ENGLISH 400(G): URBAN FANTASY AS BLENDED GENRE

Class times and locations
Summer 2018, Monday-Thursday 1:00 pm - 3:45 pm
Section 200, Simpkins 214
Section TQ1, QC Complex 2128

Instructor Info
Instructor: Dr. Alisha White
Email: a-white2@wiu.edu
Phone: 309-298-1548
Office: Simpkins Hall 226C
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-1:00 pm, Wednesday 1:00-12:00 pm, at QC campus on Thursday 12:00-1:00 pm, or Google Hangout (email me for an online meeting time)
Mailbox: Simpkins 122, M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Required Texts
Storm Front Jim Butcher, 9780451457813
Neverwhere Neil Gaiman, 9780062459084
Greywalker Kat Richardson, 978045461322
Shadowshaper Daniel Jose Older, 9781338032475
(See the Text Set assignment directions for list of additional novels/graphic novels/media)

Scholarly Readings
You are also responsible for reading the scholarly articles relevant to genre study, literary theories, and themes of the focus texts. A list of articles is included at the end of this document. Articles can be found through the library database, in Western Online, the course Google Team Drive, or online.

Course Description
Students will explore the ways in which Urban Fantasy novels blend characteristics from multiple genres and how character, plot, and conflict are directly tied to the urban setting. We will also question who says how books are categorized, whose taxonomies are valued, and consider critiques of genre study. Multiple theoretical lenses will be applied to the novels as well as concepts from disciplines outside literary studies such as library science, anthropology, education, and geography.

Class will be a mixture of discussion, group activities, and interactive mini-lectures. This means that it will be important for you to come to class prepared by having read material carefully. I will expect you to raise questions, make comments, agree and disagree with each other in a respectful manner.

Pre-Requisite: ENG299 with a C or better or consent of instructor

Course Policies

Usability and Information for Students with Disabilities
“In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related
accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 298-2512, Send email to disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner. An electronic copy of this statement can be found at”: Access form at https://www.wiu.edu/student_services/disability_resource_center/publications/index.php

Title IX
“University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at”: Access form at http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php
“If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at”: Access policy at http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php.

Student Rights and Responsibilities
Please review the “Student Rights and Responsibilities” policy at Student Rights and Responsibilities http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students and see me if you have any questions.

Syllabus Revision Policy
Please note: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Grades
This section gives the breakdown of percentage points for each letter grade.  
A (93-100%); A- (90-92%); B+ (87-89%); B (83-86%); B- (80-82%); C+ (77-79%); C (73-76%); C- (70-72%); D+ (67-69%); D (63-66%); D- (60-63%); F (Below 60%)

Assignment Grades
This section breaks down what each area of the grade is worth.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Title</th>
<th>Assignment Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Work</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Fantasy Text Set</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Daily Work
Daily work includes participation in classroom activities and homework including literature discussions and activities, journals, and check-in meetings for long term projects.

Reading Responses
During this course, you will read a series of Urban Fantasy novels. Reading response assignments will provide opportunities to analyze, interpret, and critique the novels through a variety of lenses including literary analysis and arts-based analysis. See the directions handout for details.
Urban Fantasy Text Set
In addition to the novels read for class, you will explore other Urban Fantasy texts including novels, graphic novels and web comics, television shows, movies, games and other media. Create an annotated Text Set of sources organized by thematic or subgenre categories. Present an overview of the text set in class. See the directions handout for details. (Undergraduate Students should explore at least 5 texts; Graduate Students should explore at least 10 texts.)

Final Paper
The final paper should explore a theme or concept from the course readings in more depth through a literary analysis or literature review. During the last week, you will present findings to the class. See the directions handout for details. (Undergraduate Students should write a minimum of 10 pages; Graduate Students should write a minimum of 15 pages.)

All papers should follow MLA or APA manuscript style consistently. You are required to submit all papers to “Turn it in” through Western Online before the assignment due date.

Late Papers
You are encouraged to seek help as soon as possible to avoid penalties on late work. The penalty for late work is a letter grade per day late.

Attendance and Participation
I expect you to attend each class. Regular attendance and participation in engagements is an important part of any learning experience. Coming to class prepared is an important aspect of active participation. This includes bringing textbooks, assignment directions, course schedule, and drafts of your work. You may be asked to leave if you are not prepared for class or are off task, and you will lose points for the daily work.

I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. If you are not present in class, you are marked absent. You will lose a point for each absence. Arriving late for class or leaving early can be distracting to myself and to other students and takes away from classroom engagements. You will be counted absent if you are ten (10) or more minutes late to class or leave more than ten (10) minutes early.

Academic Integrity Policy
Academic Dishonesty is a serious academic offense that can result in referral to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and failure for the course. Please refer to Western Illinois University’s Academic Integrity Policy for more information (go to the academic integrity policy http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php). You are expected to be respectful to your classmates and me. If you are disruptive and/or rude, you will be asked to leave class and will receive an absence for the day.

In addition, the university has a policy regarding student behavior. Please review the Disruptive Student Behavior Policy: Access policy at http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/disruptst.php

Technology
Cell phones should be silenced and put away during class. Texting, checking email, and surfing online will result in being marked as absent. If you are asked to put your phone away and you do not comply, you will be asked to leave.
It is your responsibility to check Western Online and the course Google Team Drive daily for notices, assignment directions, and class notes. This will be my main form of communicating reminders and changes. Assignment grades are posted to WO regularly. It is your responsibility to stay apprised of your status and come to office hours if you have questions about your grade.

