

LIT 4090

Special Studies in Literature

Fall 2020

Course Policies

1 Unit // LJWL Department

Professor: *Robbie Maakestad*

Office: *Bond Academic Center, 119*

Office Hours: *[M,T,R,F 2:40-4:00PM,
T/R 8-9:20AM and 11AM-12PM or by appointment]*

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

A supplementary reading of *Diverse Voices in American Literature*.

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

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 the assigned text.

A brief essay in response to the readings.

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 are going to be some tricky moments in this class because the literature we read may bring up some conversations about sensitive issues, topics, and language. Remember that we are interested in inquiry, especially critical inquiry, not in offending or battering other people into compliance. Offensive language, personal attacks, and disparagement of others' ideas will not be tolerated. Please do not sleep, carry on private conversations, text, or

work on assignments for other classes. Students who do so are not actively present in class and will lose participation points.

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 *before the class period on the day they are due*.

Late assignments are those turned in any time after class on the 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.

LETTER GRADE GUIDELINES

		920 - 1000 points	A	900 - 919 points	A-
880 - 899 points	B+	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 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.