ENG 304 American Literature and Culture
Wintermester 2019

Number of Credits
3

Instructor
Melissa Gunby / mgunby@unr.edu / FH 006

Catalog Description
Selected subjects in American literature and culture, emphasizing pluralism and cultural diversity. Designed for non-English majors.

Required Textbooks/Materials
The following texts are required material in this course:


Kirkman, Robert. *The Walking Dead.* (instructor will make this available as a PDF).


Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successfully completing ENG 304, students will be able to
- use writing as a tool for communicating about, organizing, and understanding literary readings;
- relate literary works to their cultural or historical contexts;
- describe different possible interpretations of a given work of literature;
• analyze texts with attention to thematic content and formal or stylistic choices;
• distinguish and discuss the features of different genres and their conventions; and
• articulate patterns and problems in American literature and culture, specifically those related to pluralism and diversity.

First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

January 2: Course Introduction and Overview. Discussion about value of zombie and other monster narratives as course of study. Possible film screening with discussion to follow.

January 3: Reading discussion: *Day by Day Armageddon* and *The Walking Dead* and selected critical texts from *Generation Zombie: Essays on the Living Dead in Modern Culture*. Possible film screening of AMC’s *The Walking Dead* for critical comparison and discussion. Introduction of the first essay. Proposal for first essay due online by 11:59 p.m. on 1/05.

January 7: Reading discussion: *Day by Day Armageddon* and *The Walking Dead*, and selected critical texts from *Generation Zombie: Essays on the Living Dead in Modern Culture*. Class brainstorming session for first essay.

January 8: Reading Discussion of *World War Z* and selected critical texts from *Generation Zombie: Essays on the Living Dead in Modern Culture*. Rough draft of first essay due in class on 1/08.

Course Details

Using novels, graphic novels, short stories, and films, this course explores the relationship between the zombie genre and American culture through the lens of zombie narrative being a response to American colonialism and slavery.

Students will write a minimum of 3 essays linking the course texts to American Culture and Identity. The reading load will be intense, as this is only a 10 day class.

Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Responses (7 total)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays (3 total)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops (3 total)</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading and Film Quizzed (11 total)</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>500</td>
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