

HON277
Game of Thrones: Beyond the Wall
Spring 2019
Credits: 3



Professor: Justine K. Van Meter

Office: DH150B

Office Hours: T 2:30-3:30, by appointment, and by email ("virtual" hours)

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Catalog Description:

Prerequisite, acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor. This course situates George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones* in contemporary dialogues about, multiple perspectives of, and various theoretical approaches to the literary, the visual, the political, and the historical.

Course Objectives/Outcomes:

In this course, we will read sections of the first book in Martin's *Game of Thrones* and discuss the televised adaptation of the text as a way into broader conversations about previous and contemporary cultural, political, and historical issues. Using the novels, the television adaptation, and theoretical approaches, we will particularly explore issues related to fantasy and history; the "Self" and the "Other"; representation and exploitation.

Major Topics Covered:

- I. Diverse experiences, definitions and expressions of culture and identity.
- II. Historiography and Fantasy.
- III. (Dis)locating the "Known World" and the touristic experience.
- IV. The "Self," the "Other," and the "in-between."
- V. The Politics of Representation.

Honors Program Learning Outcomes:

- Obtain a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
- Sharpen the ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);
- Understand how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world;
- Develop effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

In addition to the outcomes specified above, this course also satisfies the following General Education areas:

- **7AI (Artistic Inquiry):** Students compose critical or creative works that embody or analyze conceptually an artistic form at a baccalaureate/pre-professional level.
- **7SI (Social Inquiry):** Students explore processes by which human beings develop social and/or historical perspectives.

Required Texts:

Martin, *Game of Thrones*

Handouts (posted on BlackBoard)

Requirements:

- I. Readings and informal writing assignments: as you will notice on the syllabus, there are many materials that will be posted on Blackboard. Each of these **must** be **printed out AND brought to class** on the day on which they are to be read (and I will be checking to make sure that you have them!). **Additionally, if it becomes clear that readings are not completed by the day they are due, quizzes will be added and they will be very difficult! Writing assignments, including bringing in questions on the day's readings, are not graded, but are required; failing to complete/submit these on time will result in a 20 point deduction in your overall grade (each time).**
- II. Essay 1 (200 points): **No late papers accepted!**
- III. Essay 2 (300 points): your presentation at the end of the semester will be based on this essay (more on this later!). **No late papers accepted!**
- IV. Presentation (100 points): More information will be distributed as this assignment approaches.
- V. Final Exam (300 points): The final will be comprehensive and will involve a choice of essays. More on this later!
- VI. Participation/Attendance (100 points): It is more than likely that, at this point in the syllabus, you are aware that your active participation in this class is necessary. We are in this together, to critically explore and examine a variety of texts, images and ideas; as such, all of our voices must be heard!

With regard to attendance, excessive unexcused absence (meaning any absence that is not cleared with me **prior** to class and that is not legitimized by either a doctor's/coach's/dean's note or by other satisfactory reason) or excessive tardiness will result in a reduction in your final grade according to the table shown below:

Absence #3	20 point deduction
Absence #4-5	50 point deduction
Absence #6 and beyond	Failure in the class
Tardies	3 Tardies=1 Unexcused Absence

Academic Integrity: I am assuming that you are all extremely bright and eager students; as such, you are expected to be fully aware and respectful of Chapman's Academic Integrity policy (as described in your Student Handbook). We will discuss guidelines regarding citation throughout the semester, but if you have any questions or doubts at any time, please put your mind (and writing) at ease and discuss them with me.

Chapman University's Students with Disabilities Policy: In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Disability Services Office, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Special Note: Please do not use laptops/cell phones during class time! If there is an emergency or circumstance in which one or both of these is required, please let me know before class begins.

Grades: I am painfully aware of the emphasis that we all place on the grades that we receive. Although I have listed below the point values/percentages assigned to the various course requirements, I would like to remind you to please keep in mind as we proceed that *learning* is a process, one which points and percentages are very often incapable of measuring (corny, but true). Enjoy the process!

Essay 1	200 points	A	950-1000
Essay 2	300 points	A-	910-949
Final Exam	300 points	B+	880-909
		B	840-879
		B-	810-839
Presentation	100 points	C+	780-809
Participation	100 points	C	740-779
		C-	710-739
		D+	680-709
		D	640-679
		D	610-639
		F	0-609

TOTAL **1000 points**

Schedule of Classes

*We reserve the right to alter the syllabus as needed.

Week 1:



T 01/29 Introduction to the course/Review of Syllabus

Th 01/31 **Be sure to have the syllabus and the guide printed out and available for your reference each day.**
Written Response: please type or handwrite 1-2 pages describing why you are drawn to *GoT* (personally and/or academically).
Please read the Film Analysis resources (listed under course materials) for today's class.

