Instructor: Brian Buckbee  
Office Hours: TBD  
Text: TBD  
Contact: brian.buckbee@mso.umt.edu; 241-3675  
Online: Moodle Site

Course Description/Objectives: Texts manipulate. We can use this tool; this tool can be used against us. In this course, through the study of canonical literature and other forms of text, we will examine the choices text-makers make. We will discuss whether language/text is an imperfect construction that is even capable of capturing objective truth. We will recognize that the imperfections in text make for perfect mirrors. We will apply the lessons learned from “reading” texts to the “real world.” We will write about these manipulative texts, and we will write our own.

Format: Class discussion, lecture, conferences, in-class group work, student presentations.

Attendance: Successful students attend class regularly and on time. TARDINESS is equivalent to absence. Students who miss more than 20% of class meetings may automatically fail to receive a passing grade. The lectures, class discussion, group work, and other daily exercises in a writing class cannot be reconstructed for a student who has been absent; therefore, daily work missed due to tardiness or absence (for any reason) cannot be made up.

Major graded work (such as essays) missed due to legitimate circumstances beyond the student's control may be made up if arrangements are made with the instructor in advance, or in a timely fashion upon the student's return to class. In any case, the sooner you contact me about a potential problem, the better.

Outcomes: Students will gain an objective distance from language, thus recognizing text as a construction. Students will define/re-define terms like “text” and “to read.” Students will gain a familiarity with the canon that makes up English literature. Students will be exposed to the elements of literature. Students will write extensively (critical analyses as well as creative attempts of their own). We will go to great aims to learn how to apply critical thinking to our own interests/studies/careers and the “real world.”

Grading: Professionalism is worth 25% of your grade. Professionalism is being on time; being prepared; turning in work that is neat, stapled, etc; participating; engaging in the material; doing the daily readings; respecting your peers. 15% of your grade will be quizzes; some will be announced, some won’t. 20% of your grade will be a cumulative final exam. 40% of your grade will be based upon numerous and extensive writing assignments. The writing load in particular will be heavy.

Assignment Protocol: All writing assignments—unless otherwise stated—should be typed, double-spaced, in 12 pt. font, with 1.25” margins, with your name on the front page, and stapled. Also, be prepared to do substantial printing of documents from the Internet or from our class’ Moodle website. I suggest that you exchange e-mail addresses with at least one classmate. That way, if you miss class, you can find out what you missed. Checking in with the Moodle site might catch you up on some of what you missed.

Writing Assessment: This course requires an electronic submission (via Moodle) of an assignment stripped of your personal information to be used for educational research and assessment of the university’s writing program. Your paper will be stored in a database. A random selection of papers will be assessed by a group of faculty and staff using a rubric developed from the following Writing Learning Outcomes.

- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions (largely style conventions like APA or MLA)
- Demonstrate appropriate English language usage

This assessment in no way affects either your course grade or your progression at the university.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Mostly what we are talking about here is plagiarism. If you’re not sure what plagiarism is, review the University Student Conduct Code (http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php). Many students plagiarize without even knowing it, and the consequences can be severe.

**Students w/Disabilities:** Consult the University website (http://life.umt.edu/dss/). For qualifying students, accommodations will be made.