

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3469**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3469**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**ENGL 3053 Popular Literature**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Examines selections of popular literature from genres that may include Gothic horror, mystery, science-fiction, fantasy, romance, and the Western. Among the topics that may be considered are the development of these popular genres, the means by which popular literature both reflects and affects the culture from which it emerges, issues characteristically embedded in the various popular genres, the significance of values associated with "high" and "low" literature, and narrative patterns characteristic of popular genres. Topics will rotate.

**B. Additional Information – None**

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the texts studied as well as the historical contexts out of which the texts emerged;
2. Appraise the culture presented in the literature studied, which may include traditions, rituals, language(s), legislation, arts, economic/class systems, systems of apartheid (where applicable), and religious beliefs/institutions;
3. Research historical/cultural topics relevant to the literature studied;
4. Apply literary terms and conventions significant to the literature studied.

**B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)**

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

**Global & Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

**III. Major Course Topics**

Major course topics will vary according to the specific course.