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## ENG 2960-001 Transatlantic Literary History Culture, Literacies, and Technologies II

Marjorie Worthington  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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## ENG 2960: Transatlantic Literary History: Culture, Literacies, and Technologies II

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington  
Office: Coleman Hall 3321  
Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu

Class: Coleman Hall 3691, MWF, 11:00-11:50pm  
Office Hours: MWF 12-1pm, M 3-4pm or by appt.

**NOTE:** It will be important for you to take good notes in this class. What we discuss will be covered on the final exam and I will NOT be posting lecture notes on D2L, partly because I cannot always predict what direction our discussion will take and partly because doing so makes students lazy and fools them into thinking they can skip class ☺

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to the key cultural movements and genres in Transatlantic literary history aimed at familiarizing students with the history of literacy, and print and non-print technology in textual production from the eighteenth century to the present. Requirements will include: several short essays, 2 longer essays and a final exam. WI.  
Identity & Culture; Genre, Form & Poetics; Education & Society; Media, Technology & Popular Culture

**TEXTBOOKS:** Various materials on D2L

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** In this course, students will:

1. Analyze a variety of transatlantic texts that represent important moments of intersection between literature and relevant cultural, social, and/or historical events from the rise of the novel to contemporary literary forms and practices.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the primary characteristics of transatlantic literary periods and relationships between them.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of key moments in the history of print, literacy, and information technology.
4. Devise an intellectual framework applicable to their course of study and/or intended career path.
5. Demonstrate an ability to analyze, write and speak about texts, genre, and literary technique in their inter-textual context (i.e. in relation to prior and/or subsequent texts).
6. Advance their research skills and their understanding of literary history and the discipline of English studies through the use of appropriate digital archives and databases.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Online Assignments:** Throughout the semester, you will have short discussion-board assignments due (dates can be found both on the syllabus and in the file called "Discussion Board Assignments"). For each of these, write a lengthy paragraph and upload it to the proper Discussion Board in the Communications section of D2L. Read and comment on your classmates' responses if you like.

**Literary Historical Context Essay:** Analyze a particular literary work in its historical context. In other words, consider the style, content and themes of the work in relation to the historical events happening at the time of its publication. Consider how the text could be read as a reaction to the world from which it emerged. (25%)

**Midterm & Final Exams:** (25% each): The midterm will cover the first half of the semester's reading and class work, the final will cover the second half.

**POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

**Office Hours:** I encourage you to come see me whenever you like. Come to ask questions, discuss problems or just to chat. Additional office hours can be held via Zoom and we can meet this way at times that are convenient for you.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be re-reported to the Office of Student Standards.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by MacAfee Hall 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

**Writing Center:** EIU's Writing Center provides free one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929 or click here: <https://www.eiu.edu/writing/>

**The Student Success Center:** Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to MacAfee Hall 1301.

**Student Wellbeing:** I will try to bring snacks to class every day. Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact your RA for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to help you access the help you need. These are weird and trying times. I know that. I also know that these times can take their toll in unexpected ways and your schoolwork can suffer because of it. You should know that I want you to be successful and will work with you to help you become so. In other words, don't drop out or blow off our class; talk to me about your situation.

**Grade Breakdown:**

<b>Online Assignments (10 @ 20 points each)</b>	20%
<b>Literary Historical Context Essay</b>	30%
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	25%
<b>Final Exam</b>	25%

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

**NOTE: All readings can be found in the Content section of D2L (bottom of course home page). I've arranged them in folders labeled with the date by which they are to be read.**

### WEEK 1 - Satire and the Rise of the Novel: Everyone is a Reader

Jan 10 M F2F: INTRODUCTION

12 W Jonathan Swift, Daniel DeFoe (Travel Journals and Satire)

14 F Samuel Richardson (Epistolary Form, Conduct Book) - Read a bit of *Pamela* and a plot summary of the novel. **Discussion Assignment 1 due**

### WEEK 2

17 M F2F: **MLK Day – NO CLASS**

19 W Laurence Sterne (Satire)

21 F Film Clips from *Tristram Shandy*

### WEEK 3 - The Making of America (as a nation)

24 M John Locke, Mary Wollstonecraft

26 W F2F: Jonathan Edwards pp. 1-15, Thomas Paine, pp.1-20,

28 F Benjamin Franklin **Discussion Assignment 2 due**

### WEEK 4 - American Stories

31 M F2F: Navajo Night Chant, *Black Elk Speaks*

Feb. 2 W Olaudah Equiano, Chapters II-III,

4 F Frederick Douglass, Chaps. I-II, VI-VII **Discussion Assignment 3 due**

### WEEK 5

7 M Washington Irving

9 W *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* video

11 F **NO CLASS (Lincoln's Birthday observed)**

**WEEK 6 - Industrialization & Romanticism – British and European**

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- 14 M      Wordsworth, Coleridge  
 16 W      Byron, Blake  
 18 F      Romantic Music and Visual Art

**WEEK 7 – Industrialization & Romanticism - American**

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- 21 M      Emerson, “Nature”                      **Discussion Assignment 4 due**  
 23 W      Whitman  
 25 F      Dickinson

**WEEK 8 Gothic**

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- 28 M      **Midterm Exam**  
 Mar.2 W      Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*                      **Discussion Assignment 5 due**  
 4 F      Emily Bronte, Charlotte Bronte

**WEEK 9 – American Gothic**

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- 7 M      Edgar Allan Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart”  
 9 W      Edith Wharton, “The Eyes”                      **Discussion Assignment 6 due**  
 11 F      **LITERARY HISTORICAL CONTEXT ESSAY assigned**

**SPRING BREAK MARCH 12-20****WEEK 10 – Realism/Victorian Lit.**

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- 21 M      Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*, Chapter 2  
 23 W      Henry James, “The Real Thing”                      **Discussion Assignment 7 due**  
 25 F      George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*, Chapter 2

**WEEK 11 – The Celebrities and Pundits**

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- 28 M      Matthew Arnold, “Sweetness and Light” & William Dean Howells, *Criticism and Fiction*  
 30 W      Mark Twain, “Fenimore Cooper’s Literary Offenses”  
 April 1 F      Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*                      **Discussion Assignment 8 due**

**WEEK 12 – Science and Naturalism**

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- 4 M Charles Darwin, *Origin of Species* & Literary Naturalism **Discussion Assignment 9 due**
- 6 W **ENGLISH STUDIES CONFERENCE – no class; conference attendance is required**
- 8 F Stephen Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, Chapter 1

**WEEK 13**

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- 11 M Kate Chopin, “A Story of an Hour”
- 13 W Thomas Hardy, *Tess*, Chapter 1 **Discussion Assignment 10 due**
- 15 F WWI Lecture; Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen

**WEEK 14 – Modernism**

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- 18 M Modernism lecture, T.S. Eliot, “Prufrock”, Ezra Pound - Imagism
- 20 W James Joyce, *Ulysses*, Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
- 22 F Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, Hemingway, “Indian Camp”  
**LITERARY HISTORICAL CONTEXT ESSAY due**

**WEEK 15 – April 19-23**

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- 25 M Langston Hughes, Robert Frost
- 27 W Samuel Beckett videos
- 29 F Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands*, Art Spiegelman, *Maus*

**FINAL EXAM**

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**Tuesday, May 3, 12:30-2:30 Final Exam**