Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Olivia Johnson, Ph.D., and Michael Roberts, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None.

How This Course Works
This course is online and is self-paced. Exams must be taken in-person at an approved testing center. More information about taking exams is available on the University Extension website.

Students have five months from their date of enrollment in which to complete all coursework. While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading will be ignored, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

If all other coursework is complete and you have requested the final exam through the course exam manager by your designated completion date, an additional 30 days will be provided for you to study for and take that exam. If the final exam has not been requested by your completion date, you will be dropped from the course.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.
**Course Overview**

The course is divided into four main units, each focusing around a specific theme. All students must complete modules focusing on Western Culture and Africa and Africa-Influenced Literature. Two other modules 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. Each unit contains reading comprehension quizzes, an informal reflection paper, and a formal essay assignment.

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

- Recognize traits of writing and thinking belonging to different literary historical periods in the modern age (mostly European).
- Recognize traits of thinking and writing that are culturally specific (to China, India, South America, etc.).
- Recognize cultural elements belonging to specific cultures, with an acquisition of social and historical awareness.
- Read with depth and nuance. Be able to recognize irony, the use of unreliable narrators, imagery, metaphor, etc. Increase your ability to take this in-depth literary analytical practice into the world around you.
- 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.

**Required Materials**


**Course Organization**

This course is divided into four main parts or “modules”, each focusing around a specific theme. Each module contains multiple lessons--we call them “weeks” here for the sake of organization, and so you can set your own pace of work appropriately.

For Modules 1 and 4, you will complete the lessons outlined below. Modules 2 and 3, however, allow you to create a portion of your own course by selecting units that interest you. If you have an interest in a language or culture, if you want to strengthen the Western material with which we begin, or have been curious about a particular part of the world, you have the opportunity to follow those interests.

Each lesson contains notes to guide your reading. You should review these notes before you begin the assigned reading. The commentary that accompanies each section of reading is intended to supplement the headnotes (introductions) to each reading and the reading itself.
**Computer-Graded Quizzes**
Select weeks contain multiple-choice quizzes, which are strictly on reading comprehension. A certain level of recall of important details in the story is expected. Students who read carefully, with some note-taking and highlighting/underlining of important passages and events, should have no problem with these quizzes. Quizzes are submitted on Canvas, and there is no re-taking of the quizzes once submitted.

**Informal Reflections**
At three points during the course you will submit a set of informal reflections on the literature we are reading. This gives you the opportunity to become a reader actively engaged with the text, rather than a passive spectator. It is a chance to offer observations, opinions on the reading, to play with some ideas you might have for a paper or an interpretation of the text, review a film related to the text, etc. The exercise is designed to give you a little practice writing and reflecting on the literature before you tackle the more formal analysis essay, so please submit these prior to turning in your formal essay in Modules 1, 2, and 3 of the course.

**Instructor-Graded Essays**
Modules 1, 2, and 3 of the course contain essay assignments, which you will complete and submit to your instructor for grading and feedback. At the end of each module you will find several essay prompts—choices for the thesis of your essay. Most of these will require you to analyze the text(s) in question, some will ask you to evaluate the techniques through which the author constructs the text, and a few opportunities will present themselves for you to interact in a personal or creative way with the text.

**Exams**
This course includes two exams, which must be completed in a proctored setting. The midterm covers Module 1 of the course, and should not be taken until you have completed Week 6. The final exam is not comprehensive—it covers only Modules 2, 3, and 4.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

**Course Outline**

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<th>Module</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Western Culture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Week 1: The Enlightenment and Voltaire’s <em>Candide</em></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 1</td>
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<td>Week 2: The Romantic Period: Poetry</td>
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<td>Week 3: The Origins of Modernism</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 2</td>
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<td>Week 4: Realism and the Late Twentieth Century</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 3</td>
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<td>Week 5: Modernism I</td>
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<td>Week 6: Modernism II</td>
<td>• Instructor-Graded Reflection 4</td>
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**MIDTERM EXAM**

*Instructor-Graded Essay Draft 5*  
*Instructor-Graded Essay 6*
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<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
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| 2      | **Choose Your Own World Literature Adventure I** | • Instructor-Graded Reflection 7  
• Instructor-Graded Essay 8 |
|        | **Weeks 7–9:**                              |                                                  |
|        |    Option 1: Europe                        |                                                  |
|        |    Option 2: China                        |                                                  |
|        |    Option 3: The Spanish Language World   |                                                  |
| 3      | **Choose Your Own World Literature Adventure II** | • Instructor-Graded Reflection 9  
• Instructor-Graded Essay 10 |
|        | **Weeks 10–11:**                            |                                                  |
|        |    Option 1: Japan                        |                                                  |
|        |    Option 2: North Africa                 |                                                  |
|        |    Option 3: South Asia                   |                                                  |
| 4      | **Africa and Africa-Influenced Literature** | • Computer -Graded Assignment 11  
• Computer -Graded Assignment 12 |
|        | **Week 12: Slaveship to Post-Colonial**    |                                                  |
|        | **Week 13: The African Experience**        |                                                  |
|        | **Week 14: Wole Soyinka**                  |                                                  |
|        | **FINAL EXAM**                             |                                                  |

**Grade Calculation**
Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Five Computer-Graded Quizzes 10%
Three Informal Reflections 10%
Three Instructor-Graded Essays 30%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 30%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

A 100-93%  B+ 89-87%  C+ 79-77%  D+ 69-67%  F 59-0%
A- 92-90%  B 86-83%  C 76-73%  D 66-63%
B- 82-80%  C- 72-70%  D- 62-60%

**Getting Help**
- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, exam proctoring, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.
University Extension Policies
Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty
Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of F on the exam and an F in the course.

University Extension Contact Information
uex@austin.utexas.edu
512-471-2900