Week 2:

T 02/05: Barry, "Postmodern Criticism" (handout on BB, pp. 83-91)
Game of Thrones, pp. 1-11 and 39-98
Recommended viewing on your own: Season 1, Episode 4 ("Cripples, Bastards, and Broken Things")



Th 02/07 Larrington, 1-10, 55-68, and 74-81 (handouts on BB);
GoT pp. 515-522 and 772-784; Rosa, "Jon Snow, a Misshapen Christ Figure" (handout on BB). **Please bring in two questions on the day's assigned readings (write them down)!**

Week 3:

- T 02/12 GoT pp. 716-728; Barry, "Feminist Criticism" (handout on BB, pp. 121-135); Dadlez, "Arya Stark as a Rough Hero" (handout on BB)
Bring in your two questions on the day's assigned readings!
Recommended viewing: Season 6, Episode 8 ("No One")
- Th 02/14 Van Eyghen, "The Many-Faced God and Indian Philosophy" (handout on BB).
"The Red Wedding" (Martin's chapter on BB - website); Van Der Deijl, "Was the Red Wedding Massacre a Good Thing?" (handout on BB); McKeever, "There's Only One God and His Name Is Death" (handout on BB).
Bring in your two questions on the day's assigned readings!
Recommended viewing: Season 6, Episode 9 ("Battle of the Bastards")

Week 4:

- T 02/19 Talia presents (assignment on BB)
Recommended viewing: Season 5, Episode 8 ("Hardhome")
- Th 02/21 Talia presents (assignment on BB)

Week 5:



- T 02/26 Larrington, pp. 99-137 (handout on BB)
Recommended viewing: Season 5, Episode 3 ("The High Sparrow")
- Th 02/28 Barry, "Psychoanalytic Criticism" (handout on BB, pp. 96-105); Wills, "Joffrey on the Couch" (handout on BB)
Recommended viewing: Season 4, Episode 2 ("The Lion and the Rose")

Week 6:

- T 03/05 Cersei and Jaime, pp.480-488; "Rape of Thrones" (website on BB); Gjelsvik, "Unspeakable Acts of (Sexual) Terror as/in Quality Television" (handout on BB)

Th 03/07 Angleberger and Hieke, “Lord Eddard Stark, Queen Cersei Lannister: Moral Judgments From Different Perspectives” (handout on BB); Eidsvag, “Maiden, Mother, and Crone”: Motherhood in the World of Ice and Fire” (handout on BB).
Bring in two questions!
Recommended viewing: Season 6, Episode 10 (“The Winds of Winter”)

Week 7:



T 03/12 GoT pp.452-461; Martin chapter – website - on BB; Engels, “Guilty of Being a Dwarf” (handout on BB); Hietalahti, “Tyrion’s Humor” (handout on BB); Hartinger, “A Different Kind of Other” (handout on BB). **Bring in two questions!**
Recommended viewing: Season 4, Episode 6 (“The Laws of God and Men”)

Th 03/14 LGBTQ Representation (websites on BB)
Bring in two questions!
Essay 1 is here!
Avoid having to take the Black; in other words, No late papers accepted!

Week 8:

T 03/19

Spring Break (NO CLASSES)

Th 03/21

Week 9:



T 03/26 Larrington, pp.176-224 (handout on BB)
Recommended viewing: Season 3, Episode 4 (“And Now His Watch is Ended”)

Th 03/28 Barry, “Postcolonial Criticism” and Orientalism (Handout on BB, pp. 192-199)

Week 10:

- T 04/02 GoT 99-108, 489-500, 751-761, 798-807
Tullmann, "Dany's Encounter With the Wild: Cultural Relativism in *A Game of Thrones* (handout on BB).
Gresham, "Cursed Womb, Bulging Thighs and Bald Scalp: George R.R. Martin's Grotesque Queen" (handout on BB);
Bring in two questions!
Recommended viewing: Season 1, Episode 10 ("Fire and Blood")
- Th 04/04 Schubart, "Woman With Dragons: Daenerys, Pride, and Postfeminist possibilities" (handout on BB).
Bring in two questions!
Recommended viewing: Season 3, Episode 10 ("Mhysa")

Week 11:



- T 04/09 Larrington, pp.81-97 (handout on BB) and websites (see BB)
Recommended viewing: Season 7, Episode 6 ("Beyond the Wall")
- Th 04/11 We know nothing... Cowlshaw, "What Maesters Knew: Narrating Knowing" (handout on BB).
Bring in two questions!
Recommended viewing: Season 7, Episode 1 ("Dragonstone")

Week 12:

- T 04/16 Genz, "I'm Not Going to Fight Them, I'm Going to Fuck Them" (handout on BB).
Bring in two questions!
Recommended viewing: Season 7, Episode 7 ("The Dragon and the Wolf")
- Th 04/18 Writing Workshop with Talia

Week 13:

T 04/23 Winter Came and Went (Or Did It?).
Shacklock, "Transmedia Textuality and the Flows of
Adaptation" (handout on BB)

Th 04/25 What's Next? Readings on BB.

Essay 2 Due

**No late papers accepted-don't make me force you to pay
the Iron Price!**

Week 14:

T 04/30 Presentations

Th 05/02 Presentations

Week 15:

T 05/07 Presentations

Th 05/09 Presentations

Final Exam: Tuesday 05/14 (4:15-6:45pm)