E 316N: World Literature
Texas Common Number: ENGL 2331

Course Description

One real agenda of this course is to affirm, or to spark, the love of literature in students who encounter the selected texts. The most optimistic expectation is that the course provides the foundation of what will be a lifetime reading program.

After completing this course, students should be able to do the following:

- Recognize traits of writing and thinking belonging to different literary historical periods in the modern age.
- Recognize traits of thinking and writing that are culturally specific.
- Recognize cultural elements belonging to specific cultures, with an acquisition of social and historical awareness.
- Read with depth and nuance. Increase the ability to take this in-depth literary analytical practice into the world.
- Acquire a knowledge of significant terms of literary study: satire, parody, picaresque, negative capability, the anti-hero, irony, writing in vernacular, the role of the *griot*, the fable, the parable, magical realism, etc.

Prerequisites

One of the following: English 603A, Rhetoric and Writing 306, 306Q, or Tutorial Course 603A.

Required Materials

*The Norton Anthology of World Literature, 3rd Edition*  
Package 2: Volumes D, E, and F  
ISBN: 9780393933666

Course Organization

This course is divided into four main units or “modules,” each focusing around a specific theme. Each lesson contains written commentary, intended as notes to guide the students’ reading. For Modules 1 and 4, all students complete the lessons outlined below. Modules 2 and 3 allow students to create a portion of their own course by selecting units that interest them. If they have an interest in a particular language or culture, or want to strengthen the Western material with which the course begins, they have the opportunity to follow those interests.
Module 1: Western Culture
- Lesson One: Enlightenment and Voltaire's *Candide*
- Lesson Two: Romanticism
- Lesson Three: Realism and the Origins of Modernism
- Lesson Four: Realism and the Late Twentieth Century
- Lesson Five: Modernism I
- Lesson Six: Modernism II

Module 2: Choose Your Own World Literature Adventure I
- Lessons Seven - Nine: For this part of the course students will choose to complete one unit, in its entirety, based on works from Europe, China, or the Spanish Language World.

Module 3: Choose Your Own World Literature Adventure II
- Lessons Ten - Eleven: For this part of the course students will choose to complete one unit, in its entirety, based on works from Japan, North Africa, or South Asia.

Module 4: Africa and Africa-Influenced Literature
- Lesson Twelve: Slaveship to Post-Colonial
- Lesson Thirteen: The African Experience
- Lesson Fourteen: Wole Soyinka, *Death and the King’s Horseman*.

All lessons within a learning module must be completed before moving onto the next module. An instructor is available throughout the course via a message center to answer questions and provide feedback.

**Grading**

Students will be evaluated in this course as follows:

- Five computer-graded quizzes: 10%
- Three informal reflection papers: 10%
- Three formal essays: 30%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 30%

The computer-graded quizzes consist of multiple-choice questions, and are strictly on reading comprehension.

The informal reflection papers (2-4 pages each) ask students to become actively engaged with the texts. It is a chance to offer observations, opinions, connections, and to play with some ideas they might have for a paper.

The first three modules each contain a formal essay assignment (2-4 pages each), to be completed and submitted to the course instructor for grading. The prompts require students to analyze the text(s) in question and/or evaluate the techniques through which the author constructs the text. Essays are graded on the effectiveness with which an idea is conveyed; the strength of the ideas; and proper use of citations and examples from the text to support the
argument. For the first essay, students will receive instructor feedback and have an opportunity to revise their paper for a higher score.

This course also includes a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm is a short-answer exam covering Module 1. The final is not comprehensive and covers only Modules 2, 3, and 4; it consists of short-answer questions and a required essay relating to Module 4. Options will be provided within the final exam such that students are only responsible for the material within Modules 2 and 3 that they selected to study. Both exams are paper-based, to be taken at a proctored location, with arrangements to be made by the student. University Extension approves testing centers hosted by an accredited university or community college.

In addition to completing all assignments and earning the minimum number of points to receive a passing grade, students must earn at least a 60% on the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

This course is independent study and is self-paced. Students have five months upon registration in which to complete coursework, plus an additional thirty days in which to take the final exam.

University Extension

For more information about University Extension courses and policies, please visit http://extendedcampus.utexas.edu/uex/. Questions may be directed to 512-471-2900 or uex@austin.utexas.edu. Office hours are M – F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST.