

Love in the Ruins

ID2930: 28696 – Honors (un)common reads

Tuesday, 5:10-6:00 (Period 10) | Fall 2023

Location: Little 117

Contact information

Instructor Melina Jimenez

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(407) 340-4066

Student hours Fridays, 11:45am - 12:35pm

In-person visits: Matherly 220B

Online visits: [Zoom link](#)

Peer instructor Sierra Sanne

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(813) 928-7970

Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for signing up for this class! Please call us Melina and Sierra.

Inspired by the title of the novel Love in the Ruins, we will be reading short stories and excerpts about dystopias and utopias throughout this 16-week semester and discussion them in our 15 one-hour sessions. We are not experts in literary analysis nor dystopias and utopias, so much of this class will be about discovery and learning from each other. As we go through the course, we encourage you to push yourself and your peers to think deeply about the topics we encounter together, and to develop your voices as academic writers and critical thinkers.

If you are struggling with this course, with your other courses, or with life outside of the university, I (Melina) invite you to talk to me or someone that you trust. Whether this is your first, last, or somewhere in-between year at UF, college life can be challenging and sometimes overwhelming. Just talking about those feelings can help. If just talking with your family, your friends, or your instructors isn't enough, there is a list of campus resources on the last page of this syllabus to help you. We are happy to help you understand how these can be helpful for you.

You never owe Melina nor Sierra personal information about your mental or physical health. However, you are always welcome to talk to us about whatever you're going through. If you tell us that you're having trouble, we're not going to judge you or think less of you. If you need extra help or if you need to miss a class or need more time with an assignment, please ask. We will work with you to make sure you have the opportunity to engage with the material you may miss because of an illness or other life issues.

Course Description and Goals

- Students will identify and analyze dystopian and utopian themes through a scholarly lens where they will conduct comparative analysis on themes, commentaries, and literary structures within the stories and the historical contexts.
- Students will articulate their thoughts, reflect their personal feelings, and communicate with others about their responses to the text.
- Achievement of all the learning outcomes will be assessed through in-class discussions, online discussion posts, and the Final Project.

Required Texts

Select short stories and excerpts from novels. These will be provided on Canvas and some can be listened to.

You are encouraged to purchase or borrow Love in the Ruins by Walker Percy. [Available online](#) in paperback, hardcover, audiobook, and for Kindle.

Materials and Supplies Fees

None

Evaluation of Grades

| Assignments | | Points |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| In-class Discussion | 15 meetings | 10 points each = 150 |
| Online discussion posts and replies | 4 posts | 25 points each = 200 |
| Final Project | 1 project | 50 points |
| Total | | 400 points total |

Attendance and Class Expectations

Attendance is required for class discussions on Tuesdays. You will find guiding questions for the discussion each week in the form of a discussion page. Please refer to the discussion page before class. The in-class discussions consist of small group discussions for most of the class, with a full class discussion for the last 15 minutes or so. You are expected to contribute in your small group discussions, but we recognize that full class discussions are a bit more intimidating. Therefore, the grade will be based more on the small group discussions than the larger discussions. However, you are encouraged to participate fully in both. We also ask for respectful discussions, especially since we're asking you to share your experiences and disagreements. We believe thoughtful discussions will lead to better understandings of the texts and each other.

If you need to miss class, please email (mpjimenez@ufl.edu) or message Melina on Canvas and be prepared to post your discussion responses for the week on the discussion page.

Discussion, Online discussion posts and Replies

Each week, you will be reading a short story or excerpt that will be discussed during the Tuesday class meeting. For the four required discussion posts, the initial post is due by Monday and the responses to your peers are due by Friday. The questions are open-ended but do require that you've read the section of the novel and any additional readings as necessary. You can find the rubric for the required posts on Canvas.

We want us all to think deeply about the themes in the stories and about your own writing, so we will be pushing you to make connections, give constructive feedback, and perhaps disagree because of your interpretations or experiences. A simple, "I agree! Your response is great" won't be enough.

Final Project

You will be creating a PowerPoint presentation to be presented during the last two meetings of the class, with the formality of a "PowerPoint Party." You will embody a character or theme from the selected readings and present a short presentation (2-5 minutes) with accompanying slides about a topic of your choosing. These should be fun and lighthearted, but represent a deeper understanding of the themes and the connection to historical and present contexts discussed throughout the semester. You may work in groups of 2-3 students for this final project.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Make-Up Policy

If you miss or do not complete an online discussion or assignment, Melina or Sierra will send you a gentle reminder to make sure that you are doing ok. We prefer late engagement than no engagement at all. But timely engagement is the best! The final project has a stricter deadline because it will be our last assignment. But as with everything else, if you are struggling with that assignment, please talk to us.

