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LIT 246L.B01: Genres, Themes, and Approaches - The North American Short Story

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Fall 2020
LIT 246: The North American Short Story

Prof. **Quan M. Ha** quan.ha@umontana.edu
Office hours: MW 12:30-2:00 Office: LA 213
Class meetings: MWF 10:00-10:50 Classroom: ULH (Urey) 101

TA: **Reed Puc** (they/them) reed.puc@umontana.edu
Office hours: RFF 1:00-3:00, via Zoom

Course description, Objectives, and Expected Outcomes

This course introduces you to major North American short story writers of the second half of the 20th century. Generally, we will discuss two or three stories/author so that you can learn about not only the stories but also the author. The textbook selected for this course aims for that goal.

When we discuss a story, we will examine various aspects of short fiction, such as plot development, narrative style, tone, perspective, literary devices, and contexts. We will also learn about the author's beliefs, craft, and background to see how they help us understand his or her fiction more profoundly.

After completing this course, you will be able to

- gain an overview of the North American short story since 1945
- analyze and interpret short fiction critically and insightfully
- appreciate diverse, multiethnic voices in literature
- employ interdisciplinary approaches to reading a text
- analyze works of art with respect to structure and significance within literary and artistic traditions, including emergent movements and forms; and
- develop coherent arguments that critique these works from a variety of approaches, such as historical, aesthetic, cultural, psychological, political, and philosophical.

1 Required textbook

Mark Winegardner, *3 x 33: Short Fiction by 33 Writers*, Thomson Wadsworth, 2005. (ISBN: 9780.155.104.808)

Classroom policies

1. You are not allowed to read newspapers or class-unrelated materials while class is in session.
2. The use of cell phones, beepers, or other electronic devices is prohibited during class.
3. Any persistent talking or sleeping while the instructor or another student is speaking will result in (1) a warning and (2) then your dismissal from the classroom.
4. You are permitted to use laptops during class for note-taking and other class-related work only.
5. Behave in a courteous and respectful manner toward your instructor and your fellow students.

Assignments

THREE ESSAYS (4 pages/essay): Specific instructions to be announced.

TWO EXAMS (in class): Specific instructions to be announced.

READING QUIZZES: You must log in to Moodle and take the daily quiz before 10:00 AM every MWF. If you turn in your quiz answers after 10:00 AM, they won't be graded. Each quiz is worth 8 points.

Grades

Grades will be assigned as percentage scores (0-1000) throughout the term. Ultimately, your final grade will be converted to the university's letter grade system using this scale:

A (931-1000)	A- (900-930)	
B+ (870-899)	B (840-869)	B- (800-839)
C+ (770-799)	C (740-769)	C- (700-739)
D (640-699)	F (below 640)	

Reading quizzes -----	250 points
Two exams -----	300 points (150 points/each)
Three essays -----	450 points (150 points/each)
TOTAL: 1,000 points	

E-mail correspondence

Use your UM e-mail account for electronic correspondence with the instructor. You may expect my response within 48 hours (except weekends and holidays). I expect you to use a professional tone in your correspondence with me. E-mails that have no greeting or express a disrespectful tone will not be answered.

Attendance and tardiness

1. Tardiness of between 5 and 10 minutes will be noted: each such tardiness after the first two will be counted as an unexcused absence; tardiness of 15 minutes or longer will be treated as an unexcused absence.
2. If you have to leave class early due to personal problems, inform me before class starts.
3. You are allowed FOUR free absences. After your fourth unexcused absence, 10 points will be deducted for each additional absence. More than 8 unexcused absences will result in the failure of the course. This policy doesn't apply to students who have registered with DDS.
4. If you miss no class, I will add 10 bonus points to your final grade.

Health and safety

1. Mask use is required within the classroom
2. Each student is provided with a cleaning kit. The expectation is that students will clean their personal work space when they arrive for class, and before they leave the classroom
3. Classrooms may have one-way entrances / exits to minimize crowding
4. Students should be discouraged from congregating outside the classroom before and after class
5. Specific seating arrangements will be used to ensure social distancing and support contact tracing efforts
6. Class attendance will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts
7. Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom (which requires mask removal)
8. Information on the nearest "refill" stations for cleaning supplies/hand sanitizer if applicable
9. If the class is being recorded, students must be notified of the recording
10. Stay home if you feel sick and/or if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
11. If the student is sick or displaying symptoms, please contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330
12. Up-to-Date COVID-19 Information from the University of Montana
13. UM Coronavirus Website: [UM Corona Virus Webpage](#)
14. UM COVID-19 Fall 2020 website: [UM Covid 19 Fall 2020](#)
15. Strongly encourage students to remain vigilant outside the classroom in mitigating the spread of COVID-19

