

ENGL 1200: Trippin' Through Time
MWF 1:30-2:20 p.m. | EPB 208
Fall 2023

Instructor:

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Student Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
12-1 p.m. @ EPB 317

Course Description:



How do narratives help us imagine the historical past and future? How do different emotional states, like boredom, anxiety, grief, and desire affect our experience of time? How does time travel as a narrative device create, preserve, and explore cultural memory? How do media like books, movies and songs change our sense of time?

In this course, we will explore the politics, pains, and pleasures of existing in time,

space, and place across different genres. We will encounter works such as a novel about a young Mississippi boy who time travels to 1985 & 1964 (Kiese Laymon *Long Division*), an immigrant mother who can't finish her taxes and is plunged into a multiverse adventure (the Daniels' *Everything Everywhere All at Once*), and a story about two friends who spend a night reminiscing on their friendship and take a drug that turns users into ghosts (Ling Ma "G"). Our classroom community will provide a space to discuss questions (such as those above), ideas, insights, themes, and topics you find fascinating about the selected readings. These discussions will help us better understand how literature captures an array of experiences situated in different perspectives and temporalities - many of which are also informed by categories like race, gender, sexuality, and a sense of belonging - and will serve as a starting point for generating compelling ideas you will later develop in your writing. Through creative, research-based, and informal writing you will create an archive (final portfolio), which will express your own experiences of time, space, and place.

Content Warning: Over the course of the semester students will be introduced to texts that may be explicit in nature (i.e., graphic violence, death, sexism, etc.). Students should be fully aware that these types of texts should still be discussed with respect to the opinions of peers, the

instructor, and creator of the text in question. If you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to the material, either with the class or with me afterward, I welcome such discussion as an appropriate part of our coursework.

Outcomes:

- We will refine our reading skills through a wide variety of genres and media.
- We will begin to understand the crucial connections between individual texts and cultural, historical, political, social, and other contexts.
- We will improve our reading comprehension by using a range of strategies, such as close reading, comparative perspectives, and the application of literary theories.
- We will strengthen our analytical and critical responses to texts through the intensive use of oral and written responses.
- We will deepen our vision of ourselves as readers, writers, and critical thinkers; we will notice how our individual differences (such as gender, ethnicity, geography) and experiences influence our interpretation of texts.

Required Texts:

Since we will read many works in excerpted form, most readings will be available as PDFs on the course page. The books below can be purchased at the Iowa Hawk shop, Prairie Lights, Amazon, etc.

Jacqueline Woodson [Red at the Bone](#), ISBN: 9780525535287

Kiese Laymon [Long Division](#) (2021 version), ISBN: 9781982174828

Brenna Thummler [Sheets](#), ISBN: 9781620109748

Course Schedule:

Date	Read
8/21: Meet & Greet, Course Overview	No Readings.
8/23: What is Time?; (Re)Discovering Your Self as a Reader and Writer; Time Capsule Journal	Claudia Hammond " What we get wrong about time " Recommended: Brittany Chaffee " A Letter to My Future Self (And How You Can Write One Too) "
8/25: Short Stories - What	Etgar Keret "The Most Exciting Moment of Alma's Life"

are short stories? How do we read them?	Ling Ma "G"
8/28: Short Stories; Narrative Perspective, Symbolism, Reading Response Guidelines	Souvhankham Thammavongsa "Randy Travis" Recommended: Lauren Michele Jackson " The United States of Dolly Parton "
8/30: Short Stories; Entanglements & Situationships	Mimi Lok "The Wrong Dave"
9/1: Short Stories; The Antidote to Grief = Magic Realism?	Marytza K. Rubio "Carlos Through Time and Space"
9/4: No Classes.	Labor Day
9/6: Poetry; How do you read and write about poems?; Cultural Memory (theory)	Elizabeth Acevedo " Hair " Melissa Oliva-Lozada "Mami Says Have You Been Crying" Richard Meckien " Cultural memory: the link between past, present, and future "
9/8: Poetry; It's OK not to be a Barbie Girl or Ken	Marge Piercy "Barbie Doll" Ken Doll (A Parody) Emily Tamkin " A Cultural History of Barbie " Due: Reading Response #1
9/11: Poetry; The Abecedarian Form	Natalie Diaz " Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Rezervation " Joshua Bennett " American Abecedarian " Sherry Shahan " An Abecedarian of Loss "
9/13: Poetry; From birthday cards to obituaries	Billy Collins "On Turning Ten" Victoria Chang "OBIT [Clothes]"
9/15: Poetry; Migration, Displacement, and Placemaking	José Olivarez " wherever i'm at that land is Chicago " and " Ars Poetica "
9/18: Introduction to the	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , Book One 3-20.

