

LIT 211: American Literature II

Fall 2016

Dr. Quan M. Ha
Office hours: Tues + Thurs 2:00-3:30
Class meetings: Tues + Thurs 12:30-1:50

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Office: LA 213
Classroom: FA 302

TA: email:
Office hours: Office:

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

This course introduces you primarily to major representative authors in American literature from 1865 to the present. We will also read some non-canonical readings written by ethnic American authors from various racial backgrounds. The assigned readings cover 4 major literary genres so that students can gain a broad knowledge of not only important texts and authors but also defining characteristics of prose, drama, and poetry. After completing this course, you will be able to

- understand the history and development of American Lit. from 1865 to the Present
- contextualize American literature within its specific historical, cultural, socio-economic, and political context
- understand major themes, issues, and narrative styles that characterize the post-Civil War period
- think critically about literature and the use of rhetorical/ narrative devices
- analyze literature insightfully and write critical analysis of literature
- appreciate cultural differences and ethnic diversity

3 Required Textbooks

1. Susan Belasco & Linck Johnson, *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*, Volume 2: 1865 to the Present, 2nd edition.
2. Richard Rodriguez, *The Hunger for Memory*
3. Le Thi Diem Thuy, *The Gangster We Are All Looking for*

Classroom policies

1. You are not allowed to read newspapers or class-unrelated materials while class is in session.
2. The use of cell phones, beepers, or other electronic devices is prohibited during class.
3. Any persistent talking or sleeping while the instructor or another student is speaking will result in (1) a warning and (2) then your dismissal from the classroom.
4. You are permitted to use laptops during class for note-taking and other class-related work only.
5. Behave in a courteous and respectful manner toward your instructor, the TA, and your classmates.

Attendance and Tardiness

1. Tardiness of between 5 and 10 minutes will be noted: each such tardiness after the first two will be counted as an unexcused absence; tardiness of 20 minutes or longer will be treated as an unexcused absence.

2. If you have to leave class early due to personal problems, inform me before class starts.
3. You are allowed TWO free absences. After your second unexcused absence, 15 points will be deducted for each additional absence. **More than 5 unexcused absences** will result in the failure of the course.
4. If you miss no class, I will add 10 bonus points to your final grade.
5. Make-up quizzes are for excused absences only.

E-mail correspondence

Use your UM e-mail account for electronic correspondence with the instructor. You may expect my response within 48 hours (except weekends and holidays). I expect you to use a professional tone in your correspondence with me. E-mails that have no greeting or express a disrespectful tone will not be answered.

Assignments

- THREE ESSAYS (1,200 words/essay): Specific instructions to be announced.
- TWO EXAMS (in class): Specific instructions to be announced
- READING QUIZZES: At the beginning of each class meeting, you will take a reading quiz.

Grades

Grades will be assigned as percentage scores (0-1000) throughout the term. Ultimately, your final grade will be converted to the university's letter grade system using this scale:

A (931 or above)	A- (900-930)	
B+ (870-899)	B (840-869)	B- (800-839)
C+ (770-799)	C (740-769)	C- (700-739)
D (650-699)	F (649 or below)	

- Reading quizzes----- 200 points
 - Three essays----- 450 points (150 points/each)
 - Two exams----- 300 points (150 points/each)
 - Active participation in class discussion----- 50 points
- TOTAL: 1,000 points**

Policies on written assignments and in-class tests

1. Late papers will be penalized with a 10% deduction for each day after the due date, including weekend days. If extenuating circumstances prevent you from turning in a paper on time, please talk to me BEFORE the paper is due. I am not likely to make allowances after the deadline has come and gone.
2. All papers are to be typed in 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced. Follow the MLA guidelines for formatting, citations, and documentations.
3. For each formal essay, you must enter my corrections and turn in the revised version. Failing to do this will result in a zero on the assignment.

4. Do not ask me to proofread your essays electronically (via email). If you need help with your papers, please schedule an appointment, or just come during my office hours.
5. Under no circumstance will I offer make-up tests/exams.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, you should first consult with me. You will have 5 days, from the time the grade is assigned/posted, to set up an appointment with me to discuss the grade. After 5 days, all grades are final.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations for coursework. To request accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible in the semester. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).

