

Spring 2024. ENG 300
Unsettling English Studies: Introduction to the Major
Tuesdays 6:00-8:40 pm
Classroom: [Online here:](#)
<https://lehman-cuny-edu.zoom.us/my/oliviamoy>

Professor Olivia Moy
Office Hours: Tues 4:40-6 pm or by appmt
Office: [Online](#)
olivia.moy@lehman.cuny.edu

Syllabus

ENG 300: Introduction to Literary Study. 4 hours, 4 credits. *English Studies as a form of knowledge and power vis-à-vis race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, literacy, or other axes of authority. Alternative modes of thought and expression that have sought to transform the field. Skills necessary for the Major, including attention to textual language and its contextual relations; inquiry-driven, argument-centered writing; engagement with scholarship or theory. Individualized and/or collaborative projects designed to explore students' relationship to the discipline.* NOTE: This course should be taken early in the major, as soon as possible after declaration of the major.

Texts: Available on the course website at www.olivialoksingmoy.com/300. This page is also linked on Blackboard.

Required Books: All required texts will be made available online through our course website. Always annotate your texts on paper, in a notebook, or on your own screen. But if you prefer to buy your own hard copy, see the information below:

Recommended Texts: (Again, everything will be provided to you free and on the course website.)

Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-7190-7927-6. \$10.99

Benedict, Marie and Victoria Christopher. *The Personal Librarian*. New York: Penguin, 2021.

Kincaid, Jamaica. "Girl." *The New Yorker*. June 26, 1978.

Hughes, Langston. *The Best of Simple*. Hill and Wang, 1961.

Hughes, Langston. Edited by Arnold Rampersad. *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*. Vintage, 1995.

Melville, Herman. *Bartleby the Scrivener*. New York: Dover, 1990. ISBN: 9780486264738. \$4.00

Morrison, Toni. "Sweetness." *The New Yorker*. February 2, 2015.

Rossetti, Christina. *Goblin Market and Other Poems*. New York: Dover, 1994. ISBN: 0486280551. \$2.50

Packer, ZZ. "Drinking Coffee Elsewhere." *The New Yorker*. June 12, 2000.

The Little Seagull Handbook, 2nd ed. Edited by Richard Bullock, Michael Brody and Francine Weinberg. New York: Norton & Company, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-393-93580-6. \$25.00

You should also have ready access to a major anthology of English Literature, such as the Norton, Longman, Blackwell, or Broadview anthologies through the Lehman library for reference. All other readings will be available on the course's website at www.olivialoksingmoy.com/300. This page is also linked via Blackboard.

Objectives: 1) Hone the skills for interpreting literary texts of various genres. 2) Draw thematic and formal connections across the literary techniques used by authors in relationship to their audience, purpose and

cultural constraints. 3) Cultivate clear, expressive writing that utilizes literary terminology, critical methods, and various lenses of interpretation in the form of close readings and thesis-driven essays. 4) Become adept at utilizing important tools and resources in the discipline for learning about author biographies, historical contexts, and critical editions. 5) Become acquainted with critical theory and secondary sources and begin to incorporate them in your own writing.

Participation: I expect every student to be present and alert, both physically and mentally, for the duration of every class session. You demonstrate your participation by speaking in class, actively taking notes, expressing positive body language, and responding to classmates. Let's pace our seminar and contribute judiciously so that every student can *speak at least* once in every class session. Short quizzes will be administered when necessary to ensure that you are digesting the material taught in class. Arriving to class unprepared (without having completed the reading or unresponsive, on mute, or with camera off) is effectively an absence. Please manage and limit your multitasking on your device – I know it's hard!

Attendance: We'll all do our best to show up to synchronous sections of class *with sound and camera on*. But I also understand the difficulties of taking classes from home or in semi-public spaces, so please communicate to me any extenuating circumstances. In general, more than 2 unexcused absences will result in your grade being lowered. More than 4 absences mean that you have not fulfilled the course requirement and will not pass the class. In case of emergency absence or lateness, be sure to e-mail me in advance. Extreme tardiness or leaving early will be construed as an absence.

Writing Assignments: Because this is a writing intensive course, different forms of low-stakes and high-stakes writing (both ungraded and graded) are fundamental to this class. Most weekly writing will take the form of weekly entries in your Commonplace Book, to be turned in at the end of term. We will also write field reports after attending special events, virtually or in person (your choice). Your main assignments are the Commonplace Book, in-class writing activities, a field report, critical essay, and the final anthology project. Please follow MLA or Chicago style citation guidelines in all your written assignments. It is important to keep up with readings and assignments each week and to produce writing on a regular basis. Quizzes are announced in class and on the course website; they will always cover material from the previous week's class.

Grading: Late papers will be graded down by 1/3 of a grade (B becomes B-) with each passing day. Any grades given are final and there will not be opportunity for rewrites or revisions. The breakdown for your final grade is as follows:

Attendance & Participation	20%
Field Report, Midterm Recitation & Classwork (Timeline & Quizzes)	20%
Commonplace Book (at least 10 entries)	20%
Critical Essay (5 pp.)	20%
Anthology Project (10-12 pp.)	20%

A 94-100; A- 90-93; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D 65-69; F 64 and below.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism Policy:

Scholarship, by its very nature, is a collaborative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited. In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others' ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent (Chat GPT!). Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave this course. See also the Lehman Student Handbook online. Please write out and sign a statement of honor at the end of every essay.

