

# **Learning Through *Educated*: A Look into the Value of Knowledge via Memoir**

*Educated* by Tara Westover

IDH2930

Honors (Un)Common Read

Thursday, 3rd Period (9:35am-10:25am)

Little Hall 119

Fall 2025

## **Instructors:**

Faculty Instructor: Dr. Jeanne Ewert, PhD, English and American Literature, Folklore and Film Studies Librarian

[jewert@ufl.edu](mailto:jewert@ufl.edu)

Peer Instructor: Brooke Evans

[brookeevans@ufl.edu](mailto:brookeevans@ufl.edu)

Feel free to reach out to me via email or in-person with any comments, questions, or concerns!

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am

Please email/tell me in person prior to office hours that you will be attending.

## **Course Description:**

*Educated* by Tara Westover follows the true story of Westover's life in rural Idaho. Growing up with extremely religious and survivalist parents, Westover lacked a birth certificate, friends, and—most relevant to the themes of the memoir—a formal education. The memoir follows Westover's journey seeking both knowledge and herself over decades, allowing the reader to ponder the value of learning and how to come to terms with who we truly are. Throughout this course, we will focus on these themes as well as themes of human connection, familial duties, and open-mindedness via class wide discussions and journal entries. Experiencing through Westover the importance of education will allow the class to reflect on what education means to them and help foster gratitude for learning and knowledge. Taking this course will allow students to feel inspired by Westover's story and reflect on the true value of education and human connections. These reflections will be made deeper through weekly journal entries regarding the chapters read that week as well as class discussion about the events and themes of the memoir. Along with discussion of themes and plot, we will analyze people within the memoir and their significance in guiding the plot of the memoir forward. Students will gain the opportunity to read

a story not generally taught in schools and understand its relevance to both current world events and their own personal values and experiences.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students will analyze the themes of education, self-discovery, and human connection in *Educated* through journaling and class discussions. Students will also evaluate the role of familial relationships and societal expectations in shaping identity and personal growth through the discussions within this course. Lastly, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the value of education and its power by connecting Westover's experiences to their own perspectives on learning and knowledge.

### **Required Textbooks:**

*Educated* by Tara Westover – Hardcover, paperback, Kindle, audiobook, pdf, etc. Also available on loan through the Alachua County Public Library, but please note that you will need access to the book throughout the entire semester.

### **Weekly Journal Entries:**

As we read the memoir, there will be weekly journal entries assigned to assess your comprehension and thoughts on the selected chapter(s) for the week. This will be a Canvas assignment with a text box or photo submission. Journal entries are expected to be used as a method of recording your reactions, thoughts, and emotions while reading the chapters and must include a question that you had while reading. They must be a minimum of 200 words and should analyze themes of the memoir that may be discussed in class.

### **Attendance and Class Expectations:**

Attendance is mandatory. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please email me or tell me in person and we will discuss options of making up that week's discussion points. Additionally, requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

It is expected that you participate in discussions each week. As long as each student participates in the discussion at least once, they will receive full points. If you are not feeling well or have a personal reason why you do not feel comfortable speaking in class that week, please let me know.

### **Final Assignment:**

The final assignment is a creative response to the book. Students will create a blog, 2-D art piece, 3-D art piece, poem, or short story representing how you would feel and what you would do if

you were raised in Tara's situation—no formal education, mistreatment from your family members, few social interactions outside of your family, and limited access to medical care. Further requirements for the project will be found in Canvas toward the end of the semester.

### **Materials/Supply Fees:**

There is no supply fee for this course.

### **Course Schedule:**

<b>Week of semester</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>What we'll be discussing</b>
Week 1	8/21	Introduction!
Week 2	8/28	Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2
Week 3	9/4	Chapters 3, 4, and 5
Week 4	9/11	Chapters 6, 7, and 8
Week 5	9/18	Chapters 9, 10, and 11
Week 6	9/25	Chapters 12, 13, and 14
Week 7	10/2	Chapters 15, 16, and 17
Week 8	10/9	Chapters 18, 19, and 20
Week 9	10/16	Chapters 21, 22, and 23
Week 10	10/23	Chapters 24, 25, and 26
Week 11	10/30	Chapters 27, 28, 29 and 30
Week 12	11/6	Chapters 31, 32, 33 and 34
Week 13	11/13	Chapters 35, 36, and 37
Week 14	11/20	Chapters 38, 39, and 40 Our last class!
Week 15	11/27	Thanksgiving break
Week 16	12/3	Last day of classes/final assignment due

## Evaluation of Grades:

Attendance/participation	50%
Journal entries	30%
Final Project	20%

## Grading Scale:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.0 – 100.0	A	4.00
90.0-92.9	A-	3.67
87.0-89.9	B+	3.33
83.0-86.9	B	3.00
79.0-82.9	B-	2.67
75.0-78.9	C+	2.33
72.0 – 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 – 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 – 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 – 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 – 61.9	D-	0.67
0 – 59.9	S	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

## Class Demeanor:

Students are expected to arrive on time and behave respectfully towards their instructors and peers. Technology is welcome if it is not a distraction to yourself or others and assists in the discussion.

## **Students Requiring Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## **Course Evaluation:**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals,
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **University Honesty Policy:**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## **In-Class Recording:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## **Health and Wellness Resources:**

### U Matter, We Care:

If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

### Counseling and Wellness Center:

Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

### Student Health Care Center:

Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

### University Police Department:

Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

### UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:

For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services:

For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

**Academic Resources:**

Honors resources:

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email [advisor@honors.ufl.edu](mailto:advisor@honors.ufl.edu)

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings:

<https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

E-learning technical support:

Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Career Connections Center:

Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support:

Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email [ask@ufl.libanswers.com](mailto:ask@ufl.libanswers.com) for more information.

Teaching Center:

1317 Turlington

Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio:

Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Academic Complaints:

Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions):

View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.