COURSE OVERVIEW

Our seminar investigates a group of writers who have redefined both literature and literacy in the decades between the Second World War and the present. We will begin with three writers who exemplify artistic experiments and political debates that shaped the mid-century: Samuel Beckett, Allen Ginsberg, and Elizabeth Bishop. Our second unit will move to the 1980s to investigate the topics of postcolonialism, postmodernism, and Cold War politics. Here, we will focus on the fiction of Salman Rushdie and Toni Morrison and the drama of David Henry Hwang. We will conclude the course in our own decade, where graphic fiction and animated film will provide a lens on the present. Throughout, the course aims to sharpen your abilities to collaborate, write, and produce ideas in multiple media and to enhance your work within and beyond the University.

TEXTS

Allen Ginsburg, *Howl and Other Poems* (1955)

REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elements of Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pop quizzes / writings (4 total, lowest grade will be dropped)</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentation on plan for final project (15 minutes)</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay (6 pages, typed, double-spaced)</td>
<td>Draft</td>
<td>May 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group final project</td>
<td>Website or blog that provides an introduction to one of our course authors (1,000 words of text along with meaningful multimedia &amp; hyperlinks), background on historical contexts (1,000-1,500 words of text), and a “Readers’ Guide” to online resources (e.g interview clips, film adaptations, criticism, etc.)</td>
<td>June 7</td>
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SCHEDULE
Complete reading assignments in advance of date listed.

I. The Mid-Century: Modernism, Beat Culture & Postwar Poetry

T 3/29  Course Introduction

R 3/31  Samuel Beckett, Waiting for Godot, Act 1

T 4/5  Waiting for Godot, Act 2

R 4/7  Allen Ginsberg, “Howl” & “A Supermarket in California”

T 4/12  Elizabeth Bishop, “The Moose,” “The Armadillo” & “In the Waiting Room”
   Elizabeth Bishop, Brazil poems in Questions of Travel section of The Complete Poems

R 4/14  Work session: Group presentations/projects (Details TBA)

II. The Eighties: Postcolonialism, Postmodernism & Cold War Politics

T 4/19  Toni Morrison, Tar Baby

R 4/21  Tar Baby (continued)

T 4/26  Tar Baby (continued)

R 4/28  Group presentations

S 4/30  Essay draft due (email to profcarruth@gmail.com)

T 5/3  Salman Rushdie, “A Fantasy Called India” (Link on course website)
   Salman Rushdie, Midnight’s Children, Book One, pp. 1-136

R 5/5  Recent media coverage of Rushdie’s fiction and 1989 fatwa (Links on course website)
   Midnight’s Children, Book One (discussion continued)

T 5/10  Midnight’s Children, Book Two, pp. 137-396

R 5/12  Midnight’s Children, Book Two (discussion continued)

S 5/14  Essay revision due (email to profcarruth@gmail.com)

T 5/17  Midnight’s Children, Book Three, pp. 397-533

R 5/19  David Henry Hwang, M. Butterfly, Act One

T 5/24  M. Butterfly, Acts Two & Three
III. The Present / Future of Literature?: Graphic Memoir & Animated Film

R 5/26  Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis*

T 5/31  Work session: Group projects

W 6/1  **EVENING SCREENING OF PERSEPOLIS** (Details TBA)

R 6/2  Persepolis in print & on screen
       Course conclusions

M 6/7  **FINAL PROJECTS DUE**

STUDENT RESOURCES + POLICIES

*If there are any components of this course or the class environment that create barriers to your learning, please let me know in whatever way feels most comfortable to you.*

Disability Services offers students a wide range of support including sign language interpreting, computer-based note taking, exam modification, and tutoring. Their offices are located in 164 Oregon Hall.

The Office of Student Life sponsors programs on diversity education, conflict resolution, LGBT outreach, substance abuse services, and parent and family programs: [http://studentlife.uoregon.edu](http://studentlife.uoregon.edu).

University Libraries offers numerous research support and technology tools: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu](http://libweb.uoregon.edu).

EXPECTATIONS OF YOU

A syllabus is a kind of contract between students and faculty. It reflects our commitment to create a learning environment that works for all students. It also reflects your commitment to participate fully in the course and to conduct yourself with integrity throughout the term. The specific expectations of you are as follows:

- Attend class
- Devote 5-10 hours each week to reading, studying, and preparing for class
- Be accountable to your group members for the presentation and final project
- Treat fellow students, the TAs, and Professor Carruth with respect
- Raise questions, test out ideas, and listen actively to others
- Turn off your cell phone, ipod, Facebook page, Twitter feed, Google reader, Ducks score tracker, and any other digital distractions!

LAPTOPS

Laptops are permitted in this class strictly for the purposes of taking notes.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The University Student Conduct Code represents a contract among students. The Code prohibits all forms of cheating, plagiarism, disruptive behavior, and harassment: [http://studentlife.uoregon.edu](http://studentlife.uoregon.edu).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You may miss up to 3 classes without a grade penalty; each additional absence will result in a 5-point deduction from final grade. If you experience a serious illness this term, please contact me before you have missed 3 classes.