

Miyazaki International College
Course Syllabus
Fall 2018

Course Title (Credits)	LL320 /ASN3651 Topics in American Literature 1 (3 credits)
Course Designation for TC	Discipline-related course
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Dr. Katherine E. Bishop
E-mail address	kbishop@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp
Office/Ext	MIC 1-212/ext. 3720
Office hours	Tuesdays, 2:15-5:15; also by appointment

Course Description:		
<i>Examines various themes, approaches, and genres in American literature, and relates this literature to its historical, cultural and social context.</i> Letters and the postal system shaped much of the United States and its literature. We will be examining epistolary literature in this class, considering how letters have impacted identity, created space for resistance, and allowed for experimentation.		
Course Objectives:		
The course aims to help you to do the following in each class session: -Help you to level up your critical reading skills and develop your vocabulary. -Guide you in asking as well as answering <i>good</i> questions. -Heighten your mastery of communication (writing, listening, presenting). -Increase your overall proficiency in analysis and discussion. -Enhance your understanding of British literature and various cultures. -Level up your ability to create, develop, and test original arguments. In addition, per TC requirements, the course aims to do the following in each class session: <i>Whilst studying literature written in English, to obtain a deeper understanding of expressive ability using English and to understand the cultures of the countries and regions where English is used and to be able to use these in foreign language classes in junior high schools and senior high schools.</i> Study contents: Learning Items (LI) LI1) English expressions in literary works LI2) The various cultures seen in literary works LI3) Representative literature written in English Attainment Objectives (AO) AO1) To understand the various English expressions used in literary works AO2) To understand the cultures of countries and regions where English is used as they are described in literary works AO3) To understand about the representative literature written into English		
Course Schedule		
NOTE: I reserve the right to amend this schedule at any time		
Day	Topic	Content/Activities
1	Introduction	Introductions; Overview of epistolary
2	On Epistles	Lecture on epistles and history

		Interactive discussion of letters as a form In-class letter writing <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
3	Epistles and U.S. Identity	Anderson: <i>Imagined Communities</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. RUBRIC PART ONE DUE LETTER TO ME ONE DUE LETTER TO SELF ONE DUE <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
4		Leonard: <i>Neither Snow Nor Rain</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
5		Gallagher: <i>How the Post Office Created America</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
6		Twain: <i>Roughing It</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
7		Twain: <i>Roughing It</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
8		Twain: <i>Letters from the Sandwich Islands</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
9		Brin: <i>The Postman</i> Film clips May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. TRAVEL LETTER DUE EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Watch and review the related film. See Moodle for details. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
10		Brent: <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
11		Runaway "Slave" Advertisements

	Writing as Resistance: Abolition, Reconstruction, Civil Rights, Black Lives Matter	Northrup: <i>12 Years a Slave</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
12		Northrup: <i>12 Years a Slave</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Watch and review the related film. See Moodle for details. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
13		Anderson: "To My Old Master" Underground Railroad: Fisher Letter to Slattern May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
14		Walker: <i>The Color Purple</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
15		Walker: <i>The Color Purple</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
16		Walker: <i>The Color Purple</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. RUBRIC PART TWO DUE LETTER TO ME TWO DUE LETTER TO SELF TWO DUE <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
17		Walker: <i>The Color Purple</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
18		Walker: <i>The Color Purple</i> (film) May include written summaries, analysis, close reading, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
19		Walker: <i>The Color Purple</i> (film) RESEARCH DAY <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
20		King, Jr.: "Letter from Birmingham Jail" May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close

		reading, etc. Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above
21		Baldwin: "Letter to my Nephew" May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. FILM REVIEW DUE Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above
22		Ta-Nehisi Coates: <i>Between the World and Me</i> P!nk: "Dear Mr. President" May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above
23	Breaking the Form	<i>Love Letters</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, film analysis, performance, etc. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Watch and review <i>Miracle on 34th Street</i> . See Moodle for details. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Watch and review <i>You've Got Mail!</i> See Moodle for details. Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above
24		Atwood: "Postcards" Miller: "Postcards" May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, student presentation, close reading, etc. Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above
25		Williams: "This is Just to Say" May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, creative writing, student presentation, close reading, etc. Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above
26		Dear Data The Postal Service May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, close reading, etc. POEM DUE Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above
27		Letters from the Future <i>Star Trek</i> <i>Star Wars</i> <i>The Martian</i> May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, student presentation, close reading, film analysis, etc. Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above
28		Craig Raine: "A Martian Sends a Postcard Home" May include interactive lecture, facilitated discussion, written summaries, close reading, creative writing, etc.

		POEM DUE EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Watch and review <i>El Postino</i> . See Moodle for details. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Watch and review <i>The Lake House</i> . See Moodle for details <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
29		Sharing Dear Data Project RUBRIC PART THREE DUE LETTER TO ME THREE DUE LETTER TO SELF THREE DUE <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
30		Review and wrap up <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
	Final Exam	

Required Materials:

Alice Walker: *The Color Purple* (1982)

The Color Purple (film): Available at the library or to rent on Amazon.co.jp, etc.

Most readings will be available on Moodle or through our library. You are to print out and bring the readings to class.

