

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith

5210 Grand Avenue

P. O. Box 3649

Fort Smith, AR 72913

479-788-7000

Graduate Studies General Syllabus

MELA 5903 Special Topics in Literature

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory hours: 0

Prerequisites: Admission to the M.Ed. program.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Graduate Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A reading intensive and focused critical study of literature not included in other course offerings. Along with an intensive focus on the literary works designated, a close analysis of the literary historical and cultural context will be included. Topics vary, often crossing geographic and temporal lines and usually dealing with a specific genre or a theme.

B. Additional Information - None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Analyze major and minor works, genres, and literary movements relevant to intense study of the designated literature.
2. Interpret literary features, structure, style, and key issues in analyzing works of literature.
3. Master the basics of archival research, with a focus on digital methodologies and practices.
4. Develop a critical approach to literature through class discussion, written assignments, and/or presentations. The critical approach should be drawn from cultural studies, such as Gender and Sexuality studies; Colonialism, Empire, and Post-Colonialism; Class Studies; Periodical Studies; Strategic Formalism; and/or pedagogical methods.
5. Facilitate class discussion, with attention to textual history, author biography, historical context, and relevant scholarship.
6. Create focused critical, scholarly arguments which explicate, analyze, and evaluate the works studied in innovative and scholarly ways.

B. Program Learning Outcomes:

The M.Ed. program bases Program Learning Outcomes on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The NBPTS establishes and upholds rigorous expectations for what expert teachers should know and do. This graduate course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Commitment: Teachers believe that all students can learn and meet high expectations. Teachers are committed to all learners and are passionate about teaching. They develop relationships with students in a variety of educational settings. Teachers create learning experiences that differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students. They understand their subjects and how to teach those subjects to students.

Responsibility: Teachers facilitate and supervise student learning. Teachers embrace a variety of methods to increase student success. They establish social norms within a variety of dynamic grouping options. They motivate and engage students while assessing student performance.

Systematic Thinking: Teachers critique their practices and learn from experience. Teachers evaluate their practices and expand their learning based on best practices, current research, evolving technologies, and student data.

Leadership: Teachers demonstrate leadership that fosters excellence, effectiveness, and collaboration with colleagues, families, and the community. Teachers approach their work with a team mentality. They collaborate with all stakeholders sharing vital information and planning a course of action that will improve the effectiveness of the school.

III. Major Graduate Course Topics

Topics vary by course designation.