

IDH2930: (Un)Common Read - Brown Girl Dreaming
FALL 2023

Instructor:

Michelle Commeret, M.Ed. (Curriculum & Instruction: Reading)
UF College of Education Ph.D. Student & Graduate Teaching Assistant

Contact:

mcommeret@ufl.edu

Office Location & Hours:

Norman Hall 2616 or Zoom;
[Meetings by appointment only. Please email to schedule.]

Class Meeting Day, Time, & Location:

Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM)
Little Hall 0119

Course Description

“I believe in one day and someday and this perfect moment called *Now*.” This excerpt from *Brown Girl Dreaming*, one of multi-award winning author Jacqueline Woodson’s world-renowned texts, speaks to the nuanced realities of her own past that ignited her dreams for not only the future, but for *now*. Woodson’s poetic memoir sheds light on her childhood experiences as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s. Though a struggling reader herself as a young child, Woodson found her voice through writing, and this text is her own recount of life as an African American post-Jim Crow, and at the dawn of the Civil Rights movement.

Though written with middle grade and young adult readers in mind, this mesmerizing book touches readers of all ages. Woodson’s lyrical storytelling is simultaneously breathtaking and moving, abrupt and graceful, paralyzing and memorable. With words that beg its readers to see the beauty in humanity, *Brown Girl Dreaming* offers imagery that one can’t but marvel at. Woodson’s story offers opportunities for sensitivity and demonstrates how one’s written

recollection of memories can unravel both pain and progress in order to recreate a more “perfect moment called *Now*.”

The instructor, former English Language Arts (ELA) teacher and current UF Literacy Education PhD student, seeks to engage students in using literature to think through and beyond their own realities, to study the implications of multimodal storytelling, and to utilize young adult literature as a means for eliciting more complex text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections. In addition to a critical and dialogic analysis of the text, students will make their own associations to poetry and other modes of communication as a means for self-expression.

Course Goals

The goals of this course are to:

- Engage students in critical and dialogic analysis of the course text(s) to think through and beyond their own realities.
 - Study the implications of multimodal storytelling.
 - Utilize young adult literature as a means for eliciting more complex text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections.
 - Associate historical fiction to poetry and other modes of communication as a means for self-expression.
 - Extend student learning through the utilization of *Brown Girl Dreaming* as an anchor text for the course.
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Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the successful Honors student will be able to:

- **Critically** analyze elements of figurative language of Woodson’s poetic verse.
 - **Engage** in authentic text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections.
 - **Recognize** and **replicate** the implications of multimodal communication as a means for self-expression to inform future learning opportunities.
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(Un)Common Read Text

Students are required to purchase the following book:

Woodson, J. (2016). *Brown girl dreaming*. Nancy Paulsen Books.

Additional required texts &/or videos may be provided.

Course Assignments

Below is an overview of course assignments. Specific assigned readings and application assignments are listed on the *Course Calendar*, below (as well as on Canvas). It is imperative that you plan well ahead to avoid any delay in submitting your work. All assignments are to be completed *individually*, unless specifically noted by the instructor.

- **Creative Dialogic Journals** (5 pts./each * 12 journals = 60 pts.)
- **Text Connections** (10 pts./each * 4 text connections = 40 pts.)
- **Final Application & Presentation** (30 pts.)
- **Attendance** (2 pts./each * 14 class sessions = 28 pts.)
- **TOTAL:** 158 possible course points (*all weighted equally*)

Course Policies

- **Attendance and Make-Up Assignments:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. **Assignments submitted past the due dates will not be evaluated** without prior communication, including an agreed-upon plan between the instructor and student for the late submission.
- **Preparation of Assignments:** Substance is the primary criterion for evaluating all written work in this course. That is, what you say (its clarity, depth, insights, etc.) is the most important factor. However, how you say it (e.g., writing style) is also an important consideration in evaluating your projects. In other words, qualities such as grammar, punctuation, spelling, neatness, and adherence to assignment guidelines will also affect your grade. Ask your instructor for assistance and resources if written composition is a challenging area for you. **It is expected that all assigned readings and application assignments are completed in their entirety prior to the start of class to allow for full participation in class discussion and activities.**
- **Academic Integrity:** All students registered at the *University of Florida* have agreed to comply with the following statement: “*I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.*” In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “*On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*” If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the

UF Academic Guidelines at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>. Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior and may result in a reduction of course grade and a report to university officials.

- **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students with their coursework.
- **Counseling and Student Health:** Students with academic concerns related to this course should contact the instructor in person or via email. Students also may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling & Wellness Center (see *Campus Resources* below). Also, crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from Alachua County Crisis Center: 352-264-6789.

Grading Scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62

E	59 and below
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For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the *Registrar's Grades & Grading Policies* at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/staff/grades.html>.

Course Evaluation Statement

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via *GatorEvals*. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from *GatorEvals*, in their Canvas course menu under *GatorEvals*, or via <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Course Calendar for IDH2930: Un)Common Read - *Brown Girl Dreaming* FALL 2023

Week	Readings & Application Assignments
<p style="text-align: center;">1 (Wed., Aug. 23, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Syllabus ● Descriptive Artifact: <i>(bring an 'artifact' of any kind to class that speaks to who you are - be prepared to share with peers!)</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">2 (Wed., Aug. 30, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 1

<p>3 (Wed., Sept. 6, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from BGD ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 2 ● Text Connection # 1
<p>4 (Wed., Sept. 13, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 3
<p>5 (Wed., Sept. 20, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 4
<p>6 (Wed., Sept. 27, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 5 ● Text Connection # 2
<p>7 (Wed., Oct. 4, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 6
<p>8 (Wed., Oct. 11, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 7
<p>9 (Wed., Oct. 18, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 8 ● Text Connection # 3

<p>10 (Wed., Oct. 25, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 9
<p>11 (Wed., Nov. 1, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 10
<p>12 (Wed., Nov. 8, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned pages from Brown Girl Dreaming (BGD) ● Supplemental Text Set, if assigned on Canvas ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 11 ● Text Connection # 4
<p>13 (Wed., Nov. 15, 2023)</p>	<p>**NO CLASS - Professor Commeret out-of-state at NCTE Conference**</p>
<p>14 (Wed., Nov. 22, 2023)</p>	<p>**NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Holiday Break**</p>
<p>15 (Wed., Nov. 29, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Project Expectations ● Creative Dialogic Journal # 12 <p>**FINAL PROJECT WORKSHOP DAY**</p>
<p>16 (Wed., Dec. 6, 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Application Project & Gallery Walk

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit *U Matter, We Care* [website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center [website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center [website](#).
- **University Police Department:** Visit UF Police Department [website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center [website](#).
- **GatorWell Health Promotion Services:** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell [website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- **E-learning technical support:** Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- **Career Connections Center:** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- **Library Support:** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- **Teaching Center:** Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- **Writing Studio:** 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- **Student Complaints On-Campus:** Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code [webpage](#) for more information.

Amendment

The instructor may change or modify this course and the syllabus subject to appropriate and timely notice to the students enrolled in this class.