Policies on written assignments and in-class tests

1. Late papers will be penalized with a 10% deduction for each day after the due date, including weekend days. If extenuating circumstances prevent you from turning in a paper on time, please talk to me BEFORE the paper is due. I am not likely to make allowances after the deadline has come and gone.
2. All papers are to be typed in 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced. Follow the MLA guidelines for formatting, citations, and documentations.
3. Do not ask me to proofread your essays electronically (via email). If you need help with your papers, please schedule an appointment, or just come during my office hours.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, you should first consult with me. You will have 7 days, from the time the grade is assigned/posted, to set up an appointment with me to discuss the grade. After 7 days, all grades are final.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations for coursework. To request accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible in the semester. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).

Academic Integrity

Refer to [Student Code of Conduct](#) for information about academic misconduct. If you are found guilty of academic misconduct, legal action will be taken. It is your responsibility as a student to understand the Student Conduct Code described in the link above.

Reading Schedule (subject to change)

WEEK 1: Aug. 17-23

Wed: Introduction + Syllabus

Fri: The Lone Ranger ... (3) + This Is What It Means ... (8) * face-to-face lecture

WEEK 2: Aug. 24-30

Mon: The Toughest Indian ... (16) + Happy Endings (26)

Wed: Wilderness Tips (29) + Sonny's Blues (62)

Fri: Going to Meet the Man (83) + Exodus (95) * Zoom

WEEK 3: Aug. 31-Sept. 6

Mon: My Man Bovanne (103) + The Lesson (107)

Wed: The Behavior of the Hawkweeds (126) + Servants of the Map (150)

Fri: A City of Churches (181) + Robert Kennedy ... (186) * Zoom

WEEK 4: Sept. 7-13

Mon: Labor Day / NO CLASS

Wed: Workshop on academic writing

Fri: Westland (245) + Shelter (259) * Zoom

WEEK 5: Sept. 14-20

Mon: The Man Who Knew Belle Starr (193) + What Feels Like the World (211)

Wed: A Good Scent ... (317) + Jealous Husband ... (325)

Fri: Are These Actual Miles? (342) + Gryphon (234) * Zoom

WEEK 6: Sept. 21-27

Mon: What We Talk about ... (348) + Cathedral (357)
Wed: Goodbye, My Brother (370) + The Country Husband (384)
Fri: Fiesta, 1980 (419) + The Sun ... (428) * Zoom

*****Essay # 1 due in class**

WEEK 7: Sept. 28-Oct. 4

Mon: The Red Convertible (485) + Saint Marie (492)
Wed: EXAM # 1
Fri: EXAM # 1 (Continued)

WEEK 8: Oct. 5-11

Mon: Communist (526) + Under the Radar (537)
Wed: Testimony of Pilot (547) + Water Liars (564)
Fri: Birthmates (590) + Who's Irish? (601) * Zoom

WEEK 9: Oct. 12-18

Mon: Figures in the Distance (612) + Xuela (616)
Wed: The Magic Barrel (632) + The Last Mohican (644)
Fri: Demonology (686) + You're Ugly, Too (701) * Zoom

WEEK 10: Oct. 19-25

Mon: People Like That ... (715) + Walker Brothers Cowboy (739) *** *Essay # 2 due in class*
Wed: Friend of My Youth (749) + Save the Reaper (763)
Fri: Naked Ladies (794) + Female Trouble (806) * Zoom

WEEK 11: Oct. 26-Nov. 1

Mon: Where Are You Going ... (826) + Ghost Girls (849)
Wed: Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong (874) + Half Gone (887)
Fri: A Good Man ... (898) + Good Country People (920) * Zoom

WEEK 12: Nov. 2-8

Mon: An Interest in Life (937) + A Conversation with My Father (954)
Wed: CivilWarLand in Bad Decline (958) + Sea Oak (972)
Fri: Pigeon Feathers (1005) + A Sandstone Farmhouse (1021) * Zoom

WEEK 13: Nov. 9-15

Mon: Why I Live at the P.O. (1046) + No Place ... (1055)
Wed: Veterans Day / NO CLASS
Fri: Hunters in the Snow (1070) + The Rich Brother (1081) * face-to-face lecture

WEEK 14: Nov. 16-22

Mon: Bullet in the Brain (1093) + The Best of Everything (1099) *** *Essay # 3 due in class*
Wed: EXAM # 2
Fri: EXAM # 2 (continued)