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LIT 110L.01: Introduction to Literature

Quan Ha

The University Of Montana

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LIT 110: Introduction to Literature

Spring 2017

Dr. Quan M. Ha

Office hours: Tues + Thurs: 12:30-2:00

Class meetings: Tues + Thurs: 2:00-3:20

quan.ha@mso.umt.edu

Office: LA 213

Classroom: FOR 305

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 the concept of the post-1865 American literary canon. You will learn about fundamental elements of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama, 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.

4 required textbooks

- Susan Belasco & Linck Johnson, *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*. Volume 2: 1865 to the Present. 2nd edition.
- James Baldwin, *The Amen Corner*
- Lac Su, *I Love Yous Are for White People*
- Julie Otsuka, *The Buddha in the Attic*

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. Make enough copies of your questions and bring them to class for distribution.

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

READING QUIZZES: At the beginning of each class meeting, you will take a reading quiz.

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 -----	200 points
Presentation -----	50 points
Two exams -----	250 points (125 points/each)
Three essays -----	450 points (150 points/each)
In-class discussion -----	50 points

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 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. If you miss no class, I will add 10 bonus points to your final grade.
5. Make-up quizzes are for excused absences only.

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 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: Jan. 23—29

Tues: Introduction & syllabus

Thurs: The Luck of Roaring Camp (112) + Editha (125) + War Is Kind (361)

WEEK 2: Jan. 30--Feb.05

Tues: Chickamauga (138) + A White Heron (196) + The Storm (224)

Thurs: The Passing of Grandison (240) + Its Wavering Image (308) + The Law of Life (393)

WEEK 3: Feb. 06—12

Tues: Robinson's poetry (320-328) + Dunbar's poetry (376-381)

Thurs: Stephen Crane (339-362)

WEEK 4: Feb. 13—19

Tues: Hands (853) + Spunk (879) + The Gilded Six-Bits (884)

Thurs: In-class workshop on academic writing

WEEK 5: Feb. 20—26

Tues: Sanctuary (897) + The Negro Speaks of Rivers (747) + The Weary Blues (751) + Yet I Do Marvel (758) + If We Must Die (700)

Thurs: Mending Wall (572) + Acquainted with the Night + Sunday Morning (599) + The Emperor of Ice-Cream (606)

***** *Essay # 1 due, Friday, 3:00 PM, my office*

WEEK 6: Feb. 27—Mar.05

Tues: The Fish (1114) + Seventeen Syllables (1298) + A Good Man Is Hard to Find (1340)

Thurs: kitchenette building (1292) + the mother (1293) + We Real Cool (1295) + Recitatif (1403)

WEEK 7: Mar. 06—12

Tues: ***Exam # 1***

Thurs: The Invisible Man (1160) + *Dutchman* (1437)

WEEK 8: Mar. 13—19

Tues: *The Buddha in the Attic*

Thurs: Flight (1014) + Almos' a Man (1030)

WEEK 9: Mar. 20—26

-----*SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS*-----

WEEK 10: Mar. 27—Apr. 02

Tues: *Trifles* (775) + *Blood-burning Moon* (912)

Thurs: *Real Women Have Curves* (reading will be sent to your email)

***** *Essay # 2 due, Friday, 3:00 PM, my office*

WEEK 11: Apr. 03—09

Tues: *The Amen Corner*

Thurs: Theodore Roethke's poetry (1101-1107)

WEEK 12: Apr. 10—16

Tues: *I Love Yous Are for White People* (pp. 1-131)

Thurs: *I Love Yous Are for White People* (pp. 132-end)

WEEK 13: Apr. 17—23

Tues: A & P (1429) + Videotape (1460) + Are These Actual Miles? (1472)

Thurs: Adrienne Rich's poetry (1379-1385) + Sylvia Plath's poetry (1417-1425)

WEEK 14: Apr. 24—30

Tues: *Everyday Use* (1491) + Yusef Komunyakaa's poetry (1518-1524)

Thurs: *Yellow Woman* (1527) + Joy Harjo's poetry (1534-1540)

***** *Essay # 3 due, Friday, 3:00 PM, my office*

WEEK 15: May 01—07

Tues: *Mericans* (1547) + *What You Pawn I Will Redeem* (1558) + *Invierno* (1576)

Thurs: *Review + Conclusion* (last day of class)

***** *Exam # 2: TBA*