

E 316N: World Literature

Texas Common Number: ENGL 2331, ENGL 2332, ENGL 2333

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

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Course Instructor: Michael Roberts, M.A.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: One of the following: English 303C (or 603A), Rhetoric and Writing 306, 306Q, or Tutorial Course 303C (or 603A).

How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

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 or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, 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.

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

This course is designed to give students multiple perspectives on the people and cultures that share our globe through engagement with fascinating literary expressions of these cultures. Along the way, the mode of expression of literature, its forms, tools, techniques, and values will be emphasized in hope of increasing students' appreciation of the various voices that comprise global literature today. A primary goal is to introduce readers to various cultural practices that have shaped identities across the globe, and by doing so to create a deeper understanding of non-U.S. societies and cultures.

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 areas, religious groups, and time periods, 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

The Norton Anthology of World Literature, 4th Edition. Package 2: Volumes D, E, F. ISBN-13: 978-0393265910

Course Organization

This course is divided into four main parts or "modules", each focused 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, or have been curious about a particular part of the world, you have the opportunity to follow those interests.

The commentary that accompanies each section of reading is intended to supplement the headnotes (introductions) to each reading and the reading itself. Each module will alert you to some major movements in the texts, and to elements of the text you will want to make an effort to remember for the purposes of the exams.

Each lesson contains notes to guide your reading. You should review these notes before you begin the assigned reading, so you can find your way through the text in an informed manner and read profitably. Then, once you have completed the reading, go back and review the lesson notes to organize your own notes and reflections.

Although you have some freedom in what you choose to read, this course is designed for you to work through the lessons in order. In fact, you may not submit assignments in later modules until you have completed and received feedback on earlier assignments. Submit work as you complete it, and keep these submission constraints in mind when making your plan to complete the course.

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, etc. If you fulfill the requirement and your observations are well thought-out, you will receive an A. If your contributions meet the requirement but communicate less well thought-out reflections, you will receive a B. Fewer than the required number, or very brief and cursory entries, will receive a C. A grade of D or F will be assigned to those who ignore this requirement.

These informal reflections should be 2–4 pages, double spaced in 12-point font. This is a freeform exercise, so you can format your thoughts in whichever way makes the most sense to you. If you find the exercise extremely valuable and have more pages, edit and submit your best four pages. 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. Essays are graded on:

- The effectiveness with which you convey your ideas.
- The strength of the ideas—is your “reading” of the text conducted on useful and valuable points of discussion.
- Proper use of citations (quotes from the text) and incidents from the text to support your argument. Are you using the strongest examples to prove the value of your interpretation or analysis?

Further details regarding "Essay Writing and Expectations" can be found on the Course Overview.

Exams

This course includes two exams. The midterm covers Module 1 of the course. 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

Module	Topics	Assessments
1	Western Culture	Computer-Graded Assignment 1 Computer-Graded Assignment 2 Computer-Graded Assignment 3 Instructor-Graded Reflection 4 Instructor-Graded Essay Draft 5 Instructor-Graded Essay 6
	Week 1: The Enlightenment and Voltaire's Candide	
	Week 2: The Romantic Period: Poetry	
	Week 3: Realism	
	Week 4: The Origins of Modernism	
	Week 5: Modernism I	

	Week 6: Modernism II	
MIDTERM EXAM		
2	Choose Your Own World Literature Adventure, Part 1	
	Weeks 7, 8, and 9: Option 1: Europe Option 2: China Option 3: The Spanish Language World	Instructor-Graded Reflection 7 Instructor-Graded Essay 8
3	Choose Your Own World Literature Adventure, Part 2	
	Weeks 10 and 11: Option 1: Japan Option 2: North Africa Option 3: South Asia	Instructor-Graded Reflection 9 Instructor-Graded Essay 10
4	Africa and Africa-Influenced Literature	
	Week 12: Slavery to Post-Colonial	Computer-Graded Assignment 11 Computer-Graded Assignment 12
	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 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%
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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, 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

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