

ENGL 210: Approaches to Literature

“Guilty Pleasures: Reading Across Politics, Power, and Pleasure”

Spring 2024

Instructor Dr. Sarita Jayanty Mizin

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Course Meeting Days and Time Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12:15pm (LIBS)

Office Hours Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11am and by appointment

Catalog Description:

This course engages students in the analytic reading and writing that characterize the field of literary studies. Students will read intensively in multiple literary genres (e.g. poetry, short fiction, the essay, drama, memoir, and the novel), and will develop writing skills appropriate to the discipline. Thematically-based; course topics change with the instructor. Meets requirements for Enduring Foundations Outcome 2 and Writing Across the Curriculum.

This course’s theme focuses on ‘guilty pleasures’: the texts we ‘hate watch’ or read, the books we enjoy but don’t tell people about, the controversial texts we might like but aren’t sure we should. Together, we will be using these texts to investigate the intersections of pleasure and politics and ask ourselves what is going on when our enjoyment gets . . . complicated. Together, we will explore an historical range of literature and literary criticism from the 19th century to the present day as we turn the common axiom “knowledge is power” on its head. By building the skills to read difficult texts, research criticism, and compose our own arguments, we will challenge this assumption as we see how authors throughout the ages have revealed how power determines what kinds of texts are “good” pleasures or “guilty” ones and how these different kinds of pleasure become knowledge.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Standard lecture:

“This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.” (Def 1)

General Education Requirements:

This course meets the General Education requirements for Outcome 2 Overlay E Writing.

Course Learning Objectives:

Develop familiarity with the conventions of a variety of literary genres (short story, essay, poem, novel)

Develop and practice skills in critical reading

Develop a critical vocabulary and practice applying it in written literary analysis

Methods of Instructions:

Weekly course meetings will include a lecture and discussion class with questions drafted ahead of time as well as a workshop class where students will develop skills in critical reading and writing.

Textbooks and Required Reading:

“Cat Person”, Short Story, Kristen Roupenian, (2017)

Milk and Honey, Poetry Collection, Rupi Kaur (2014)

Beach Read, Novel, Emily Henry (2020)

Slaxx, Film, Dir. Elza Kephardt (2020)

“Who is the Bad Art Friend?”, Journalism, Robert Kolker (2021)

Tacky: Love Letters to the Worst Culture We Have to Offer, Essay Collection, Rax King (2021)

Course Schedule:

Subject to change. The most up-to-date daily schedule of readings and assignments is available via a google doc posted on our coursesite. Schedule will never be changed without notification of students via email and class announcement.

Week I: Course Introduction and Format

Skills Workshop: Critical Reading

Week II: Selections From *Tacky*

Skills Workshop: Writing a Discussion Question

Week III: Selections from *Tacky*

Skills Workshop: Close-Reading and Textual Analysis

Week IV: *Beach Read*, Intro to the Novel

Skills Workshop: Textual Analysis Practice

Week V: *Beach Read*, Romance as Guilty Pleasure?

Skills Workshop: Concepts and Analysis (romance genre, pleasure)

Week VI: Film: *Slaxx*, Horror and Comedy

Skills Workshop: Watching/Reading through Genre

Week VII: Mid-Term Break

Week VIII: *Milk and Honey*, Kaur

Skills Workshop: Learning the Language of Poetry

Week IX: *Milk and Honey*, Kaur

Skills Workshop: Analyzing Poetry

Week X: “Cat Person”, Short Story as Genre

Skills Workshop: Politics and Aesthetic Popularity

Week XI: "Who is the Bad Art Friend?", Gossip as Critical Concept

Skills Workshop: Voice, Community, Anne Helen-Peterson

Week XII: *SLAXX*, Film as Text

Skills Workshop: Language of Film

Week XIII: *SLAXX*

Skills Workshop: Scene Analysis as Visual 'Close-Reading'

Week XIV: Skills Review Workshops

Week XV Review Week and Final Assignments

Grading Criteria:

Class participation 20%

Participation is NOT attendance. It includes completing online assignments, discussion groups, active listening, amplifying other voices, and being a thoughtful member of our class community.

Discussion questions 25%

Discussion questions drafted and posted before discussion class meeting

Skills Workshops 30%

Depending on the unit, weekly or biweekly workshops that develop skills in critical reading, analysis, and writing.

Final Exam 25%

Essay exam developed by instructor and class and completed in consultation with instructor over the course of the semester.

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	A-	90-92		
B+	88-89	B	83-87	B-	80-82
C+	78-79	C	75-77		

C-	70-74	D	60-69	F	0-59

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-

term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty. The penalty will be a third-letter grade deduction per additional absence (for example, A- to B+).

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.

- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling

Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered "Responsible Employees" under the applicable federal guidelines and the University's policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261

Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lSelby@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk

