Course Description and Learning Outcomes

Since World War II, the American literary canon has attempted to expand its interest to texts written by underrepresented groups and ethnic authors. Many social and political movements in the post-WWI era have contributed to the polyphonic American culture. In LIT 369, we will read several short stories written by authors who come from various social, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, besides stories written by European American authors. The anthologies selected for the course represent “a kind of social, intellectual, and spiritual history of American life since 1945.” The readings will be divided into three specific time periods: 1945-1960, 1960s-1970s, and 1980s-1990s, and we will study the social, political, economic, and racial factors that informed each segment, as well as the evolution of narrative styles in the short story genre.

After completing this course, students will be able to
- understand the history and development of the American short story since 1945
- contextualize an American short story within its specific historical, cultural, socio-economic, and political context
- understand major themes, issues, and narrative styles that characterize the American short story since WWII.
- think critically about the fiction genre and the use of rhetorical / narrative devices
- analyze literature insightfully and write critical analysis of literature
- appreciate cultural differences and ethnic diversity

2 Required Textbooks


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 and your fellow students.

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, 20 points will be deducted for each additional absence. More than 4 unexcused absences will result in the failure of the course.
4. If you miss no class, I will add 10 bonus points to your course 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** (Specific instructions to be announced)

3 Essays:
- Essay #1: four pages (100 points)
- Essay #2: six pages (150 points)
- Essay #3: eight pages (200 points)

2 in-class exams
1 Oral presentation
Weekly reading quizzes

**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+** (970-1000)
- **A** (940-960)
- **A-** (900-930)
- **B+** (870-899)
- **B** (840-860)
- **B-** (800-830)
- **C+** (770-799)
- **C** (740-760)
- **C-** (700-730)
- **D** (650-699)
- **F** (640 or below)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>One presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Two exams</td>
<td>250 (125 points/each)</td>
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<td>Participation in class discussion</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,000 points</strong></td>
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**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://life.umt.edu/VPSA/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)

The symbol ■ indicates readings from American Short Stories since 1945.
The symbol ● indicates readings from Vintage Book.

WEEK 1: Jan. 22-28
Tues: Syllabus & Introduction + newborn thrown in trash and dies + The loudest voice ■ NATHAN
Thurs: The lottery (9) + Why I live at the P.O. (15) + The spinoza of Market street (25) ■ GEORG

WEEK 2: Jan. 29-Feb. 4
Tues: Battle royal (43) + Prince of darkness (64) + Don’t call me by my right name (90) ● FLINT
Thurs: The jewbird (96) + The old forest (103) + The ram in the thicket (163) ■ BRITTANY

WEEK 3: Feb. 5-11
Tues: A good man is hard to find (138) + Revelation (149) + Defender of faith (204) ■ SILAS
Thurs: The county husband (175) + The housebreaker of Shady Hill (191) + An interest in life (53) ■ KAMERON

WEEK 4: Feb. 12-18 (African American fiction)
Tues: Sonny’s blues (225) + The sky is gray (292) + To hell with dying (395) ■ SHANNON
Thurs: The lesson (381) + Barbados + In darkness and confusion (will be emailed to you) ■ ROSS

WEEK 5: Feb. 19-25
Tues: The ones who walk away from Omelas (347) + Where are you going … (369) + Exchange value (565) ■ ZOE
Thurs: Looking for Mr. Green (259) + Separating (400) + The oranging of America (420) ■ MEREDITH

WEEK 6: Feb. 26-Mar. 4
▶ Essay # 1 due: Monday, 12:00 Noon, my office
Tues: Storyteller (450) + Roses, Rhododendron (461) + Janus (495) ■ ISAAC
Thurs: Coach (500) + Hunters in the snow (511) + Greasy lake (558) ■ TUCKER
WEEK 7: Mar. 5-11
Tues: **Exam # 1**
Thurs: The way we live now (570) + Health (603) + In the heart of the heart … (274) ■ ALECIA

WEEK 8: Mar. 12-18 (Asian American fiction)
Tues: Rules of the game (635) + The only real day (690) + On mortality (609) ■ WILLIAM
Thurs: **Seventeen syllables (246)** + The management of grief (611) + Black-eyed women (*will be emailed to you*) ■

WEEK 9: Mar. 19-25
Tues: The Cariboo café (769) + How to talk to a hunter (808) + This is what it means … (826) ■ GRANT
Thurs: The littoral zone (855) + The girl on the airplane (862) + Views of my father weeping (338) ■ NICK P.

► Essay # 2 due: Friday, 12:00 Noon, my office

WEEK 10: Mar. 26-Apr. 1
*Spring Break*

WEEK 11: Apr. 2-8
Tues: Gryphon (623) + Rock Springs (644) + Night-sea journey (333) ■ JASON
Thurs: What we talk about … (724) + Cathedral (732) + In the cemetery where Al Jolson is buried (742) ■
MICHAEL

WEEK 12: Apr. 9-15 (Latino fiction)
Tues: **Saint Marie (680)** + One holy night (779) + Horologist¹ (will be emailed to you) ■ AUNICA
Thurs: The boy without a flag² + Woman hollering creek³ + The English lesson (*will be emailed to you*) ANDREW

WEEK 13: Apr. 16-22
Tues: Tall tales from the Mekong Delta (89) + A Vintage thunderbird (29) + Wickedness (256) ● NICK S.
Thurs: Emergency (274) + Testimony of pilot (229) + The fat girl (125) ● DANIEL

WEEK 14: Apr. 23-29
► Essay # 3 due: Monday, 12:00 Noon, my office
Tues: Men under water (320) + Departures (308) + A white horse (291) ● MARTHA
Thurs: Home (410) + Aunt Granny Lith (385) + Murderers (342) ● MAJORIE

WEEK 15: Apr. 30-May 6
Tues: Train (537) + Helping (467) + Lawns (445) ●
Thurs: Review + conclusion

¹ Latino Boom
³ American mosaic
Exam # 2: TBA