Office Hours:

I am available for consultation Tuesdays 4:40-6:00 p.m., and am also happy to schedule alternate meeting times if this conflicts with your course schedule. Please avail yourself of office hours to check in on your progress in the course, clarify any questions about class material, or pursue any literary interests beyond what we have time to cover within the semester. I am also amenable to dialogues via email at any point, but do be sure to adhere to proper e-mail etiquette in your correspondences and proofread your writing (e.g. Dear Professor, not “Hey—” or “Yo—”)!

Accommodating Disabilities: Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all students. Students with disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services at Shuster Hall, Room 238, 718-960-8441. Our sudden conversion to online teaching also causes undue strain on students, so don’t hesitate to be vocal about your learning needs.

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) is one of several tutoring centers on campus. The ACE provides appointment-based and drop-in tutoring in the humanities, social sciences, and writing as well as general writing and academic skills workshops. For more information, visit <http://www.lehman.edu/issp> or call 718-960-8175.

The **[Instructional Support Services Program \(ISS\)](#)** will be offering online tutoring, academic coaching, supplemental instruction, and a variety of writing and academic skills workshops in Fall 2020. All our services are online. Tutoring is available for writing, humanities and social science courses (through the [Lehman Tutoring Center](#)), as well as courses in the natural sciences (through the [Science Learning Center](#)). Individualized coaching for students who seek to improve their study skills, strategies for learning online, and overall academic performance is also available. Students can call us at 718-960-8175 or email us (issp.program@lehman.cuny.edu) for more information. Direct links to our virtual tutoring centers are as follow below. Please note the links work only during the centers’ business hours.

Lehman Tutoring Center:

<https://us.bbcollab.com/collab/ui/session/guest/adf7cbc464854e299feb75e3e9e15442>

Counseling and Wellness: Please feel free to visit me during office hours or consult me via email at any point throughout the semester. The Lehman Counseling Center (718-960-8761, Old Gym 114) or the Wellness Program at the Health Center are also wonderful and free resources for any student experiencing difficulty or stress concerning their workload.

Title IX: Anyone – of any gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, citizenship status, race, class or educational level – can suffer from sexual harassment, including sexual violence. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program receiving federal financial assistance. Sexual harassment, which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX, and is considered a Civil Rights offense. Lehman College encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to a faculty member, counselor, or staff; confidential resources are available through the Lehman Counseling Center at 718-960-8761.

Selected References & Resources:

Oxford English Dictionary - www.oed.com

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography – www.oxforddnb.com

Anthologies: Norton, Longman, Broadview or Blackwell – Lehman library online reserves

Norton Critical Editions - Lehman library online reserves

Cambridge Companions - Lehman library online reserves

Lehman Library Guide for Literature - <https://libguides.lehman.edu/c.php?g=1020845&p=7417852>

ENGLISH 300: UNSETTLING ENGLISH STUDIES
WEEKLY CALENDAR

Classes take place on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:40 pm [here on Zoom](#).

	Lecture & Lesson Topic	Reading Assignment	Writing Assignment
Jan 30	What's Unsettling? Introduction to the Major Commonplace Book Assignment	Langston Hughes poems	Letter to the Professor
Feb 6	Literary Devices Canon, Genre, Period What's in an Anthology?	"Hills Like White Elephants"	Literary Devices quiz next week
Feb 13	Building Close Readings Literary Devices Review Quiz	Norton Anthology online	Practice Close Reading
Feb 20	Historicizing & Adding Contexts Timelines Assignment	Devoney Looser Live Lecture	Timelines Assignment
Feb 27	Belizaire Crafting the English Essay	Handouts	Essay Draft
Mar 5	Theory Crash Course I: Psychoanalytic, Marxist Readings, Feminist Readings	Barry, Chapter 5, 6, 8 "Bookshop Memories"	Theory keywords summaries
Mar 12	Theory Crash Course II: Postcolonial Readings, Critical Race Theory, Disabilities Studies	Barry, Chapter 10, "Shooting an Elephant," Delgado, Mullen, Morrison,	Theory keywords summaries
Mar 19	<u>Goblin Market</u> 3 ways	Christina Rossetti	Commonplace Book
Mar 26	<u>Bartleby the Scrivener</u> 3 ways	Herman Melville	Commonplace Book
Apr 2	Introduction to Book History	<u>The Personal Librarian</u>	Critical Essay rough draft due
Apr 9	Annual DST Lecture	Lennard Davis	Field Report
Apr 16	Belle Da Costa Greene & The Morgan Library	<u>The Personal Librarian</u>	Field Report
Apr 22 & 30	Spring Break		
May 7	Anthology Project & Sharing Commonplace Books		Hand in Final Paper
May 14	Conferences		Anthology Project due May 22

ANTHOLOGY PROJECTS ARE DUE MAY 22.

Please check www.olivialoksingmoy.com/300 for details on homework and assigned readings.

*The above schedule is subject to change. The website schedule is updated weekly and supersedes any PDF calendars.