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)

Because discussion is key and many activities will be completed in class, participation is vital to this course. If you are not in class, you cannot earn participation points for the day for class discussion or take quizzes.

Do not schedule meetings or routine appointments during class. Everyone is expected to thoughtfully add to our dialogue both in the classroom and in our online discussions. If you miss more than five class meetings for *any* reason, you may be required to drop the course.

Academic Honesty:

It is **essential** that you use your own ideas in this class and submit your own work in this class.

- **Plagiarism** is the presentation of someone else's work as your own, whether it be direct, undocumented quotation of words, phrases or sentences, or undocumented paraphrasing of original ideas, thoughts or content. Neglecting to acknowledge sources for outside material is a serious, punishable offense and will result in failure of the assignment and possibly the course.
- Properly citing other authors is important; **do not copy** ideas from other people or books and pass them off as your own. If you do, you will fail.
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Office Hours: You don't need an appointment for regularly scheduled office hours. In fact, you are encouraged to come and talk to Dr. Bishop about the class, assignments, readings, and so on. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, this is a great time to discuss them. If you can't make it to office hours, you can email to make an appointment (please wait for a response). As with all emails, I will reply within one business day.

Questions: If questions or concerns related to this course arise, please feel free to discuss them with Dr. Bishop during office hours, by appointment, or by email. Any questions or concerns regarding an

assignment grade received must be discussed in person within **ten** business days.

If you have a problem, come and speak with me. If you have spoken to me and your problem persists, please contact Dean Passos: apassos@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp.

No harassment of any kind will be tolerated. Discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origins, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity is prohibited. Please be respectful of others. As some of our course material is controversial or sensitive and may contain adult content, respectful discussion is especially crucial. Dr. Bishop reserves the right to ask anyone to leave at any time.

Class Preparation and Review

Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time and one hour reviewing and doing homework.

As we will spend three hours per week together, you should be spending at least six hours per week on class preparation and review.

You need to read and understand the assignment before coming to class. In class we will go beyond **what** is happening to look at the **how** and **why** and **so what**.

- Before Class: Think about the texts. Come to class with *questions, comments, and opinions* about the reading.
- After Class: Review. Go over your notes from class and from your reading. When you review, pay close attention to new vocabulary and concepts.

Grades and Grading Standards

All assignments should be typed and submitted per the instructions on the assignment sheet. Back up your work and save often. Technology can cause trouble; don't let it hurt your grade.

Dr. Bishop will only accept emailed assignments with prior approval. Late work will be penalized.

Work that is submitted late *may not* be accepted.

Detailed assignment sheets outlining expectations for projects, responses, reflections, presentations, and so on will be given to you in class and will be available on our class website.

On assignments:

100-90: A grade

80-89: B grade

70-79: C grade

60-69: D grade

0-59: F grade

Grades will be broken down as follows:

Class Correspondence*: 20%

Film Review of *The Color Purple**: 15%

Dear Data Project*: 15%

Homework Assignments (Rubric x 3*; letters to me x 3*; letters to self x 3*; travel letter x 1*; letter to character x 1; poems x 1*): 25%

Final Exam*: 15%

Quizzes: 10%

The starred items are REQUIRED.

Failure to submit more than one of the starred items within a week of the due date may result in the automatic failure of this class.

⌘I retain the right to amend this syllabus as necessary during the course of the semester. ⌘

Methods of Feedback:

In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback i.e., grade, comments, rubric, etc.

Diploma Policy Objectives:

“Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s)”:

- 1) Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
- 2) The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
- 3) The ability to identify and solve problems
- 4) Advanced communication proficiency in English
- 5) Proficiency in the use of information technology

Notes:

Below is a rubric outlining course objectives and explanations of what it means to proficiently master those objectives. After reading through the document below, write in what you think it means to exceed expectations and what you think it means to show that you failed to meet expectations in the blanks below. Circle or highlight the sentences that best fit your *current* level of proficiency. In the notes section, jot down goals for yourself.

	Developing	Proficient	Advanced
Critical Thinking through Active Learning (ability to identify and solve problems; information gathering; assessment of credibility)		Able to perform data analysis, gather and assess resources, and express opinions cogently. Able to ask and answer questions beyond comprehension level. Able to create and support an original argument.	
Advanced Communication Proficiency (presentations, social skills, email etiquette)		Able to contribute meaningfully to class discussions. Able to create a relevant response when asked to express an opinion or respond to a complicated situation. Able to research, prepare, and communicate ideas and questions to classmates and instructor orally and in writing.	
Literary Skills (Understanding and use of literary terms, ability to comprehend analyze, texts, and engage comprehensively with texts)		Student can use literary terms such as plot, character, setting, prosody, meter. Student can articulate original, if basic, questions and analyses that go beyond comprehension. They can engage creatively with literary forms.	
Global Perspectives (cultural relevancy; awareness of current and historical events and global issues)		Aware of current and historical events and world cultures. Demonstrates ability to learn about and understand cultural relevance of issues presented in texts and discussion.	
English Language Ability (reading, writing, speaking)		Proficient oral and written communication; does not rely only on familiar vocabulary but continues to build lexicon. May make some errors but advances beyond comfort zone, showing growth and effort.	