each time the course is taught. The course fulfills a general education requirement and a requirement for Literature majors.

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

Bad Feminist by Roxane Gay. **ISBN-13:** 978-0062282712

Citizen by Claudia Rankine. **ISBN-13:** 978-1555976903

Fun Home by Alison Bechdel. **ISBN-13:** 978-0618871711

Passage to Ararat by Michael J. Arlen. **ISBN-13:** 978-0374530129

Rose by Li-Young Lee. **ISBN-13:** 978-0918526533

The Dream of Water by Kyoko Mori. **ISBN-13:** 978-0449910436

The Way to Rainy Mountain by N. Scott Momaday. **ISBN-13:** 978-0826304360

We the Animals by Justin Torres. **ISBN-13:** 978-0547844190

Additional readings may be posted to Canvas and shared with you (you'll need to print these out and bring them with you to class the day they are due)

Please bring a notebook and writing utensil to each class to take notes, as well as the book 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 100. Example: Fifteen 10-point reading quizzes in a semester and you get 80% total on them (120/150). You would then score 80/100 for this category.

Discussion:

The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of daily 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, two reading journals, and a final exam, which includes a take-home reflective essay written outside of class to fulfill gen-ed lit. requirements. Students cannot pass the course without completing all of these major assignments.

Group Presentation:

In groups no larger than five, students will present on a work of literature (loosely defined) beyond what we've explored as a class, and present the work to the class. Each presentation will be 8-10 minutes in length and be uploaded to *YouTube*. A group grade

will be given for the presentation content, quality, and delivery. Each student will turn in an annotated bibliography detailing three sources that they read to contribute to the presentation content and a detailed breakdown of how each group member contributed to the presentation. This portion of the presentation grade will receive an individual grade.

Attendance and Participation:

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement and is worth 200 points. Attending each class and participating in Zoom class discussion will result in full attendance credit for that class period.

If you miss a class, it is possible to make up that class period within the week: to do so you must contact the professor and request that the recorded Zoom class discussion be uploaded to YouTube so that you can watch it and participate on the corresponding class discussion board by watching the recording of the class, and thoughtfully and extensively posting to the discussion board for that class period concerning content discussed in the class period, in addition to obtaining assignments or any updated schedule/assignment information from a classmate in order to be prepared for the next meeting. The thoroughness of this makeup participation will be graded by the professor.

If a student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings [for this course, that's more than 4 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 8 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.

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 exam. The Final Exam will consist of a multiple choice component and a take-home 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 offending or battering other people into compliance. Please do not sleep, carry on private conversations, text, or work on assignments for other classes--this is going to be a challenge since this semester is online, but paying attention during Zoom class discussions will be the best way for this course to be a learning experience. 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 ahead of time 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. More often than not, these create a distraction, rather than being useful. 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* throughout this class. 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

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See Disability Resource Center for additional information.

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.

READING JOURNALS

For each assigned book, you'll have the option of writing one **Reading Journal** entry of two full pages (2 pages = onto page 3) that critically engages with the text, and formulates a brief, thesis-based literary argument. You will be required to turn in **TWO Reading Journals for the EIGHT books that we read**, so it is up to you which two you respond to. Reading Journal entries must be posted to your Reading Journal page on the

class Canvas page any time *before the start of class on the day they are due*. If some part of one of our readings speaks to you or you think of something interesting early on in a text, feel free to write and turn in your journal in advance of the deadline. Please see the Course Schedule for due dates. Each of the two journals will be worth 50 points, totaling 100 points. No extra credit will be given for additional reading journals turned in beyond two.

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 to class* because we will often reference the text during class. 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. I expect you each to meaningfully engage with the coursework and with one another.

Class participation and attendance will be graded out of 200. Each class day is worth 5 points, up to a max of 170 points (37 non-exam, non-prep, non-presentation MWF meetings). You can miss three classes without it affecting your grade (any points above 170 will be counted as extra credit [15 points possible])—but you are still responsible for the readings/homework due on the days you're absent, and in-class quizzes cannot be made up. If you miss class or are significantly unprepared for class, you'll earn a zero for that day. **Each absence above three will result in 5 points being subtracted from the participation category.**

For the remaining 30 points of your participation grade, you'll earn a 25 if you're doing the basics of engaging with the class and participating in discussion; you'll earn a 25+ if I see you regularly leaping in and making strong contributions; you'll earn a 24 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.

