

Introduction to Literature

Week 2

[Introduce Yourself](#)

[Reading in the Rain](#)

[About Teaching Literature](#)

[About the YSU Poetry Center](#)

[About Etruscan Press](#)

[Introduction to Introduction to Literature](#)

Assignment

Due Friday, August 28, 11:59 PM

Introduce yourself. In a video of 10 minutes or less, or a brief essay of 200 words, show us who you are. Perform, read, demonstrate, dance, sing, or describe. Show us something you love to do.

Reply to a Classmate's Post:

Due Tuesday, September 1, 11:59 PM

Week 3-4

Today's Poetry: Tim Seibles

Read *Fast Animal*

[Read "Study Guide" for *Fast Animal*](#)

[Reader Guide for *Fast Animal*](#)

[Tim Seibles—Why Poetry](#)

[Tim Seibles Reads from *Fast Animal*](#)

[Tim Seibles on Making a Book of Poems](#)

Assignment

Due Friday, September 4 11:59 PM

Tim Seibles writes an "Ode"—that is, a poem of praise, to his hands. Choose a part of your body and compose an Ode in its praise. Compare the body part to at least three things in the world.

Reply to a Classmate's Post

Due Tuesday, September 8, 11:59 PM

Assignment

Due Friday, September 11, 11:59 PM

Choose and address one question or writing prompt from the *Fast Animal* "Study Guide."

Reply to a Classmate's Post

Due Tuesday, September 15, 11:59 PM

Week 5-6

Today's Memoir: Laurie Cannady

Read *Crave: Sojourn of A Hungry Soul*

Read "Study Guide" for *Crave*

[Laurie Cannady reads from *Crave: Sojourn of a Hungry Soul*](#)

[Laurie Cannady talks about writing *Crave*](#)

[Laurie Cannady reads from Memoir in Progress, Chap 1](#)

[Laurie Cannady reads from Memoir in Progress \(2\)](#)

[Laurie Cannady reads from *Memoir in Progress* \(3\)](#)

[Laurie Cannady reads an essay, "Private Matters"](#)

Assignment

Due Friday, September 18, 11:59 PM

In *Crave*, Laurie Cannady explores the challenges she faced a young girl living in poverty, dealing with abusive men and a mother overwhelmed with responsibility. Write a letter to that young girl, sharing your own difficult experiences of growing up, and trying to help her come to terms with the issues she faces.

Reply to a Classmate's Post

Due Tuesday, September 22, 11:59 PM

Assignment

Due Friday, September 25, 11:59 PM

Respond to one question from "Study Guide" for *Crave*

Reply to a Classmate's Post

Due Tuesday, September 29, 11:59 PM

Weeks 7-8
Today's Essays

Read *50 Miles*

Sheryl St. Germain reads from *50 Miles*

Study Guide for *50 Miles*

Assignment

Due Friday, October 2, 11:59 PM

Sheryl St. Germain writes about the loss of her son to opioids, and of her own recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. Tell a story about the effects of drug and/or alcohol addiction that you have witnessed or experienced.

Reply to a Classmate's post

Due Tuesday, October 6, 11:59 PM

Assignment

Due Friday, October 9, 11:59 PM

Respond to a question of your choice from the Study Guide for *50 Miles*

Reply to a Classmate's post

Due Tuesday, October 13, 11:59 PM

Week 9
Around the World:
Africa & The Caribbean

Read *Synergos*
Read [Study Guide for *Synergos*](#)

Poet [Damilola Aderibigbe](#) on [African Literature](#)

[Jack Mabanje](#)
[“Scrubbing the Furious Walls of Mikuyu” \(text\)](#)

Professor [Felix Kaputu](#) on [African Literature](#)

[Wole Soyinka](#)
[“Telephone Conversation” \(text\)](#)
[Wole Soyinka reads “Telephone Conversation”](#)

[Jamaica Kincaid](#) reads [“Girl”](#)

[10 Questions for Jamaica Kincaid](#)

Assignment
Due Friday, October 16, 11:59 PM
Respond to a question of your choice from the “Study Guide” for *Synergos*

Reply to a Classmate’s Post
Due Tuesday, October 20, 11:59 PM

Weeks 12-13

Question: Why Study Literature of the Past?

Answer: Oatmeal!

[Galway Kinnell](#) reads "[Oatmeal](#)"

[My two cents on studying literature](#)

[10 Reasons to Major in English](#)

[John Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale"](#)

[H.L. Hix recites and discusses Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale"](#)

William Blake, "[The Proverbs of Hell](#)"

Poet [Diane Raptosh](#) on "[The Proverbs of Hell](#)"

["The Lament of Enion"\(text\)](#)

Novelist [Robert Mooney](#) recites and discusses "[The Lament of Enion](#)"

["What is the Price of Experience" \(text\)](#)

[Van Morrison sings excerpt from "What is the Price of Experience"](#)

[T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" \(text\)](#)

[Anthony Hopkins reads T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"](#)

Poet [Wayne Benson](#) reads from and discusses "[The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock](#)"

Assignment

Due Friday, November 6, 11:59 PM

Choose a poem or prose excerpt by a writer you love. Imagine meeting that writer over breakfast. Write a dialogue between you and the writer in which they talk about how they made the work that you love.

Reply to a Classmates' Post

Due Tuesday, November 10, 11:59 PM

Assignment

Due Friday, November 13, 11:59 PM

The poems from this section can seem far away from our time, in language, in style, and in concerns. Yet, there may be connections too. Choose a poem from this section and rewrite it for our time and for your friends.

Reply to a Classmate's Post

Due Tuesday, November 17, 11:59 PM

Weeks 14-15

Stories from the Past

[Introductory Lecture](#)

[Virginia Woolf](#)

[“The Mark on the Wall” \(text\)](#)

[“The Mark on the Wall” \(audio\)](#)

Novelist [Lynn Lurie](#) on [“The Mark on the Wall”](#)

[D.H.Lawrence](#)

[“The Rocking Horse Winner” \(text\)](#)

[“The Rocking Horse Winner” \(short film\)](#)

[George Orwell](#)

[“Shooting an Elephant” \(text\)](#)

[“Shooting an Elephant” \(audio\)](#)

[“Politics and The English Language” \(text\)](#)

Slate article,

[“What’s Really Orwellian About Our Global Black Lives Matter Moment”](#)

[Graham Greene](#)

[“The End of the Party” \(text\)](#)

[Professor J. Michael Lennon
on George Orwell and Graham Greene](#)

Assignment

Due Friday, November 20, 11:59 PM

As Professor Lennon points out, “Shooting an Elephant” and “The End of the Party” have strange parallels, in that they both involve moral ambiguity. Good and evil are not so clearly delineated. How does the moral compass of these stories compare with the points of view expressed in “The Mark on the Wall” and “The Rocking Horse Winner?”

Reply to a Classmate’s Post

Due Tuesday, November 24, 11:59 PM

Assignment

Due Friday, December 4, 11:59 PM

George Orwell in “Shooting an Elephant,” the boy in “The Rocking Horse Winner” and the twins in “The End of the Party” all feel social pressure to do something they don’t want to do. Tell about a time in your life when you’ve faced social pressure to do something you didn’t want to. How did you respond? How would you respond differently today?

Reply to a Classmate’s Post

Due Tuesday, December 8, 11:59 PM