

Wheeling Jesuit University | Department of English
LIT 150 | Conflicts & Culture (3 credit hours)

**“I, Too”: A Character Study in Multiethnic American Literature
Spring 2019**

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[Catalog Description] LIT 150 Literary Explorations: Conflicts and Culture (3crs)

Examination of selected topics related to global perspectives within literary studies. Assigned literary texts must include a variety of perspectives of characters and authors from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Course topics will vary by section.

Required Textbooks:

1. Lawn, Beverly, ed. *40 Short Stories: A Portable Anthology*. 5th edition. Bedford/St. Martins, 2016. ISBN: 978-1319035389
2. Viramontes, Helen Maria. *Under the Feet of Jesus*. Plume, 1996. ISBN: 978-0452273870
3. Wilson, August. *Fences*. Plume, 1986. ISBN: 978-0452264014

Student Learning Objectives:

LIT 150 centers on a student’s critical engagement with literature as a discipline in order to develop a deeper respect for the nature of persons, ultimately understanding that one’s diverse origins, environments, and cultures affect his/her desires and destinies. There are three primary course objectives for *LIT 150: Literary Explorations*. Students should be able to:

1. Articulate themes that address the nature of persons from diverse origins and in varying environments and cultures (*MEDIUM on Bloom’s Taxonomy Scale*);
2. Construct an appropriate thematic interpretation of a literary text through literary analysis (*HIGH on Bloom’s Taxonomy Scale*);
3. Develop an understanding and respect for the diversity that is the human condition (*HIGH on Bloom’s Taxonomy Scale*).

Course Expectations:

Attendance: Although you have considerable flexibility in terms of integrating the course assignments into your own personal and professional schedules, if you do not adhere to the course deadlines, you are jeopardizing your ability to earn a satisfactory grade in the course. Missing more than a week of the course assignments will immediately have a highly negative effect on your discussion board and quiz grades; it will also prevent them from preparing for the course exams as effectively as possible. If you believe you will miss more than a week of course assignments (for ANY reason, including: vacation, illness, personal issues, or internet disruption), you should consider taking the course at another time.

In a traditional course held in a classroom, attendance is determined by physical presence during the class period. According to WJU policy, if students miss more than two weeks of class, professors may

then record a grade of FA (Failure due to Absence) with the Registrar's Office (2017-2018 Undergraduate Course Catalog 41).

In this on-line course, attendance is considered weekly active participation. This includes posting to the discussion board, completing quizzes, and submitting exams in a timely manner. If Blackboard indicates that students have been "absent" from the course for more than two weeks, they will receive a warning that they are in danger of earning a grade of FA in the course. If, after this warning, students do not become appropriately active on-line, I will submit the grade of FA to the Registrar.

Reading Assignments and Quizzes: Students are responsible for completing reading assignments during the assigned dates and times on the schedule. The reading schedule is in place in order to help students complete quizzes and discussion-board assignments in a timely fashion. Students will need to read carefully and critically in order to be prepared to answer reading comprehension questions on quizzes as well as analyze literary elements of the texts on the discussion board.

Correspondence: Students should use the e-mail address at the top of this syllabus for all general correspondence with me. I will typically check e-mail between the hours of 8:00 and 8:00 pm most days of the week, with particular attention on M, W, F & Sunday. If e-mails arrive after 8:00 pm, they may not receive an answer until the next day. However, on the dates that formal assignments are due I will attempt to check e-mail more frequently.

Students should **not** use the phone number provided except in emergency situations when internet is down and e-mail is impossible for a protracted period of time. In general, students should only phone or text in order to leave a message that a problem with internet access has occurred. Then, when internet is restored, students can indicate in an e-mail that they reported the problem immediately via phone/text message.

Please do not use the Message system within Blackboard to contact me. This is a lousy system of communication and the notification is easily missed. Please use my WJU e-mail or the Open Discussion forum instead.

Respect: Be respectful both of your professor and of your fellow students. For an on-line course, this includes how you articulate yourself in discussion board posts, how you respond to the posts of other students, and how you address your professor. **You are expected to maintain a respectful and professional relationship with your fellow students and your professor.**

Email: An official WJU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this WJU email address. In your emails, include a salutation, maintain a professional and respectful tone, use appropriate diction, and sign your name.

Evaluation Methods:

Grading Scale

100%-93%	A	86%-83%	B	76%-73%	C	66%-60%	D
92%-90%	A-	82%-80%	B-	72%-70%	C-	59% & below	F

89%-87% B+ 79%-77% C+ 69%-67% D+

Assignments

- 15% Reading Quizzes
- 25% Discussion Board Participation
- 20% Midterm Exam
- 20% Final Exam
- 20% Timed Essay

Reading Quizzes (15%)

Designed to determine if students are both completing the reading assignments and reading critically, reading quizzes will cover objective material from the assigned text, such as plot details. Students will have limited time (approximately one minute per question) to complete quizzes, so they should be fully prepared before beginning the quiz. *If a student exceeds the time limit, I will deduct one point per minute beyond the allotted ten minutes.*

In general, these are the same sort of quizzes given at the beginning of a traditional class period. The quizzes are intended to allow students to demonstrate that they have already completed the reading; thus, there is no time available for students to look up answers in the textbook. (In a traditional classroom, of course, students would not have any access to textbooks during these quizzes, but there is no way to enforce such a policy in an on-line class.) Once students have taken the quiz, they will not have the opportunity to take that quiz again. If students lose their internet connection while taking a quiz, they should e-mail me immediately.

