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Spring 2-1-2017

LIT 379L.01: Gender and Sexuality in Literature/English Fiction

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The University Of Montana

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LIT 379L.01 GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN LITERATURE

SPRING, 2017

CRN 38314

TTH 11-12:20

STONE HALL 217

CASEY CHARLES

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3, Friday 11-12, and by appointment

Office: 216 LA; phone 243-2762

Description:

This course studies fiction and nonfiction texts—mostly contemporary—that explore the current spectrum of genders and sexualities. To these primary texts, we will apply the critical approaches of feminist, queer, trans*, and men’s studies in conjunction with our reading of theoretical essays.

- The course begins by queering or deconstructing, if you will, the received notions of gender and sex, in part through the study of expanding field of trans* studies. (from Winterson to Nelson)
- The second part of the course focuses on what Rubin has called “the traffic in women,” reading books about gender violence in regard to race (Morrison) as well as international (Clement) and local (Krakauer) cultures.
- We shift in the third part to contemporary fiction that represents portraits of gender: men (Horack), women (Moshfegh), and family (Kruse).
- Finally, we study the queer spectrum through Bechdel’s lesbian graphic novel, Greenwell’s gay novel, and Blanchfield’s queer essays.

Three of the authors (Clement, Blanchfield, and Kruse) have agreed to visit the class through Skype, so we will have an opportunity to talk to these authors about the sex/gender system.

Required Texts:

- **Bechdel, *Fun Home* (2006)**
- **Blanchfield, *Proxies*, selections (2016)**
- **Clement, *Prayers for the Stolen* (2015)**
- **Greenwell, *What Belongs to You* (2016)**
- **Horack, *The Other Joseph* (2015)**

- Krakauer, *Missoula*, selections (2015)
- Kruse, *Call Me Home* (2015)
- Morrison, *Paradise* (1997)
- Moshfegh, *Eileen* (2015)
- Nelson, *Argonauts* (2015)
- Winterson, *Written on the Body* (1992)

Posted Essays on Moodle

Work:

- Weekly quizzes are open-book but time-sensitive. Sometimes we will do threads instead, sometimes write short in-class essays. Students will also prepare questions for the writers who visit the course on Skype (33%)
- Three Response Papers (3-5 pages each) (33%)
- A final essay (12-15 pages) which includes a rough draft and short report to the class (33%)
- Attendance and participation: students are expected to come to class ready to ask and answer questions. More than three unexcused absences during the semester may result in a failing grade. Excellent participation will allow students with a grade point average on the cusp to have their grade rounded upward.

Ground Rules:

- I do not accept late papers unless the student contacts me with a reasonable excuse before the beginning of the class on the day the paper is due.
- There are no make-up quizzes.
- Students must attend at least one conference with the teacher during the semester.
- Students with disabilities will be accommodated.
- Plagiarism (the stealing of another's words or ideas) will result in a recommendation of expulsion from the university. See the Student Conduct Code.
- <http://www.umt.edu/umallies> This classroom is a safe space for diverse populations and adheres to the principles of nondiscrimination based on ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation as set forth by UM Allies.

Outcomes:

- Acquisition of skills in analyzing literature through close reading informed by the critical tradition of gender studies
- Familiarity with the vocabulary and discourse of feminism, gender studies, and queer theory
- Production of writing that demonstrates the ability to create coherent arguments about literature through the application of critical theory to text

For important dates and deadlines related to classes, visit the Registrar's page: <https://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/OfficialDatesDeadlinesSpring2017.pdf>

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Tuesday, January 24	Introduction
Thursday, January 26	from <i>The New Sexuality Studies: “Theoretical Perspectives” and “Transforming the sex/gender/sexuality System”</i> (moodle)
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Tuesday, January 31	<i>Written on the Body</i>
Thursday, February 2	<i>Written on the Body</i>
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Tuesday, February 7	<i>Argonauts</i>
Thursday, February 9	Edelman essay (moodle)
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Tuesday, February 14	<i>Argonauts</i>
	RESPONSE PAPER 1
Thursday, February 16	<i>Prayers for the Stolen</i>
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Tuesday, February 21	Gayle Rubin essay (moodle)
Thursday, February 23	<i>Prayers for the Stolen</i>
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Tuesday, February 28

Paradise

Thursday, March 2

***bell hooks* (moodle)**

Tuesday, March 7

Paradise

Thursday, March 9

***Missoula* Parts 1 and 3**

Tuesday, March 14

***Missoula* Parts 4 and 5**

Thursday, March 16

***Configuring Masculinity* essay (moodle)**

RESPONSE PAPER 2

Spring Break March 18-26

Tuesday, March 28

The Other Joseph

Thursday, March 30

The Other Joseph

Tuesday, April 4

Eileen

Bordo, essay (moodle)

Thursday, April 6

Eileen

Tuesday, April 11

Fun Home

Butler, "Imitation" (moodle)

Thursday, April 13

Fun Home

Tuesday, April 18

What Belongs to You

Warner, essay (moodle)

Thursday, April 20

What Belongs to You

RESPONSE PAPER 3

Tuesday, April 25

*Proxies: Note, "On Sardines," "On Man
Roulette," "On House Sitting," "On the Leave,"
"On Confoundedness," "On peripersonal
Space," "On Frottage"*

Thursday, April 27

Proxies

ROUGH DRAFT OF FINAL ESSAY

Tuesday, May 2

Call Me Home

REPORTS ON FINAL PAPERS

Thursday, May 4

Call Me Home

Finals Week May 8-12

Tuesday May 9 FINAL ESSAY Due 5 PM