Grading Scale

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Percentage | 94 - 100 | 90 - 93 | 88 - 89 | 84 - 87 | 80 - 83 | 78 - 79 | 74 - 77 | 70 - 73 | 68 - 69 | 64 - 67 | 60 - 63 | 59 - 0 |
| Letter Grade | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | E |

Honors Grading Requirement

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit. If you have questions about this, please consult the Honors Program information under Campus Resources.

University Student Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors in this class.

Course Evaluation

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://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Course Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. [Click here to read the In-Class Recording policy](#).

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Semester Schedule

| Wk | Date | Weekly readings and topics for discussion |
|----|-------------|---|
| 1 | 8.21-8.27 | Tues: No class meeting Discussion post 1: Intro discussion board on Canvas – Initial post due by Monday, Aug 8 For next week: Syllabus and Canvas self-orientation |
| 2 | 8.28-9.3 | Tues: First Class Meeting: Introductions and Syllabus For next week: Ray Bradbury's <i>The Library, Bonfire, and There Will Come Soft Rains</i> Borrow graphic novels (GN) for future weeks |
| 3 | 9.4-9.10 | For next week: Ursula Le Guin's <i>The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas</i> and Shirley Jackson's <i>The Lottery</i> (GN or short story) |
| 4 | 9.11-9.17 | For next week: Margaret Atwood's <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (GN) and Suzette Haden Elgin's <i>Native Tongue</i> (excerpt) |
| 5 | 9.18-9.24 | For next week: Brian K. Vaughan's <i>Y: The Last Man</i> (GN) and Elisabeth Vonarburg's <i>Maerlande Chronicles</i> (excerpt) |
| 6 | 9.25-10.1 | For next week: Ken Liu's <i>The Perfect Match</i> |
| 7 | 10.2-10.8 | Discussion post 2: Themes so far and historical contexts For next week: Cat Rambo's <i>Left Behind, Upload</i> (Ep. 1 Prime), <i>Altered Carbon</i> (Ep. 1, Netflix) |
| 8 | 10.9-10.15 | For next week: Walker Percy's <i>Love in the Ruins</i> (excerpt 1) |
| 9 | 10.16-10.22 | For next week: Walker Percy's <i>Love in the Ruins</i> (excerpt 2) |
| 10 | 10.23-10.29 | For next week: Hugh Howey's <i>Wool</i> (or <i>Silo</i> Ep. 1 Apple TV) |
| 11 | 10.30-11.5 | For next week: Students choose + real life article |
| 12 | 11.6-11.12 | Discussion post 3: Analysis of themes and final project proposal For next week: Students choose + real life article |
| 13 | 11.13-11.19 | For next week: Students choose + real life article |
| 14 | 11.20-11.26 | Discussion post 4: Final wrap-up and final project update Thanksgiving Week |
| 15 | 11.27-12.3 | Project Presentations Day 1 |
| 16 | 12.4-12.10 | Project Presentations Day 2 Last day of class |
| F | | Final exams in your other classes No final exam in this class! |

Note: This schedule is subject to change

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

Disability Resource Center (DRC): Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. Located at *Reid Hall, (352) 392-8565*, Email: DRC@ufsa.ufl.edu

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: The CWC provides short-term counseling, group, and couples' therapy as well as consultation, crisis services, outreach, referrals, self-care, and more. *Peabody Hall 4th floor or 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575*

UF Student Health Care Center: The SHCC provides a variety of health care services. Located at *2140 Stadium Rd, (352) 392 - 1161*

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*

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.

University Police Department: 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies)

Campus Connections

GatorConnect: UF has over 900 student organizations that you can join

Academic Resources

UF Honors Program: Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu; Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>; Located at *201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519*

UF Computing Help Desk: The UF Computing Help Desk provides phone, email, and walk-in direct consulting including for E-learning (Canvas) technical support 352-392-4357 or e-mail to helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: The C3 team helps students gain career experience, write resumes, find clothing for interviews and more. *Reitz Union First floor, 352- 392-1601*

Library Support: The UF libraries provide various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. They love questions!

Academic Resources: Academic Resources provides free tutoring services for courses within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They also offer supplementary instruction and general study strategy workshops. *Online, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420*

Writing Studio: The Writing Studio provides free one-on-one consultations with specific papers or writing generally. *302 Tigert Hall, 352- 846-1138*

Complaints

Student Complaints On-Campus