Novel: <i>Long Division</i> (not about math, sorry)	Ta-Nehisi Coates " In Defense of a Loaded Word "
9/20: <i>Long Division</i> ; Bros, Foes & Other Woes	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 21-37.
9/22: <i>Long Division</i> ; Recognition & Approval; Double Consciousness (theory)	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 38-49. Watch: The Double-Consciousness of a Dark Body (2:44)
9/25: <i>Long Division</i> ; To Forget/Remember; A Melahatchie "Time Warp"	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 50-90.
9/27: <i>Long Division</i> ; Death or Rebirth?	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 91-120.
9/29: <i>Long Division</i> ; (Un)Doing the Work	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 121-153. Due: Reading Response #2
10/2: <i>Long Division</i> ; Chopped, Screwed, N' Deja Vu'd	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , Book Two, 3-35. DJ Screw: tracing the genius of the chopped 'n' screwed pioneer
10/4: <i>Long Division</i>	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 36-57. Recommended: Amira Rose Schroeder " Jewish-African American Relations "
10/6: <i>Long Division</i>	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 58-91.
10/9: <i>Long Division</i> ; Freedom Summer of 1964	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 92-112. Mississippi Burning Case Summary Listen: The Experiment Podcast: Fighting to Remember Mississippi Burning (32:29)
10/11: <i>Long Division</i> ; The Art of Revision	Kiese Laymon <i>Long Division</i> , 113-end. Whitney Mallett " Future Tense: An Interview with Kiese Laymon " Recommended Listen: Thresholds Kiese Laymon on Revision as

	Love, and Love as Revision (44:00)
10/13: No Class	*Midterm Exam on ICON*
10/16: Introduction to <i>Red at the Bone</i> ; What is legacy?	Jacqueline Woodson <i>Red at the Bone</i> 1-35.
10/18: <i>Red at the Bone</i>	Jacqueline Woodson <i>Red at the Bone</i> 37-51. Recommended: bell hooks "Introduction" to <i>Ain't I a woman: Black Women and Feminism</i>
10/20: <i>Red at the Bone</i>	Jacqueline Woodson <i>Red at the Bone</i> 53-77.
10/23: <i>Red at the Bone</i>	Jacqueline Woodson <i>Red at the Bone</i> 79-122. Two Decades Later, the Enduring Legacy of 9/11
10/25: <i>Red at the Bone</i>	Jacqueline Woodson <i>Red at the Bone</i> 123-145.
10/27: <i>Red at the Bone</i>	Jacqueline Woodson <i>Red at the Bone</i> 147-170.
10/30: <i>Red at the Bone</i>	Jacqueline Woodson <i>Red at the Bone</i> 170-end. Paul Laurence Dunbar "The Party"
11/1: Introduction to the graphic novel <i>Sheets</i>	Brenna Thummler <i>Sheets</i> , 5-37. Jessica Abel "What is a graphic novel?"
11/3: <i>Sheets</i>	Brenna Thummler <i>Sheets</i> , 38-65. Aubrey Hirsch "The Language of Trauma" Due: Reading Response #3
11/6: <i>Sheets</i>	Brenna Thummler <i>Sheets</i> , 66-99.
11/8: <i>Sheets</i>	Brenna Thummler <i>Sheets</i> , 100-163.
11/10: <i>Sheets</i>	Brenna Thummler <i>Sheets</i> , 164-200.
11/13: <i>Sheets</i>	Brenna Thummler <i>Sheets</i> , 201-end.

11/15: Non-Fiction Aperture; Iowa City	Eula Biss "Is this Kansas?"
11/17: Non-Fiction	Kiese Laymon "Da Art of Storytelling" (A Prequel)" Due: Playlist/Creative Project
11/20-24: Fall Break	No Classes
11/27 & 11/29 & 12/1: In-Class Film	<i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i> (2022) Due: Final Paper Proposal (Nov. 29th)
12/4: Film Discussion (cont.) Writing Workshop,	You will use this time to work on your final papers, ask any final minute questions, and work on your final paper. Read: Laura Zornosa "How "Everything Everywhere All at Once' Helps to Heal Generational Trauma"
12/6: Writing Workshop Day II, Peer Review	Due: Final Paper Draft
12/8: Final Session	Conclusions, Reflections, and Farewells 😊 Due: Final Paper & Portfolio due December 14th @ 5 p.m.