

Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman's *Good Omens*

ID2930: 27709

Thursdays, 5:10-6:00 (Period 10)

Location: Little 117

Fall 2022

Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for signing up for this class! Please call me Melina. Throughout the course, we'll be reading and discussing Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman's *Good Omens* and the themes of good and evil, redemption, and friendship. We'll also be discussing topics like word choice, character development and satire as we engage in some creative writing. As we go through the course, I encourage you to push yourself and your peers to think deeply about the topics we encounter together and to push your creativity.

A couple of notes about *Good Omens*: this is a work of satire and the writers are not always gentle in their treatment of church doctrine. Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman's "Good Omens" tells the story of Aziraphale and Crowley, an angel and a demon who are tasked with ensuring the coming Rapture goes off without a hitch. There is an excellent show based on the book which we will address later in the semester. Please note that our discussions will be centered around Pratchett's and Gaiman's words rather than the interpretation by the show's producers. In other words, make sure you are reading the book, even if you are enjoying the show.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

If you are struggling with this course, with your other courses, or with life outside of the university, I 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, especially during ongoing health challenges can be overwhelming. Just talking about those feelings can help. If just talking with your instructors, your friends, or your family isn't enough, there is a list of campus resources on the last page of this syllabus to help you. I am happy to help you understand how these can be helpful for you.

You never own me personal information about your mental or physical health. However, you are always welcome to talk to me about whatever you're going through. If you tell me that you're having trouble, I'm 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. I 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.

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.

Instructor Melina Jimenez

mpjimenez@ufl.edu

(352) 392-3354 ext. 236

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

In-person visits: Matherly 220B

Online visits: [Zoom link](#)

Materials and Supplies Fees

None

Required Textbook and Materials

Good Omens by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett – Please note that page numbers are vastly different between printings, so you’ll need to consult the instructor copy early in the semester to confirm the sections. Other materials will be provided in class or posted on Canvas.

Course Description and Objectives

We will participate in meaningful dialogue centered on the text and we will make connections to other texts provided in class as well as real world events. We will engage primarily in class discussions with some online posts. At the end of the semester, you will work with a partner to create a project of your choosing.

- *Content and Critical Thinking*: Students will read about, identify, explain, and analyze the ideas of fate, good and evil, and satire. They will produce a body of original creative work, polished through revision.
- *Communication*: Students will articulate their thoughts, reflect their personal feelings, and communicate with others about their responses to the required text, as well as provide peer feedback.

Evaluation of Grades

Assignments		Points
In-class Discussion	13 meetings	20 points each = 260
Online discussion posts and replies	5 posts	30 points each = 150
Group Project	1 project	90 points
Total		500 points total

Attendance and Class Expectations

Attendance is required for class discussions. 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. If you need to miss class, please email or message me on Canvas and be prepared to post your discussion for the week on the discussion page. During class, I ask that you do not use cellphones as they are not necessary for the in-class activities. I also ask that we are respectful during class discussions, especially since I’m asking you to share your experiences and disagreements. I believe thoughtful discussions will lead to better understandings of the text and each other.

Discussion, Online discussion posts and Replies

As noted above, there will be guiding questions each week, but only 5 posts will be required (unless you need to be absent for an illness). For the 5 required posts, you will be responding to questions based on the week’s readings by Wednesday. The questions are open-ended but do require that you’ve read the *Good Omens* section and the additional book, article, or video. You can find the rubric for the required posts on Canvas. After our class discussions on Thursday, you will return to the required post and reply to your peers by Sunday.

I want us to think deeply about the themes and your own writing, so I 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.

Group Project

You will be working with a partner to create a project of your choosing. This could be a video essay, comparison blog, alternate imagining, or something else. Throughout the semester, as you interact with your peers, find someone who has strengths that compliment your own. Your project will be posted on Canvas for your peers to see and comment on. If you and your partner both agree to post it outside of our class (and tag Neil Gaiman), that is highly encouraged! Your brilliance should be shared with the world (and with Gaiman)!

Make-Up Policy

If you miss or do not complete an online discussion, I will send you a gentle reminder to make sure that you are doing ok. I prefer late engagement than no engagement at all. But timely engagement is the best! The group 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 me.

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-	F

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 instructor 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](#).

COVID-19 and Our Classroom

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.uf for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

Semester Schedule

Wk	Date	Readings & On-line Discussion Homework By Wednesday of each week
1	8.22 – 8.28	Reading: Syllabus Discussion 1: Online introductions
2	8.29 – 9.4	Reading: pages 3 – 39 “In the beginning”
3	9.6 - 9.9	Reading: pages 40 – 68 stop before “She was known as Scarlett” and Neil Gaiman graphic novel
4	9.12 - 9.16	Reading: pages 68 – 83 finish “In the beginning” Discussion 2: Submit own retelling
5	9.19 - 9.23	Reading: pages 87 – 148 “Wednesday”
6	9.26 – 9.30	Reading: pages 151 – 178 “Thursday”
7	10.3 - 10.7	Reading: pages 181 – 220 “Friday”
8	10.10 - 10.15	Reading: pages 225 – 283 start “Saturday” Discussion 3: Submit another change that occurred
9	10.17 - 10.21	Reading: pages 283 – 322 start at “Aziraphale was dithering ...”
10	10.24 - 10.28	Reading: pages 322 – 352 start at “The storm raged around...” Discussion 4: Analysis of themes and project proposal
11	10.31 - 11.4	Reading: pages 353 – 399 start at “You are I trust familiar with”
12	11.7 - 11.11	Reading: pages 400 – 448 start “At exactly the same moment...” and finish Saturday
13	11.14 - 11.18	Reading: pages 451 to end “Sunday” Discussion 5: reactions and sequel HW: watch Prime show and submit projects by Wed, November 30 th
14	11.21 - 11.25	Work on Group Projects and watch the Prime show Happy break!
15	11.28 - 12.2	Wed: Projects due Thurs: Last day of this class Sun: Feedback for projects due
--	12.5 - 12.9	Wed: Last day of your other classes
F		Final Exams in your other classes No final exam in this class!

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

Student Health Care Center: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>

Infirmery Building, (352) 392 - 1161

The SHCC provides a variety of health care services.

U Matter, We Care: <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>

If you or a friend 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: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>,

Peabody Hall 4th floor or 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575

The CWC provides short-term counseling, group, and couples' therapy as well as consultation, crisis services, outreach, referrals, self-care, and more.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services: <https://umatter.ufl.edu/helping-students/sexual-violence-response/>

Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161

UF Gator International Focus Team (UFGIFT): <https://counseling.ufl.edu/outreach/international/>

UFGIFT provides workshops and support to international students.

University Police Department: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies)

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help-faqs/>

352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu

Browse through the frequently asked questions, call the number or email for E-learning (Canvas) tech support.

Career Connections Center: <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Reitz Union First floor, 352- 392-1601

The C3 team helps students gain career experience, write resumes, find clothing for interviews and more.

Ask-A-Librarian, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

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

Teaching Center: <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Online, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420

The Teaching Center provides free tutoring services for courses within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They also offer supplementary instruction (for CHM 2211 for Fall 2021) and general study strategy workshops.

Writing Studio: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

302 Tigert Hall, 352- 846-1138

The Writing Studio provides free one-on-one consultations with specific papers or writing generally.

Complaints

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>