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ENG 3300-600: Seminar in English Studies

Bobby Martinez

Eastern Illinois University

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ENG 3300, section 600: Seminar in English Studies
Masculinity in Literature and Film
Fall 2020 | Online

Professor: Dr. Bobby Martínez

Office: Coleman 3371 (Fall 2020 will be fully online)

E-mail: rlmartinez@eiu.edu

Office Hours: Email me via Panthermail or set up an appointment for video conference

Class Website: D2L course page

Meet the Professor

Hello! I am Dr. Bobby Martínez of Eastern Illinois University (EIU). My area of specialization is twentieth-century and contemporary British and American literature, literary history of American and British literatures, film studies, and world literatures (Latin America, Europe). I always look forward to teaching this literary history course and I am eager to explore our course material together and to make the best of our current Covid/online life.

I am still fairly new to Illinois. I am not a native Midwesterner and have only lived in Illinois for 11 years now. I come from the Washington, D.C., "metro area" (i.e., D.C., Northern Virginia, Southern Maryland) and did all of my schooling in Virginia (BA) and North Carolina (MA, PhD). Before attending graduate school, I worked in "the real world" as a program analyst and writer/editor professional in the federal government/private business world for five years. I have been teaching courses in writing, early/medieval literature, modern and contemporary British literature and culture, contemporary Latin American literature, women's studies, and film studies for over 19 years. Aside from teaching and literature, I enjoy studying a lot of genres of music and playing music (drums, guitars), and I have a special love for dogs (dachshunds are awesome, and I have a newfound love for pit bulls or "pitties"). And courtesy of my daughter, I now have a kitty cat, too.

How to Reach Me:

For official office hours, you can most easily contact me via Panthermail; my address is rlmartinez@eiu.edu (please note that I prefer using Panthermail over D2L's internal e-mail). I aim to respond to e-mails as they are received, but I will typically respond to e-mails within 24 hours. If you wish to schedule an appointment to discuss an assignment or question about the course, I can arrange for us to use video conferencing instead of e-mail. I will also have a forum in D2L called "Need Help?" where any student can post questions about the class and my response will be available to all class members.

Course Description:

This section of English 3300 (3 credits) 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. We will study a variety of topics including African-American masculinity, transgender identity, and the cultural roots and formation of heteronormative formations of male identity. Text selection will include works dealing with superheroes/superhero culture, film noir/crime fiction, and some YA fiction. 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:

- James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*
- Saul Bellow, *The Dangling Man*
- Raymond Chandler, *The Long Goodbye*
- Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*
- Iain Banks, *The Wasp Factory*
- Dashiell Hammett, *Red Harvest*
- Dorothy Hughes, *In a Lonely Place*
- M. G. Hennessey, *The Other Boy*
- John Edgar Wideman, *Philadelphia Fire*
- T. C. Boyle, "Greasy Lake" (D2L)
- Michael Chabon, "Against Dickitude" (D2L)
- Michael Ian Black, "The Boys Are Not All Right" (D2L)
- Jia Tolentino, "Rage of the Incels" (D2L)

Possible Film Screenings:

- 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:

- Weekly Forum Posts (roughly 1-2 pages per post, plus responses to classmates): 35%
- Response to Two Classmates' Posts (weekly): 15%
- Shorter Close Analysis Paper (5-7 pages): 20%
- Final Project Proposal and Annotated Bibliography: 10%
- Final Research Project (10-12 pages): 20%

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 2020 – Assignments Schedule*

*Some assignments and class activities subject to change.

