



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: ENGL

Course and Section #: 270G-X01

Course Title: Positionality and Interpretive Methods

Credits: 3

Course Description

Examines the ways sociocultural context influences understanding of the world. Emphasizes multiple methods of inquiry and issues of equity and inclusion. Connects students to diverse cultural texts, preparing for contributions to scholarly and popular conversations through sophisticated, creative, and socially aware interpretive methods. Introduces the concept of positionality, helping students proceed as responsible scholars and writers through an exploration of social location. Prepares students for success by developing transferable skills in textual analysis, research, and production.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Nicholas Bredie

Student Learning Outcomes

- ❖ Examine how personal values, views, and location in time and space influence understanding and representation of the world through multimodal texts
 - ❖ Develop research methods and creative practices that engage with and respond to various positionalities
 - ❖ Interpret diverse cultural texts carefully, being attentive to explicit and implicit meanings and positionality
 - ❖ Define positionality through close reading, active questioning, and critical dialogue
 - ❖ Produce critical projects such as or including positionality statements, essays, creative works, and oral presentations
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Course Materials and Texts

Required: Butler, Octavia and Damian Duffy. Parable of the Sower: a graphic novel adaptation. Harry N. Abrams 2020
Bacigalupi, Paolo. The Water Knife. Knopf 2015

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Final Project (40%): This an analysis of a piece of science fiction of your choice taking into account course terms. You have some choice about the modality of this project, and you will present on it at the end of the term. See separate assignment sheet.

Positionality Statement (10%): This is a self-examination statement that you'll draft at the beginning of the semester, and revise at the end.

Response papers (30%): These are four short (2-3pp) responses to the readings and screenings of the course. See separate assignment sheets

Participation (20%): This weekly discussion and response. These are graded as a buffet, where you can choose how many posts and responses you choose to undertake and what part of the 20% you will receive.

Grading Scale

A=100-93 A-=92-90 B+=89-87 B=86-83 B-=82-80 C+=79-77 C=76-73 C-=72-70
D+=69-67 D=66-60 F=59-0

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Click here to enter text.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Study Terms

Week 3: The Social Contract

Week 4: Parable of the Sower

Week 5: Parable of the Sower

Week 6: Parable of the Sower

Week 7: Study Terms on the American West

Week 8: The Water Knife

Week 9: The Water Knife

Week 10: The Water Knife

Week 11: The Water Knife

Week 12: The Water Knife

Week 13: Final Project

Week 14: Final Project

Week 15: Final Project Presentations

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

The UVU English department is also keeping up with artificial intelligence chat bots such as ChatGPT (and many other stand-alone programs or plug-ins). Believing the technology is here to stay, and will only grow, we feel it's important to understand both its strengths and limitations. AI is already proving its usefulness in brainstorming writing ideas, simplifying complex topics, and assisting with research. We believe AI is a tool with potential usefulness for writers. However, AI is also fraught with serious issues. It possesses accuracy problems while simultaneously sounding very confident about its incorrectness. It also frequently generates fake citations and quotations. It cannot understand the complexities and contexts of human communication. Finally, the way AI is trained on other texts poses several ethical questions about copyright and intellectual theft of property (along with uncritically inheriting the biases of the texts it's trained on).

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.