

Fall 8-15-2018

ENG 3300-002: Seminar in English Studies

Robert Martinez
Eastern Illinois University

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ENG 3300, section 002: Seminar in English Studies
"Are the boys broken?": Masculinity, Culture, Violence in Literature and Film
Fall 2018 | Coleman 3170 | MWF 2-2.50 PM

Professor: Dr. Bobby Martínez

Office: Coleman 3371

E-mail: rlmartinez@eiu.edu

Office Hours: MON.: 11 am-12 noon and 3-4 PM, WED.: 11 am-12 noon, and FRI. 3-4:30 PM, and by appointment

Class Website: D2L course page

Course Description:

This section of English 3300 (3 credits, CRN 93352) will focus on the theme of masculinity as represented through fiction and film. Following the February 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Florida, Michael Black penned an essay in the *New York Times* and started a viral discussion about the lack of conversation surrounding how boys grow into men and the sometimes confusing and dangerous expectations of masculinity they inherit. In this course we will examine this question of masculinity and identity, particularly as it relates to differing cultural attitudes regarding masculinity and the "cultures of violence" that frequently surround it.

Students will encounter an exciting array of literature and film from around the world in this course, including works by Alejandro Zambra, Martin Amis, Pat Barker, J. G. Ballard, E. M. Forster, M. G. Hennessey, Neil Jordan, and others. We will study a variety of topics from relationship issues across cultures, to the impact of technology on sexuality and gender identity, to the emergence of superhero films, and Latin American machismo. Students will complete a variety of writing and presentation projects for both professional and popular audiences. (*Themes: Identity & Culture; Genre, Form, & Poetics; Education & Society; Media, Technology, & Popular Culture; Prerequisite: ENG 2205 or equivalent*)

Required Texts:

- Pat Barker, *Blow Your House Down*
- M.G. Hennessey, *The Other Boy*
- Hector Tobar, *The Tattooed Soldier*
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- Alejandro Zambra, *The Private Lives of Trees*
- David Mitchell, *Black Swan Green*
- Martin Amis, *The Rachel Papers*
- E. M. Forster, *Maurice*
- J. G. Ballard, *Crash*
- Iain Banks, *The Wasp Factory*
- John Updike, "A&P" (D2L)
- T. C. Boyle, "Greasy Lake" (D2L)
- Michael Chabon, "Against Dickitude" (D2L)
- Michael Ian Black, "The Boys Are Not All Right" (D2L)
- Jia Tolentino, "The Rage of the Incels" (D2L)
- Christina Hoff Sommers, "The War against Boys" (D2L)

Possible Film Screenings:

- Barry Jenkins, *Moonlight*
- Hal Hartley, *Simple Men*
- Karl Freund, *Mad Love*

- David Mackenzie, *Hell or High Water*
- Neil Jordan, *The Crying Game*
- Debra Granik, *Winter's Bone*
- Greg Berlanti, *Love, Simon*
- Dito Tsintsadze, *Gun-shy (Schussangst)*

Course Learning Goals:

In this course, students will work on achieving the following goals:

1. Advance their critical reading skills in various genres and media within English studies.
2. Demonstrate research skills in one or more fields within English studies using scholarly databases and archives.
3. Analyze scholarly and/or public documents in various media with attention to literary, rhetorical and/or public contexts.
4. Develop critical writing skills and strategies by producing documents of various length and complexity for various audiences.
5. Engage with regional, national and/or international issues.
6. Develop ability to present or otherwise disseminate their work in a public forum.

Attendance and Class Participation:

My attendance policy is simple: I expect you to attend every class. By attend, I mean not merely showing up as a warm body, but being intellectually present in the class. Bring your book; take notes; come with something to say and/or be prepared to respond thoughtfully to the matters that we discuss in class. After your 4th absence, I will lower your final grade by 1/3 (a "+" or "-") a letter grade for each subsequent absence. If there is a reason why you must miss class for an extended period of time, you should consult with me early about your absences. I reserve the right to count you absent for behavior inappropriate and unbecoming a college classroom, including but not limited to texting, chatting, or any irrelevant use of technology in class; reading materials irrelevant to class; repeated tardiness, sleeping, or any other behavior that is disrespectful to myself and your peers.