We will cover the following units during the semester (outlined below in the weekly schedule):

- Module 1: Introductions and What Is Masculinity?
- Module 2: Thinking about Men and Women
- Module 3: Post-war Masculinity: Noir Culture and Tough Men Fighting Evil?
- Module 4: Stereotypes, Race, and Masculinity
- Module 5: Masculinity and Transgender Identity

Module 1 Topic:	Personal Introductions & Getting to Know Each Other and What Is Masculinity?
Module 1 Activities, Aug. 24-Sep. 2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete questions in the Discussion Forum to introduce yourself to the class by Wednesday, Aug. 26, 5 p.m. • Read “Man-watching” and “Coming to terms with men and masculinity” in Nigel Edley’s <i>Men and Masculinity</i> (pp. 3-50) (D2L Library) • Watch Jennifer Newsome’s <i>The Mask You Live In</i> (D2L) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Sep. 2, 5 p.m.
Module 2 Topic:	Thinking about Men and Women
Module 2 Activities, Sep. 2-9:	<p>Theorizing Male Attitudes, Aggression?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read excerpt from Virginia Woolf’s <i>A Room of One’s Own</i> (D2L) • Read Michael Chabon’s essay, “Against Dickitude” (D2L) • Michael Ian Black, “The Boys Are Not All Right” (D2L) • Jia Tolentino, “The Rage of the Incels” • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Sep. 9, 5 p.m.
Module 2 Activities, Sep. 9-16:	<p>Tales of Misogyny:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read T. C. Boyle’s short story, “Greasy Lake” (D2L) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Sep. 16, 5 p.m.
Module 2 Activities, Sep. 16-23:	<p>Tales of Misogyny:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Dito Tsintsadze’s film, <i>Gun-shy (Schussangst)</i> (D2L) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Sep. 23, 5 p.m.
Module 2 Activities, Sep. 23-30:	<p>Tales of Misogyny:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Hal Hartley’s film, <i>Simple Men</i> (D2L) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Sep. 30, 5 p.m.
Module 3:	Race, Masculinity, and Stereotypes
Module 3 Activities, Sep. 30-Oct. 7:	<p>Perspectives on the Black Male Experience in the U.S.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read James Baldwin, “My Dungeon Shook,” in <i>The Fire Next Time</i> (pp. 1-11)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start reading Ta-Nehisi Coates's <i>Between the World and Me</i> (pp. 5-76) • Answer study questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Oct. 7, 5 p.m.
Module 3 Activities, Oct. 7-14:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish reading Coates's <i>Between the World and Me</i> (pp. 77-152) • Answer study questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5 p.m. • Shorter Analysis Paper Due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, Oct. 16.
Module 3 Activities, Oct. 14-21:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start reading John Edgar Wideman's <i>Philadelphia Fire</i> (pp. 3-100) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Oct. 21, 5 p.m.
Module 3 Activities, Oct. 21-28:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish reading Wideman's <i>Philadelphia Fire</i> (pp. 101-199) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Oct. 28, 5 p.m.
Module 3 Activities, Oct. 28-Nov. 4:	<p>Imagining Popular Black Warriors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Ryan Coogler's film, <i>Black Panther</i> (D2L) • Watch Gordon Parks's film, <i>Shaft</i> (D2L) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Nov. 4, 5 p.m. • Final Project Proposal & Annotated Bibliography Due, Friday, Oct. 30.
Module 3 Activities, Nov. 4-11:	<p>Does Blaxploitation Satire Work?:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Scott Sanders's film, <i>Black Dynamite</i> (D2L) • Watch Keenen Ivory Wayans's film, <i>I'm Gonna Git You, Sucka</i> (D2L) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.
Module 4:	Masculinity and Transgender Identity
Module 4 Activities, Nov. 11-18:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start reading M. G. Hennessey's <i>The Other Boy</i> (pp. 1-114) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21-29:	Thanksgiving Break
Module 4 Activities, Nov. 30-Dec. 4:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish reading M. G. Hennessey's <i>The Other Boy</i> (115-228). • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m.
Module 4 Activities, Dec. 2-Dec. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Neil Jordan's <i>The Crying Game</i> (D2L) • Answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. • Final Project Due Friday, Dec. 11, in D2L Dropbox.

Final Exam: To be determined