

ENGLISH 254, Themes in Literature SPRING 2021



Life Lessons in the Contemporary Memoir

Tawnysha Greene Section 002, Online Async (20644)

Course Description: From *Hyperbole and a Half* to *The Glass Castle*, the memoir has always been a popular genre to express oneself and explore the journeys we take in our lives. In this course, we will examine the memoirs of today and study what makes these authors compelled to tell their stories and what we can gain from these life lessons. In reading memoirs such as those by Jeannette Walls, Cheryl Strayed, Allie Brosh, and Alison Bechdel among others, we will review a variety of texts and write about them in the form of discussion posts, close readings, and two papers that meet WC requirements.

The Zombie in American Literature and Popular Culture

Carrie Sheffield Section 001, TR 11:30-12:45, Online Sync (20643)

Course Description: There's no doubt that the zombie has taken over American popular culture. But where did this fascination come from? How do zombies reflect America's fears about disease, race, control, and power? How have zombies become a coping mechanism for addressing those fears? This course will begin with a study of the zombie in Haitian Voodoo and Hoodoo and then move into the latter-half of the twentieth century when the zombie shifted from a reflection of the exotic, and terrifying, racialized Other to recent manifestations of the "walking dead." How can the rise of the zombie help us understand our own shifting culture, history, and fears?

All sections of English 254 satisfy UT's General Education requirements in both Arts & Humanities (AH) and Communicating through Writing (WC).