

(Un)Common Reads: The People We Keep
Course Number: IDH2930, class 28720
Fall 2023

Instructor

Jennifer Walsh, M.S. - Reading
Ph.D. Student, Reading and Literacy Education
Graduate Teaching Assistant
School of Teaching and Learning
2809 Norman Hall
jennifer.walsh@ufl.edu

Office Hours

Monday, 12:00-2:00pm via Zoom
Zoom link will be posted in the secure course site in Canvas.

Office hours are also available by appointment and may be scheduled for Zoom or in-person. The instructor will notify students via a course website announcement if office hours need to be rescheduled for a particular week.

Class Hours and Location

Thursday, 10:40-11:30am (period 4)
Norman Hall, Room 2025

Course Description

This course is a 1 credit elective Honors course. Through a close reading of Allison Larkin's novel, *The People We Keep*, and a discussion of the elements of theme, character development, and plot, this course will explore the concepts of identity and community.

Please be aware that this novel contains mature topics. Some of these topics may be upsetting; they include homelessness, physical abuse and neglect, and others. Students will be expected to maintain a mature approach to these topics.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Critically explore the concepts of identity and community through an analysis of the protagonist's journey
- Utilize close reading to trace the development of theme, character, and plot
- Present a final project on a literary element of choice and its development throughout the novel using citations and evidence to support interpretation and findings

Required Text

Larkin, A. (2021). *The People We Keep*. Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Course Assignments

- Attendance and participation in class discussion (35%)
- Weekly reading and reading notes with minimum of 3 text references, inc pg # (35%)
- Final project and presentation (25%)
- Book review and reflection on identity (5%)

Course Policies

Attendance and Make-Up Exams and Assignments: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> You are required to attend class each week. Two points will be deducted for each unexcused absence. Excused absence requires prior approval from the instructor. In case of an emergency, written documentation must be furnished at the time you return to class. Assignments submitted past the due dates will not be evaluated.

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). 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. Please note, although this is clearly covered by the requirement to submit original work described above, it is **unacceptable to use any artificial intelligence (AI) such as chatGPT or any other technology to generate your answers or work.** Students who submit work generated by anyone or anything other than themselves, at the instructor's discretion, will, at minimum, earn a zero for the assignment and may face additional consequences. Use of AI to generate original work is unacceptable. For more information, please review the guidelines: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

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 in 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, 352-392-1575. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>. Also, crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

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.

Grade Determination

- Attendance and Participation: 35%
- Weekly Reading and Reading Notes with Text Citation: 35%
- Final Project and Presentation: 25%
- Book review and reflection on identity: 5%

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

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/staff/grades.html>.

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). 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.

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 Calendar

All readings and response posts should be completed and submitted by 10am on due dates.

Date	Topic of Discussion	Readings & Assignment (due following session)
Session 1 August 24	Review syllabus Concepts of identity and community	Due 8/31: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 1-3 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 2 August 31	Discussion on Ch 1-3	Due 9/7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 4-6 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 3 September 7	Discussion on Ch 4-6	Due 9/14: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 7-13 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 4 September 14	Discussion on Ch 7-13	Due 9/21: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 14-21 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 5 September 21	Discussion on Ch 14-21	Due 9/28: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 22-31 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 6 September 28	Discussion on Ch 22-31	Due 10/5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 32-41 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 7 October 5	Discussion on Ch 32-41	Due 10/12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 42-49 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 8 October 12	Discussion on Ch 42-49	Due 10/19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 50-59 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss

Session 9 October 19	Discussion on Ch 50-59	Due 10/26: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 60-65 • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 10 October 26	Discussion on Ch 60-65	Due 11/2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch 66-end • Submit reading notes with 3 text references (inc pg #)- be prepared to share and discuss
Session 11 November 2	Discussion on Ch 66-end	Due 11/9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final project and presentation
Session 12 November 9	Final project presentations	Due 11/16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final project presentations
Session 13 November 16	Final project presentations	Due 11/30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book review and reflection on identity
November 23	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Session 14 November 30	Book reviews Reflections on identity	

Campus Resources

Student Health and Wellness Services:

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 and Wellness Center, 352-392-1575. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>. Also, crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: 352-264-6789.

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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.

Student 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.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

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

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.