Most quizzes will have ten questions. Students should examine the document entitled “Course Schedule” and note the dates and times that quizzes will be available to be taken. Quizzes are ONLY available during the scheduled window; *missed quizzes CANNOT be made up.*

Discussion Board Participation (25%)

Students are responsible for posting approximately three times per week on the course discussion board: one Post (300-400 words) and two Responses to peers (100-200 words each). The document entitled “Discussion Board Policies & Procedures” provides detailed information on the specific requirements for this aspect of the course and each “Forum Post Assignment”. *As with quizzes, students should note that it is not possible to make up discussion board assignments after a deadline has passed.* This aspect of the course requires a timely interaction with classmates’ ideas. Everyone is supposed to read and respond to each other’s ideas. After a deadline has passed, the class moves to a new topic. It is not fair to ask other students to return to a topic in order to respond to late posts; therefore, students should be vigilant concerning discussion board post deadlines.

Exams (20% each)

Both the midterm and final exams will take the form of five short answer questions requiring a 7 to 10 sentence response and one essay question, requiring a three-paragraph response. Students will be able to use their books during exams. The exams are designed to be completed in less than two hours. The time allotted for the exams, however, is four hours so that students will not feel rushed. The document entitled “Course Assignment Schedule” shows the dates and times that the exams will be

available to be taken. As with quizzes, once students begin an exam, they will not be able to stop and then start again. Students will receive more information concerning the first exam in the first few weeks of the course.

“In-Class” Essay Assignment (20%)

Students will be required to complete a coherently organized, evidence-based, and critically sophisticated essay that analyzes a literary text **not** discussed in the course (chosen by Yours Truly). The in-class essay will measure a student’s ability to:

1. Construct an appropriate thematic interpretation of a literary text through literary analysis (WITHOUT THE USE OF **ANY** OUTSIDE INTERPRETIVE SOURCES !); *and*
2. Analyze the manner in which the origins, environment, and/or culture affect the character(s) in the literary work with respect to motivation, behavior, desire, etc.

Blackboard Grade Center:

Our entire course will take place via Blackboard: <https://wju.blackboard.com/>. Please note that I will use the Grade Center feature on Blackboard throughout the semester. Consequently, each student may track his/her progress at any point during the semester by accessing both individual grades and a “running total” of course points via the Grade Center.

Academic Integrity:

Students are advised that WJU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course (see www.wju.edu/studenthandbook). Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of the Academic Vice-President.

Plagiarism is the unethical and illegal use of another’s words or ideas without specifically crediting that source. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** All of the work submitted by you must be your own work product. Students found plagiarizing will fail the assignment with 0 points/ 0%; this means that plagiarizing 1 discussion board post can lead to a 0% for the course-long Discussion Board Assignment (25% of course grade).

Turnitin.com:

All students must register on the class site for Turnitin.com; the information for enrolling in the course is listed below. Please be sure to type the Enrollment Key exactly as listed. I require that students submit their first content-centered Forum Post (NOT the Bio), a MS Word/Google doc copy of **each** exam, and MS Word/Google doc copy of the timed essay to turnitin.com. The assignments are created within Turnitin; I will not grade your assignments until each has been submitted to Turn it in, so it’s in your best interest to submit the assignment to Turnitin immediate after submitting it to Blackboard. ***I will also randomly submit discussion posts to Turnitin.com as well, to ensure that all work is a student’s own.***

ACCESS INFORMATION FOR Turnitin

Class ID: 19976324

Enrollment Key: LIT150SP19

Disability Services:

Wheeling Jesuit University offers students with documented disabilities individual accommodations on a case-by case basis with confidentiality in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In order to receive academic or physical accommodations, students with disabilities must provide current (within three years) and comprehensive documentation concerning the nature and extent of the disability and communicate their needs to the Disability Services Director, located in Ignatius Hall Room G24 (phone number: 304-243-4484). Students are required to meet with the director to develop accommodation plans that they will present to their course instructors at the beginning of each semester. Students with disabilities that require specific housing accommodations must contact both the Director of Residence Life and the Disability Services Director.

Ultimately, all students with disabilities are responsible for their own academic achievement. They must attend classes, complete course assignments, and fulfill all university requirements for their chosen field of study. It is up to students with disabilities to seek out available assistance on campus and to utilize individualized accommodations that promote academic success.

It is your responsibility to make known to me any disability for which you are requesting accommodation. Verification of the disability and compliance with all other pertinent University policies will be required. Unless you fall under the ADA policy, no additional accommodations will be made for in-class work, including quizzes, tests, and in-class writing assignments.

Title IX Statement:

Wheeling Jesuit University seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment, misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). For more information about your options at WJU, please go to <http://wju.edu/titleix/>.

See "Course Assignment Schedule" document for Weekly Outline of Assignments.