Introduction to Literary Studies 101A (SPRING 2012)

Instructor: Lamees Al Ethari  
Class Time: M W F 10:30-11:20 am  
Place: HH 138  
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Office: PAS 2213  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 pm (by appointment)

Calendar Course Description: An introduction to the study of literature, covering such areas of enquiry as literary history, genre, criticism, analysis, and theory.

Course Description: The objective of this course is to introduce you to English literary texts and to help you establish an understanding of literary criticism. We will be analyzing poetry, drama, short stories, novel and film from different periods and different English speaking countries. We will trace the changes that these literary forms have undergone over the centuries and learn how to approach works of literature from different perspectives. By the end of the course you should have a grasp of the main literary terms and know how to apply your own theory to the texts we study. To achieve this goal, we will (1) discuss the literary texts in groups in order to concentrate on certain elements of the works, in addition to (2) class discussions, in which you will be required to present your own perspective of the material. Another aim of the course is to (3) help you learn and develop essay writing skills, which we will be working on together throughout the course.

Required Texts

Elements of Literature —Fourth Canadian Edition  
The Oxford Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet  
Flight —Sherman Alexi

Recommended Texts:

The Little Brown Compact Handbook or the MLA Handbook (latest editions)

The texts above can be found at the UW Bookstore. They are also easy to order from the online bookstores and almost all the material can be found online. I will also post material that is not in the texts above on D2L. Please contact me if you have trouble obtaining the material.
Class Schedule

May 2  Introduction to the Course
May 4  Brief History and Background of English Literature
May 7  Romeo and Juliet
May 9  Romeo and Juliet
May 11  Romeo and Juliet
May 14  Romeo and Juliet – The Movie (1996 Baz Luhrmann)-Viewing
May 16  Film Interpretation
May 18  Andrew Marvell “To His Coy Mistress”
May 21  VICTORIA DAY
May 23  Blake “The Chimney Sweeper” (From both Songs of Innocence and Experience)
May 25  Wordsworth “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”
May 28  Browning “Porphyria’s Lover”
May 30  Byron “She Walks in Beauty” (Congress)
June 1  Discussions on Essay Writing
June 4  Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass Ch. 1-5
June 6  Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass Ch. 6-10
June 11  Phillis Wheatly “On Being Brought from Africa to America” and Paul Dunbar “We Wear the Mask”
June 13  Edgar Allan Poe “The Black Cat”
June 15  1st ESSAY DUE/ Scandal in Bohemia
June 18  Scandal in Bohemia
June 20  T.S. Eliot “The Hollow Men”
June 22  Langston Hughes “Jazzonia” and “Homesick Blues”
June 25  Faulkner “A Rose for Emily”
June 27  W.H. Auden “As I Walk Out One Evening”
June 29  Introductory Paragraph Due/ In class discussions
July 2  CANADA DAY
July 4  P.K. Page “Photos of a Salt Mine”
July 9  Elizabeth Bishop “The Waiting Room”
July 11  Margret Atwood “The Door”
July 13  2nd ESSAY DUE/ Yusif Komunyakaa “Facing It”
July 16  Flight –Sherman Alexie
July 18  Flight –Sherman Alexie
July 20  Flight –Sherman Alexie
July 23  Suhair Hammad “Silence” and “Mic Check”
July 25  Conclusion to the Course
Assignments

Attendance and Participation 10%
Group Discussions 5%
Background Research 5%
Introductory Paragraph (for final essay) 5%
Essay 1 20%
Essay 2 25%
Final Exam 30%

Assignment Descriptions

Attendance and Participation (%10): I have put this description at the top of the list because it is the most important part of being in this course! Your attendance and participation are vital because this class focuses on how you reflect on the issues discussed in the class environment. By attending, you develop your own perspective by discussing, arguing and analyzing your views and the views of your peers.

Group Discussions %5: This is an in-class assignment. The class will be divided into small groups responsible for answering and discussing a certain topic assigned to them. The group is required to present feedback and main points discussed in written form.

Background Research %5: Each student will be required to present 1-2 paragraphs (a paragraph is 4-5 sentences) of research on one of the writers in the syllabus. The research should contain some information on the writer and the main concepts of the work. The research will be presented in class as a base for our in-class discussion. Citation is required for this assignment.

Essay Introduction Paragraph %5 (Due June 29th): In order to prepare yourself for the final essay assignment you will be required to bring the first paragraph of your final essay to class. The paragraph should include an introduction to the topic you will discuss in your final essay and a thesis statement. You will be divided into pairs and have the chance to discuss your ideas with another student in order to get constructive feedback.

Essay 1 %20 (Due June 15): The first essay should be no longer than 5-6 pages in length, double-spaced, and written according to MLA format. The topic of the essay should be on one of the works discussed before the essay due date. Topics should be discussed with me before hand. Further information will be provided during the course.

Essay 2 %25 (Due July 13): The second essay should be no longer than 7-8 pages in length, double-spaced, and written according to MLA format. The topic of the essay should be on one of the works discussed before the essay due date. Topics should be discussed with me before hand. Further information will be provided during the course.
Final Exam %30: The date for the final exam will be announced towards the end of the course. The exam will include one essay question and two short answer questions. Further information will be provided during the course.

Note: All assignments MUST be handed in on the due date. Medical issues and other emergencies will be taken into consideration, however official documentation is required, ie, a doctor’s note for medical emergencies. Late assignments will have a late penalty of %5 per day.

University Policies

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. For more information please see http://uwwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Academic_Integrity/index.html

Please read this very clear and helpful document: “Avoiding Academic Offences: http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 – Student Discipline, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm
Note for students with disabilities
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with OPD at the beginning of each academic term. For more information, see http://www.studentservices.uwaterloo.ca/disabilities