

English 3301
Introduction to Literary Studies
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Course Goals: The goal of this course is to instill critical thinking skills and improve students' ability to analyze literary, rhetorical, and cultural texts. Improved writing and reading skills and introduction to a sample of basic critical schools and literary genres are among the secondary goals. The course seeks to achieve these goals through a series of archetypal 'mythologies' or grand stories that we use to organize our experience with the world as contemporary citizens of the United States. The reading list chooses from a number of genres, periods, and critical approaches. The central themes of the course are: 1. civilization, 2. love, and 3. America.

Requirements: Students will write three formal papers of approximately 5 pages in length and complete a series of short assignments and reading quizzes.

Readings:

Roland Barthes, *Mythologies*

Paul Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky*

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Jonathan Culler, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*

Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

William Shakespeare, *Othello*