COURSE GRADING OVERVIEW

100 points – Reading Journals
100 points – Presentation
100 points – Reading Quizzes
200 points – Class Attendance and Participation
200 points – Midterm Exam
300 points – Final Exam

LETTER GRADE GUIDELINES

880 - 899 points	B+	920 - 1000 points	A	900 - 919 points	A-
		820 - 879 points	B	800 - 819 points	B-

780 - 799 points	C+	720 - 779 points	C	700 - 719 points	C-
680 - 699 points	D+	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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	READING	ASSIGNMENTS DUE (in bold)
WEEK 1		
Monday, Aug. 17	Syllabus Day	
Wednesday, Aug. 19	[On Canvas] Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah's "A Most American Terrorist: The Making of Dylann Roof"	
Friday, Aug. 21	Arlen's <i>Passage to Ararat</i> , pgs. V-54	
WEEK 2		
Monday, Aug. 24	Arlen's <i>Passage to Ararat</i> , pgs. 55-99	
Wednesday, Aug. 26	Arlen's <i>Passage to Ararat</i> , pgs. 100-154	
Friday, Aug. 28	Arlen's <i>Passage to Ararat</i> , pgs. 155-201	
WEEK 3		
Monday, Aug. 31	Arlen's <i>Passage to Ararat</i> , pgs. 202-250	
Wednesday, Sept. 02	Arlen's <i>Passage to Ararat</i> , pgs. 251-293	
Friday, Sept. 04	Mori's <i>The Dream of Water</i> , pgs. 1-60	Turn in Reading Journal
WEEK 4		
Monday, Sept. 07	Mori's <i>The Dream of Water</i> , pgs. 61-100	
Wednesday, Sept. 09	Mori's <i>The Dream of Water</i> , pgs. 101-151	
Friday, Sept. 11	Mori's <i>The Dream of Water</i> , pgs. 152-204	
WEEK 5		
Monday, Sept. 14	Mori's <i>The Dream of Water</i> , pgs. 205-275	
Wednesday, Sept. 16	Torres's <i>We the Animals</i> , pgs. 1-29	Turn in Reading Journal
Friday, Sept. 18	Torres's <i>We the Animals</i> , pgs. 30-60	
WEEK 6		
Monday, Sept. 21	Torres's <i>We the Animals</i> , pgs. 61-97	

Wednesday, Sept.23	Torres's <i>We the Animals</i> , pgs. 98-125	
Friday, Sept. 25	Lee's <i>Rose</i> , pgs. Foreward-19	Turn in Reading Journal
WEEK 7		
Monday, Sept. 28	Lee's <i>Rose</i> , pgs. 20-33	
Wednesday, Sept. 30	Lee's <i>Rose</i> , pgs. 37-45	
Friday, Oct. 02	Lee's <i>Rose</i> , pgs. 46-58	
WEEK 8		
Monday, Oct. 05	Lee's <i>Rose</i> , pgs. 59-69	Turn in Reading Journal
Wednesday, Oct. 07	MID-TERM EXAM	
Friday, Oct. 09	Momaday's <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> , pgs. 1-35	
WEEK 9		
Monday, Oct. 12	Momaday's <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> , pgs. 36-64	
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Momaday's <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> , pgs. 65-89	
Friday, Oct. 16	Gay's <i>Bad Feminist</i> , pgs. ix-43	Turn in Reading Journal
WEEK 10		
Monday, Oct. 19	Gay's <i>Bad Feminist</i> , pgs. 61-82, 128-153	
Wednesday, Oct. 21	Gay's <i>Bad Feminist</i> , pgs. 177-191, 207-253	
Friday, Oct. 23	Gay's <i>Bad Feminist</i> , pgs. 267-318	
WEEK 11		
Monday, Oct. 26	Excerpt [on Canvas] of Scott McCloud's <i>Understanding Comics</i> ; Bechdel's <i>Fun Home</i> , pgs. 1-23	Turn in Reading Journal
Wednesday, Oct. 28	Bechdel's <i>Fun Home</i> , pgs. 24-86	
Friday, Oct. 30	Bechdel's <i>Fun Home</i> , pgs. 87-150	
WEEK 12		
Monday, Nov. 02	Bechdel's <i>Fun Home</i> , pgs. 151-232	
Wednesday, Nov. 04	Rankine's <i>Citizen</i> , pgs. 1-38	Turn in Reading Journal
Friday, Nov. 06	Rankine's <i>Citizen</i> , pgs. 39-80	
WEEK 13		
Monday, Nov. 09	Rankine's <i>Citizen</i> , pgs. 81-119	
Wednesday, Nov. 11	Rankine's <i>Citizen</i> , pgs. 120-161	
Friday, Nov. 13	<i>Writing Day & Presentation Prep Day</i>	Turn in Reading Journal
WEEK 14		
Monday, Nov. 16	<i>Writing Day & Presentation Prep Day</i>	
Wednesday, Nov. 18	<i>Writing Day & Presentation Prep Day</i>	
Friday, Nov. 20	<i>Watch Presentations;</i> Presentations Published on YouTube before class	
WEEK 15		
Monday, Nov. 23	<i>Watch Presentations and Exam Prep Day;</i> Turn in Written Presentation Component	
Wednesday, Nov. 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Friday, Nov. 27	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
WEEK 16		
Monday, Nov. 30	FINAL EXAM PERIOD: Monday 1:30-4:00pm: Written Portion of Final Exam and Multiple Choice Exam due by midnight	
Wednesday, Dec. 02	NO CLASS—FINALS WEEK	

Friday, Dec. 04

NO CLASS—FINALS WEEK