If you miss class on the day of the midterm or final exam, you will not be permitted to make up the exam unless you can document an excused absence.

Smartphone/Social Media Policy:

To protect the safety of the classroom and the privacy of the students, usage of cell phones or smartphones during class to videotape, to text, and to access social media sites or apps (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, YouTube, etc.) **is strictly forbidden**. Smartphone or cell phone use during class will only be permitted with the prior approval of the instructor.

Assignments:

- Four (4) Short Response Papers (3-4 pages each): 20%
- Term Research Paper (10-12 pages): 30%
- Oral Presentation of Research for Popular Audience (5-10 min.): 20%
- Class Participation and Quizzes (as needed): 15%
- Midterm Exam: 15%

Grading Scale:

- A = 94-100
- A- = 90-93
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 84-86

- B- = 80-83
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 74-76
- C- = 70-73
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

Turning in Assignments & Feedback:

Assignments turned in via D2L Dropbox must be in **Microsoft Word format**. Instructor feedback will be embedded in graded writing. Be sure to review and save your graded essays. One of your most important tools for improvement will be the comments and corrections I make in or suggest to your writing. *If you wish to see your writing improve and your grade rise as the semester progresses, you must carefully refer back to these written comments as you write subsequent essays.*

Guidelines for Specific Assignments:

All written work should be formatted thus:

- Use Microsoft Word
- Use Double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Cambria font
- Use 1" (top/bottom) and 1.25" (left/right) margins
- Include your name, course name, professor's name, and date on the front page
- Include a title for your essays—all of them!
- Place your name and page numbers in the headers of your essays
- Turn in all written work electronically via D2L Dropbox

A Note about Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of someone else's ideas, words, or work as your own. If you use or refer to ideas or work other than your own, you must acknowledge the source and author of those ideas/that work and document it properly using MLA format (Purdue MLA guide: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>). Plagiarism is an Honor Code violation at EIU, and offenders will be referred to the EIU Office for Student Standards. **Failure to cite any outside sources or critics will constitute plagiarism.**

The Writing Center:

You are always welcome to meet with me during office hours to discuss any writing issues. However, I also encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides 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. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929.

EIU Writing Portfolio:

If you wish to do so, you may submit any essay longer than 750 words to your Electronic Writing Portfolio by the end of the semester. Please see me for advice on revising your essay before submitting it.

Student 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 reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Disability Services:

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 Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call [217-581-6583](tel:217-581-6583).

Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test 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](tel:217-581-6696), or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Tech Support:

If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. E-mail and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, please contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours (8 am-5 pm) or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

English 3300, Fall 2018 - Assignments Schedule*

*Some assignments and class activities subject to change.

Date	What We'll Do in Class	Homework
Mon., 8/20	- Introduction to the course: discuss assignments, code of conduct, etc. - What is "Masculinity"? Why the violence?	Read: - Michael Ian Black, "The Boys Are Not All Right" (D2L) - "Michael Ian Black On Why 'Boys Are Broken'" (D2L)
Wed., 8/22	Discuss ideas of men and violence (Black) and theories of masculinity (some lecture)	Read: T. C. Boyle, "Greasy Lake" (D2L)
Fri., 8/24	Unit I: Young Male Sexuality: Discuss Boyle's story.	Read: - John Updike, "A&P" (D2L) - Michael Chabon, "Against Dickitude" (D2L) - Martin Amis, <i>The Rachel Papers</i> (pp. 3-31)
Mon., 8/27	Discuss Updike and Chabon. "Nasty things are funny"? Begin discussion of Amis.	Read Amis, <i>The Rachel Papers</i> (pp. 32-82)
Wed., 8/29	Discuss Amis.	Read Amis, <i>The Rachel Papers</i> (pp. 83-138)
Fri., 8/31	Discuss Amis.	Finish Amis, <i>The Rachel Papers</i> (pp. 139-224)
Mon., 9/3	Labor Day - No Class	Finish reading <i>The Rachel Papers</i>
Wed., 9/5	Finish discussion of Amis.	Complete first response paper!
Fri., 9/7	Watch Hartley's <i>Simple Men</i> .	Think about Hartley's film!
Mon., 9/10	Watch Hartley's <i>Simple Men</i> . Response Paper #1 Due in D2L Dropbox.	Prepare to discuss Hartley's film.
Wed., 9/12	Discuss Hartley's film.	Read Jia Tolentino, "The Rage of the Incels" (D2L)
Fri., 9/14	Unit II: Male Aggression and Sexual Privilege? Discuss "The Rage of the Incels"	Read all of Stevenson's <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i>
Mon., 9/17	Discuss <i>Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i>	Read Pat Barker's <i>Blow Your House Down</i>
Wed., 9/19	Discuss <i>Blow Your House Down</i>	Read Pat Barker's <i>Blow Your House Down</i>
Fri., 9/21	Discuss <i>Blow Your House Down</i>	Finish Pat Barker's <i>Blow Your House Down</i>
Mon., 9/24	Discuss <i>Blow Your House Down</i>	
Wed., 9/26	Watch <i>Gun-shy</i>	Finish watching <i>Gun-shy</i> for homework (via D2L)
Fri., 9/28	Discuss <i>Gun-shy</i> Response Paper #2 Due in D2L Dropbox	Start reading Forster, <i>Maurice</i>

