Course description, Objectives, and Expected Outcomes

This course presents an overview of some of the most important issues surrounding the study of literature, acquainting you with traditional literary themes, common literary devices, and the concept of the literary canon. You will learn about fundamental elements of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama, and how to analyze, interpret, and evaluate a literary work critically. After completing this course, you will be able to:

- understand conventions of narrative organization and character development
- analyze and interpret literature critically and insightfully
- appreciate diverse, multiethnic voices in literature
- employ interdisciplinary approaches to reading a text
- relate what you read to your daily life experiences from an open-minded, well-informed perspective
- analyze works of art with respect to structure and significance within literary and artistic traditions, including emergent movements and forms; and
- develop coherent arguments that critique these works from a variety of approaches, such as historical, aesthetic, cultural, psychological, political, and philosophical.

6 Required Textbooks

Elizabeth Kim, TEN THOUSANDS SORROW. ISBN: 978-0385496339
August Wilson, THE PIANO LESSON. ISBN: 978-0452265349

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.

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.

**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 6 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.

**Assignments**

THREE FORMAL ESSAYS (5-6 pages/essay): Specific instructions to be announced.

ONE ORAL PRESENTATION: You will prepare 8-9 questions over the reading(s) you have been assigned; then on the indicated date, you’ll lead class discussion on the assigned reading(s). You need to make enough copies of the questions for the entire class.

TWO EXAMS (in class): Specific instructions to be announced

READING QUizzes: At the beginning of each class meeting, we will have 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>940-1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>900-930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>870-899</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>840-860</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>800-830</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>770-799</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>740-760</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>700-730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>650-699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>640 or below</td>
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</tbody>
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Reading quizzes------------------------------- 200 points
Three major essays------------------------------- 500 points
(Essay # 1: 150 points; Essay # 2: 150 points; Essay # 3: 200 points)
Two exams------------------------------------------ 200 (100 points/each)
One oral presentation----------------------------- 50 points
Active participation in class discussions------------------------ 50 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. Please follow the MLA guidelines for formatting, citations, and documentations.
3. For each formal essay, you will have one week to enter all of 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. Make-up assignments are for excused absences only.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, you should first consult with me. You will have 7 days, from the time the grade is assigned/posted, to set up an appointment with me to discuss the grade. After 7 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.

Schedule of Readings (subject to change)

[■] indicates readings from FICTIONS; [●] indicates readings from POEMS.)

Week 1: Jan. 25-31
Tues: Introduction & syllabus
Thurs: Sonny’s Blues (67) + The Garden of Forking Paths (125) + The Demon Lover (133) ■ DANIEL

Week 2: Feb. 1-7
Tues: Astromomer’s Wife (138) + The Guest (153) + The Swimmer (217) ■ JAMES M.

Week 3: Feb. 8-14
Tues: A Very Old Man w/ Enormous Wings (444) + Dream Children (471) + The Train from Rhodesia (481) ■ LUCAS H.
Thurs: Auden’s “As I walked out one evening” & “Musee des beaux arts” + Bishop’s “The Fish” & “Sestina” + Bradstreet’s “The author to her book” + Browning’s “My last duchess” & “Love among the ruins” ● BAYLEE B.
**Week 4: Feb. 15-21**
Tues: *The Little Foxes* (entire play)  
GRANT F.
Thurs: Byron’s “She walks in beauty” + Campion’s “There is a garden in her face” + Carroll’s “Jabberwocky” + Cummings’s “Buffalo Bill’s” & “in Just-” & “anyone lived in a pretty how town”  
KELLY L.

**Week 5: Feb: 22-28**
Tues: *Ten Thousand Sorrows* (entire book)  
THOMAS A.
Thurs: Dickey’s “Cherrylog road” + Ginsberg’s “A supermarket in California” + Gray’s “Elegy written in a country churchyard” + Herbert’s “The collar” + Herrick’s “Delight in disorder” & “To the virgins …”  
MARIA JACOBSON

**Week 6: Feb. 29-Mar. 6**
**Essay # 1 due: Monday, 12:00 Noon, my office**
Tues: *The Birthmark* (532) + *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber* (563) + *A White Heron* (591)  
JACE L.
Thurs: *Moving Pictures* (599) + *A Hunger Artist* (636) + *The Horse Dealer’s Daughter* (703)  
PAIGE PHILLIPS

**Week 7: Mar. 7-13**
Tues: *Porcelain: A Voice Play* (reading will be sent to your email)  
CAITLIN W.
Thurs: Hopkins’s “God’s Grandeur” & “The windhover” & “Pied beauty” + Housman’s “To an athlete dying young” + Hughes’s “The Negro speaks of river” & “Harlem” & “Theme for English B”  
KENZIE N.

**Week 8: Mar. 14-20**
***Tues: EXAM # 1 (bring a new blue book)***
Thurs: *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* (728) + *Her First Ball* (792) + *Patriotism* (839)  
JUSTIN RATZ

**Week 9: Mar. 21-27**
Tues: *Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina* (pp. 1-141)  
MARIA MONTALVA
Thurs: Kinnell’s “Blackberry eating” + Knight’s “The idea of ancestry” + Komunyakaa’s “Facing it” + Larkin’s “Church going” & “High windows” & “Aubade”  
PRESTON E.

**Week 10: Mar. 28-Apr. 3**
Tues: *Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina* (pp. 142-end)  
JOSHUA B.
Thurs: *The Yellow Wallpaper* (459) + *The Chrysanthemums* (1066)  
PAIGE BELSTAD
**Essay # 2 due: Friday, 5:00 PM, my office**

**Week 11: Apr. 4-10**
***SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS***

**Week 12: Apr. 11-17**
Tues: *The Piano Lesson* (entire play)  
CASSANDRE K.
AUSTIN A.
Week 13: Apr. 18-24
Tues: The Ballroom of Romance (1120) + Harrison Bergeron (1165) + Petrified Man (1198) ■ MAE C.
Thurs: Lowell’s “Skunk hour” & “For the union dead” + Moore’s “The steeple-jack” + Piercy’s “Barbie doll” + Plath’s “Lady Lazarus” + Ransom’s “Bells for J.W’s daughter” ● JUSTIN E.

Week 14: Apr. 25-May 1
Tues: Real Women Have Curves (reading will be sent to your email) ■ ANNA L.
Thurs: Stevens’s “Sunday morning” & The emperor of ice-cream” + Stevens’s “The force that through …” + Wilbur’s “Love calls us …” + Wright’s “A blessing” + Yeats’s “The second coming” ● SPENCER N.

Essay # 3 due: Friday, 5:00 PM, my office

Week 15: May 2-8
Tues: A Sandstone Farmhouse (1139) + Everyday Use (1171) + Never Marry a Mexican (237) ■ JUDE
Thurs: TBA / last day of class

**** EXAM # 2: TBA (bring a new blue book)