

## Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

**Number of Course:**

ENGL 436

**Name of Course:**

Literary/Film Themes

**Catalog Description:**

In-depth study of a major theme in one or more genres, historical periods, or authors. Repeatable with different topics.

**Credit Hours:**

2 to 4

**Required Texts or Suggested Materials:**

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore \(opens in new tab\)](#)

**Prerequisites:**

WR 121, one 100-level ENGL course, and junior standing or consent of instructor.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

1. Read/view literature/film texts closely for literal and figurative meaning.
2. Employ creative methods to enhance interpretation.
3. Analyze the ways in which literature/film is intentional and form shapes meaning.
4. Understand literature/film within its historical, social, economic, and political context.
5. Join the scholarly dialogue about literature/film through acknowledging the ideas of others and situating your ideas within that dialogue both orally and in writing
6. Explore the significance of aesthetic reading and writing
7. Understand the work of professionals in literature/film studies and career opportunities related to textual analysis
8. Understand connections among works across historical time periods

**Course Requirements:**

- Reading and Forum Participation
  - We have a lot of material to cover in just 10 weeks, so your participation and your knowledge of the readings for each week is vital. You will write concise responses to prompts posted on blackboard and brief responses to student postings each week/unit. The number of prompts and responses required will vary across units. These responses will replace classroom discussions and will constitute 40% of your total grade.
- Midterm Essay

- The midterm essay will include literary analysis and synthesis of two primary works from units 1-3 and must include at least one biographical, cultural, and/or critical resource from two of those units. Additional sources are optional. The midterm essay should be 5-10 pages and is worth 30% of your total grade.
- Final Project & Presentation
  - The final project & presentation will include literary analysis and synthesis of two primary works from units 4-5 and must include at least one biographical, cultural, and/or critical resource from those units. Additional sources are optional. The final project should be 4-7 pages and is worth 30% of your total grade.

**Grading Policies:**

- Forum Discussions 40%
- Midterm Essay 30%
- Final Project & Presentation 30%

**Means of Assessment:**

Close reading of texts, weekly work in forums, essays employing close reading and interpretation, student online presentations.

**Brief Outline of Course:**

Regular reading or viewing assignments relevant to the theme, class discussion of the materials, written analyses, and exams.

**General Education Category and Outcomes:**

NA

**University Writing Requirement Outcomes:**

Students must complete all UWR writing-intensive courses with a C- or better.

- Students will produce at least 5,000 words (including drafts, in-class writing, informal papers, and polished papers); 2,000 words of this total should be in polished papers which students have revised after receiving feedback and criticism.
- Students will practice the forms of writing and reflect upon the nature of the writing used by graduates and professionals in the discipline the course represents.
- Students will write at least one paper integrating information from more than one source, employing the appropriate documentation style for the discipline represented by the course.
- Students will draft, revise, and edit their formal written work.
- Students will seek assistance from a Writing Tutor in the Writing Lab when needed and when referred by the instructor.

**Writing Center Statement:**

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes,

job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University \(opens in new tab\)](#).

**Classroom Decorum:**

NA

**Academic Misconduct Policy:**

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

**Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:**

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

**Disclaimer:**

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.

**Syllabus Prepared By:**

**Date:**

Edited 03/09/2026