

## 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:

Bishop, Kyle Williams. *American Zombie Gothic: The Rise and Fall (and Rise) of the Walking Dead in Popular Culture*. McFarland, 2010. 978-0786448067

Bourne, J.L. *Day by Day Armageddon*. New York: Pocket Books. 2009. Print. ISBN: 978-1-4391-7667-2

Brooks, Max. *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War*. New York: Crown Publishers. 2006. Print. ISBN: 978-0-307-35193-7

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

Marion, Isaac. *Warm Bodies*. Atria, 2004.

### 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:

Assignment	Points
Reading Responses (7 total)	70
Essays (3 total)	300
Workshops (3 total)	75
Reading and Film Quizzed (11 total)	55
<i>Total</i>	<i>500</i>