Academic Integrity

Refer to http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php for information about academic misconduct. If you are found guilty of academic misconduct, legal action will be taken. It is your responsibility as a student to understand the Student Conduct Code described in the link above.

Reading schedule (subject to change)

Realism, Regionalism, & Naturalism: 1865-1914

WEEK 1: Aug. 29-Sept. 04

Tues: Introduction & syllabus

Thurs: Realism, Regionalism, and Naturalism (pp. 31-39) + The Luck of Roaring Camp (112) + Editha (122)

WEEK 2: Sept. 05-11

Tues: A White Heron (193) + A New England Nun (203) + Chickamauga (134)

Thurs: The Storm (224) + The Goophered Grapevine + The Passing of Grandison (pp. 228-251)

WEEK 3: Sept. 12-18

Tues: "Its Wavering Image" (305) + Robinson's poetry (pp. 320-328)

Thurs: A Deal in Wheat (329) + The Open Boat (339)

WEEK 4: Sept. 19-25

Tues: Crane's poetry (p. 359-362) + Butcher Rogaum's Door

Thurs: Dunbar's poetry (pp. 376-381) + The Law of Life (391)

WEEK 5: Sept. 26-Oct. 02

Tues: In-class workshop on academic writing & research

Thurs: The Quicksand (289) + The Basket Maker (316)

Modernism: 1914-1945

WEEK 6: Oct. 03-09

**** **ESSAY # 1 due: Monday, Oct. 02 (12:00 Noon, my office)**

Tues: Modernisms in American poetry (pp. 517-528) + Mending Wall (572) + Acquainted with the Night (583) + The Gift Outright (584)

Thurs: Sunday Morning (599) + The Snow Man (605) + The Emperor of Ice-Cream (606) + The Young Housewife + The Red Wheelbarrow (626) + This Is Just to Say (627)

WEEK 7: Oct. 10-16

Tues: Introduction (pp. 811-818) + Hands (853) + Spunk (879) + The Gilded Six-Bits (884)

Thurs: Portrait d'une Femme (631) + The Return (633) + In a Station of the Metro (635) + The River-Merchant's Wife + Oread (641) + Garden (641) + Helen (648)

WEEK 8: Oct. 17-23

Tues: **EXAM # 1 (bring a new bluebook)**

Thurs: Sanctuary (897) + Blood-burning Moon (912) + That Evening Sun (955)

WEEK 9: Oct. 24-30

Tues: The Harlem Dancer (699) + If We Must Die (700) + The Negro Speaks of River (747) + The Weary Blues (751) + Harlem (756) + Yet I Do Marvel (758) + Heritage (759)

Thurs: Introduction (765) + Trifles (772) + Flight (1014)

From Modernism to Postmodernism: 1945-Present

WEEK 10: Oct. 31-Nov. 06

**** **ESSAY # 2 due: Monday, Oct. 30 (12:00 Noon, my office)**

Tues: Introduction (pp. 1058-1078) + The Fish (1114) + Sestina (1116) + In the Waiting Room (1118)

Thurs: Seventeen Syllables (1298) + Recitatif (1403) + Yellow Woman (1527)

WEEK 11: Nov. 07-13

Tues: Election Day / NO CLASS

Thurs: *The Hunger of Memory* (entire book)

WEEK 12: Nov. 14-20

Tues: Howl (1352) + *Dutchman* (1437)

Thurs: Skunk Hour (1281) + For the Union Dead (1283) + Waking Early Sunday Morning (1286) + Kitchenette Building (1292) + The Mother (1293) + We Real Cool (1295)

WEEK 13: Nov. 21-27

Tues: *The Gangster We Are All Looking for* (entire book)

Thurs: Thanksgiving / NO CLASS

WEEK 14: Nov. 28-Dec. 04

Tues: The Sandbox (1372) + Videotape (1460) + Everyday Use (1491)

Thurs: Adrienne Rich's poetry (pp. 1379-1385) + Sylvia Path's poetry (pp. 1417-1426)

**** **ESSAY # 3 due: Friday, Dec. 02 (12:00 Noon, my office)**

WEEK 15: Dec. 05-11

Tues: Mericans (1547) + What You Pawn I Will Redeem (1558) + Invierno (1576)

Thurs: Review & Conclusion / Last day of class

EXAM # 2: TBA