Mon., 10/1	Unit III: What Is the "Nature" of Men? Discuss <i>Maurice</i>	Read Forster, <i>Maurice</i>
Wed., 10/3	Discuss <i>Maurice</i>	Read Forster, <i>Maurice</i>
Fri., 10/5	Discuss <i>Maurice</i>	Finish Forster, <i>Maurice</i>
Mon., 10/8	Discuss <i>Maurice</i>	
Wed., 10/10	Midterm Exam	Watch <i>Moonlight and Love, Simon</i> over fall break (via D2L)
Fri., 10/12	No Class - Fall Break!	Watch <i>Moonlight and Love, Simon</i> over fall break (via D2L)
Mon., 10/15	Discuss <i>Moonlight and Love, Simon</i>	
Wed., 10/17	Discuss <i>Moonlight and Love, Simon</i> Response Paper #3 Due in D2L Dropbox	Start reading Hennessey, <i>The Other Boy</i> (pp. 1-50)
Fri., 10/19	Discuss <i>The Other Boy</i>	Read <i>The Other Boy</i> (pp. 51-151)
Mon., 10/22	Discuss <i>The Other Boy</i>	Finish <i>The Other Boy</i> (pp. 152-228)
Wed., 10/24	Finish discussion of <i>The Other Boy</i>	Start reading Banks, <i>The Wasp Factory</i> (pp. 1-54)
Fri., 10/26	Discuss <i>The Wasp Factory</i>	Read <i>The Wasp Factory</i> (pp. 55-130)
Mon., 10/29	Discuss <i>The Wasp Factory</i>	Finish reading <i>The Wasp Factory</i> (pp. 131-184)
Wed., 10/31	Finish discussion of <i>The Wasp Factory</i>	Start reading Zambra, <i>The Private Lives of Trees</i>
Fri., 11/2	Discuss <i>The Private Lives of Trees</i>	Read <i>The Private Lives of Trees</i>
Mon., 11/5	Discuss <i>The Private Lives of Trees</i> Proposal for Research Project Due (D2L)	Finish <i>The Private Lives of Trees</i>
Wed., 11/7	Discuss <i>The Private Lives of Trees</i>	
Fri., 11/9	Research Day: Work on Term Paper Project Meet in Booth Library	
Mon., 11/12	Research Day: Work on Term Paper Project Meet in Booth Library	
Wed., 11/14	Conference Meetings on Projects Response Paper #4 Due in D2L Dropbox	
Fri., 11/16	Conference Meetings on Projects	Be working on completion of final projects!
11/19- 11/23	No Classes - Thanksgiving Break!	Be working on completion of final projects!
Mon., 11/26	Presentation of Research Projects	
Wed.,	Presentation of Research Projects	

11/28		
Fri., 11/30	Presentation of Research Projects	
Mon., 12/3	Presentation of Research Projects	
Wed., 12/5	Presentation of Research Projects	
Fri., 12/7	Last Day of Class Complete Course Evals Presentation of Research Projects	

No Final Exam