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Fall 9-1-2021

### LIT 110L.02: Introduction to Literature

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# LIT 110: Introduction to Literature

*Multiethnic American Literature*

Fall 2021

Dr. Quan M. Ha Office hours: Tues & Thurs 12:30-2:00 Class meetings: Tues & Thurs 9:30-10:50	quan.ha@umontana.edu Office: LA 213 Classroom: Univ. Hall 210
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TA: Christopher Nicholson Office hours: Tues 11:00-12:30 and Wed 12:30-2:00	christopher.nicholson@umconnect.umt.edu Office: LA 229
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## **Course description, Objectives, and Expected Outcomes**

This course presents an overview of some of the most important issues surrounding the study of literature, acquainting you with traditional literary themes, common literary devices, and narrative techniques. The course focuses on literature written by writers of color, and you will read short stories, novels, plays, and non-fiction works that address racial and ethnic issues in American literature. You will learn about fundamental elements of literary genres and how to analyze, interpret, and evaluate a literary work critically. After completing this course, you will be able to

- understand conventions of narrative organization and character development
- analyze and interpret literature critically and insightfully
- appreciate diverse, multiethnic voices in literature
- employ interdisciplinary approaches to reading a text
- relate what you read to your daily life experiences from an open-minded, well-informed perspective
- 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.

## **3 required textbooks**

Tommy Orange, *There There*  
Lac Su, *I Love Yous Are for White People*  
Coleson Whitehead, *Nickel Boys*

## **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 (5 pages/essay): Specific instructions to be announced.

ONE ORAL PRESENTATION: You will prepare 8 questions for class discussion over the reading(s) you have been assigned.

TWO EXAMS: Specific instructions to be announced

READING QUIZZES: Turn in your daily quiz to Moodle before 9:30 AM every Tues and Thurs.

### **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
Presentation -----	50 points
Two exams -----	250 points (125 points/each)
Three essays -----	450 points (150 points/each)
<b>TOTAL: 1,000 points</b>	

### **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, Tardiness, and Covid-19**

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 20 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 TWO free absences. After your second unexcused absence, 10 points will be deducted for each additional absence. More than 5 unexcused absences will result in the failure of the course.
4. Make-up quizzes are for excused absences only.
5. Mask use is required within the classroom or laboratory.
6. If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
7. If you're required to isolate or quarantine, you'll receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress.
8. Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact-tracing efforts.
9. Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact-tracing efforts.
10. Drinking liquids and eating food are discouraged within the classroom.

### **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. For each formal essay, you must enter my corrections and turn in the revised version. Failing to do this will result in a zero on the assignment.
4. 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.

5. Under no circumstance will I offer make-up tests/exams.

### 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 [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php) 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)

#### *Native American Lit.*

WEEK 1: Aug. 30 - Sept. 5

Tues: Introduction + syllabus

Thurs: This Is What It Means + The Toughest Indian + How to Write the Great A.I. Novel WILLIAM + EMILY

WEEK 2: Sept. 6 – 12

Tues: American Horse + The Red Convertible + Borders KYA + JOHN

Thurs: The Man to Send Rain Clouds + Lullaby + Indian Boarding School: The Runaways GRETA + TREVOR

WEEK 3: Sept. 13 – 19

Tues: *There There* (pp. 1-97) SAMANTHA + KYLA

Thurs: *There There* (pp. 98-196) MEGHAN + DAKOTA

WEEK 4: Sept. 20 – 26

Tues: *There There* (pp. 197-end) SYDNEY + MACKENZIE

Thurs: In-class workshop on academic writing

#### *Asian American Lit.*

WEEK 5: Sept. 27 - Oct. 3

Tues: Wilshire Bus + Seventeen Syllables + The Question of Loyalty ABIGAIL + MEGAN

Thurs: The Legend of Miss Sasagawara + They Won't Crack It Open + Monologue for an Onion ASPEN + IVY

\*\*\*\*\* **ESSAY # 1 due: 10:00 PM, Sunday, Oct. 2**

WEEK 6: Oct. 4 – 10

Tues: The War Years + Birds of Paradise Lost + Grandma's Tales ALEXANDRA + ELIJAH

Thurs: In the Land of the Free + An English Professor + Rules of the Game CARSON + ANNICKA

WEEK 7: Oct. 11 – 17

Tues: *I Love You, Are for White People* (pp. 1-131)  
Thurs: *I Love You, Are for White People* (pp. 132-end)

CALEB + BAYLEE  
JEREMY + LAUREN

WEEK 8: Oct. 18 – 24

Tues: *Porcelain*  
Thurs: EXAM # 1

ABIGAIL + CHANCE

*Latinx American Lit.*

WEEK 9: Oct. 25 – 31

Tues: The Moths + El Patron + How to Date a Browngirl ...  
Thurs: *Real Women Have Curves* + Barbie-Q

HANNAH + ZANE  
SARA + ALLISON

WEEK 10: Nov. 1 – 7

Tues: The Boy without a Flag + Ysrael + Nada  
Thurs: *Rage Is a Fallen Angel* + *AmeRican* + *The Broken English Dream*  
\*\*\*\*\* **ESSAY # 2 due: 10:00 PM, Sunday, Nov. 6**

SAMANTHA + LORRAINE  
CLAYTON + MADISON PALMER

WEEK 11: Nov. 8 – 14

Tues: *Invisible Country* + *The Paris Gown* + *Ending Poem*  
Thurs: Veterans Day / No Class

MADISON DIEHL + BLAKE

*African American Lit.*

WEEK 12: Nov. 15 – 21

Tues: *The Nickel Boys* (pp. 1-114)  
Thurs: *The Nickel Boys* (pp. 115-end)

SHYANNE + KAPONO  
SIERRA + MICAELA

WEEK 13: Nov. 22 – 28

Tues: *The Passing of Grandison* + *Sleeper Wakes* + *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*  
Thurs: Thanksgiving / No Class

RACHAEL + CIAN

WEEK 14: Nov. 29 – Dec. 5

Tues: *Flying Home* + *Dutchman*  
Thurs: *Recitatif* + *Everyday Use*

LILA + EMMA  
GARRISON + JOSEPHINE

\*\*\*\*\* **ESSAY # 3 due: 10:00 PM, Sunday, Dec. 4**

WEEK 15: Dec. 6 – 12

Tues: *The Sky Is Gray* + *Barbados* + *Caged Birds*  
Thurs: *The Education of Mingo* + *Steady Going Up*  
EXAM # 2: TBA

HAILEY + AUDREY  
ALEXANDER + HENRY