WesternOnline:
1. To access this course on WesternOnline:
2. Go to Western Online  https://westernonline.wiu.edu
3. Log in using your ECOM ID and password
4. Your personal My WesternOnline page will appear. Available courses are listed in the middle of the page under Course List.
5. Click the link “ENG 400G – Section 200” or “ENG 400G – Section TQ1” to enter the course. This will take you to the Homepage where you will be able to access a broad range of features. Log in and start exploring this page as soon as possible. Note: The course may show up as CL-ENG 400[200]_ ENG 400[TQ1].

Google Team Drive:
To access the course Team Drive, log into your Google drive account. On the left you will see options for entering “My Drive” and “Team Drives.” Select “Team Drives” and enter the folder for ENG400G.

CODEX course:
As a CODEX course, I expect there will be technical difficulties at times. I ask for your patience and persistence in dealing with issues as they arise. If you are in the location where I am not, and have an issue, please bring it to my attention. If I am not able to correct it, please contact utech (309) 298-TECH or E-mail Support: supportcenter@wiu.edu. In QC our ECF is Travis Rylee.

Important Dates
June 5: Last day to add course during open registration
June 11: Last day to add by permission or delete course
June 19: Last day to drop with a “W” grade
ENG 400G Course Schedule

Week 1
Mon 6/4: Introduction, Syllabus, “Hold Back the Waters” (Reading Response Directions)
  • “Core Collections in Genre Studies: Fantasy Fiction 101.”
  • “Urban Fantasy: A Literature of the Unseen.”

Tues 6/5: Storm Front Ch 1-9 (Urban Fantasy Text Set Directions)
  • “On the Fringe between Fantasy and Fantastique/Gothic Fiction: The Invention of Urban Fantasy.”

Wed 6/6: Storm Front Ch 10-18 (Final Paper Directions)
  • “The Slipperiness of Literary Maps: Critical Cartography and Literary Cartography.”

Reading Response 1 Due

Thurs 6/7: (AW in QC) Storm Front Ch 19-27
  • Chapter 37 “The Novel and the Map: Spatiotemporal Form and Discourse in Literary Cartography”

Week 2
Mon 6/11: Neverwhere Prologue-Ch 4
  • “The Past is Below Us!: Urban Fantasy, Urban Archaeology, and the Recovery of Suppressed History.”

Tues 6/12: Neverwhere Ch 5-Ch 10
  • “Back to the Real London'; or Mapping the City of the past in Gaiman’s Neverwhere.”

Wed 6/13: Neverwhere Ch 11-Ch 16 (Check-in for Text Set and Final Paper)

Reading Response 2 Due

Thurs 6/14: (AW in QC) Neverwhere Ch 17-Ch 20 plus extras (Check-in for Text Set and Final Paper)
  • “Fantasy and Myth in Pan's Labyrinth: Analysis of Guillermo del Toro's Symbolic Imagery”

Week 3
Mon 6/18: Greywalker Ch 1-10
  • “Harder Than Nails, Harder Than Spade: Anita Blake as ‘The Tough Guy’ Detective.”

Tues 6/19: Greywalker Ch 11-17
  • “Paranormal Politics and the Romance of Urban Subcultures: Youth Mobility in Cassandra Clare’s and Melissa Marr’s Fantasy Texts.”

Wed 6/20: Greywalker Ch 18-25 (Check-in for Final Paper/Pres.)
Text Set Presentations for Macomb students (continued page 6)
  • “Popular Necromancy: How Supernatural and True Blood are Attracting Mass Viewers and Putting them in Touch with the Dark Side of Human Nature”
Reading Response 3 Due

Thurs 6/21: (AW in QC) Greywalker Ch 26-31 (Check-in for Final Paper/Pres.)
Text Set Presentations for QC students
• “The City as Liminal Space: Urban Visuality and Aesthetic Experience in Postmodern U.S. Literature and Cinema.”

Urban Fantasy Text Set Due

Week 4
Mon 6/25: Shadowshaper Ch 1-11, Magical Realism Discussion, Research Presentations
• “Magical Worlds, Real Encounters: Race and Magical Realism in Young Adult Fiction”
• “Fantasy in the Classroom: Student Perceptions of Fantasy Literature Viewed through a Critical Literacy Framework”

Tues 6/26: Shadowshaper Ch 1-11, Research Presentations
• “Landscapes of City and Self: Place and Identity in Urban Young Adult Literature”
• “Urban Experience in Recent Young Adult Novels”

Wed 6/27: Shadowshaper Ch 1-11, Research Presentations
• “Side-by-Side: At the Intersections of Latinx Studies and ChYALit”
• “Interview with Daniel José Older”

Reading Response 4 Due

Thurs 6/28: (AW in QC) Shadowshaper Ch 1-11, Research Presentations
• “Painted on the Surface: The Marbury Lens and Gore in Young Adult Fiction”
• “Complicating Killing in Young Adult Fiction”

Research Paper Final Draft Due
Scholarly Article List

Articles are listed in order by the day assigned (see the schedule above). Note: Articles with live hyperlinks for online access are highlighted in light blue. All other articles should have pdf documents available in Western Online or the Google Team Drive.

Week 1


Week 2


Week 3


Week 4
https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/v38n3/saxena.html


https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/v38n2/thomas.html

https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/v29n3/hassell.html

