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CRWR 115L.01: Montana Writers Live

Robert Stubblefield

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CRWR 115L
Montana Writers Live
Autumn 2018

Meeting Time and Place: 6:00 p.m.-8:50 p.m., Tuesdays, Social Sciences 356

Instructor: Robert Stubblefield

Office: Corbin 339

Office hours: Monday, 1-3:00 p.m., Tuesday 1-2:00 p.m., Wednesday 3-5:00, and by appointment.

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Office: Corbin 339

Required Text: Kittredge, William and Smith, Annick, eds. *The Last Best Place: A Montana Anthology*. Seattle: University of Washington, 1991.

Required Software: Adobe Reader.

In the course of this semester, we will explore the diversity of regional literature with an eye to its place in the larger literary traditions. Students will both read and hear works read aloud by some of Montana's leading authors, and will study both the craft and the content of their writings. Class meetings will open with discussion – a review of assigned readings and the critical, social, historical and/or political issues explored by the guest writer's work. Following a live reading, the writer will discuss his or her works with the class and answer questions. Students will prepare questions for the writers developed from a packet of readings and criticism. Grades are determined by attendance/participation, midterm, reflective essay assignments, and final examination.

The midterm and the final exam will require both short answer and longer essay responses to assigned readings, live readings, and class lectures. As in discussions, for exams the students will be asked to analyze the writers' works in ways that address the larger issues of regionalism: What role does western literature in general, and Montana literature in particular, play in the field of modern American works? What role might genre fiction take in portraying the cultural or social issues of a city, a state, a region? How is this an important role? What literary elements make a work "regional" and what elements might be considered "universal?" Following the presentations, students will have an opportunity to question working writers/published authors about their careers and the elements of their craft. Included in the roster will be writers who produce poetry, novels, journalism, short stories, essays, plays, and screenplays.

- **Attendance and Participation:** You can learn the material covered in this course only by being here. Attendance and ACTIVE participation are required. Your final grade will be affected after one unexcused absence; a failing grade will be assigned after three unexcused absences. (An excused absence requires a pre-arranged scholastic or athletic commitment or bona fide and substantiated medical emergency.) Because our meetings will feature guest writers reading from their

- own works, noise and disruptions, including your late arrival or early departure from class, will not be tolerated.
- **Course Policies and Materials:** Course readings will be available on UM Online (Moodle). You are responsible for **bringing assigned readings** to class in either print or electronic form. Materials are presented in this manner to save you money and for your convenience. Do not abuse this. You must bring the reading to class for us to have productive, provocative, and interesting discussions. Practice using Moodle and familiarize yourself with viewing and downloading the assigned readings.
 - You will arrive at each class with at least three typed questions for the writer. Sign your name at the bottom of the sheet of paper and I will collect papers at the end of class. Although you will not be required to ask the typed questions each week, every student will ask a formal question through the course of the semester. It is essential that you arrive on time and with your printed reading and typed questions. Montana Writers Live is partnering with the Montana Public Radio program *The Write Question*. You will be required to write one blog entry and one reflective response employing the appropriate format. The program host will provide more information during presentation to class.

Scholarship

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrase) must be properly documented. Students who plagiarize face serious consequences that may range from receiving a failing grade on a given assignment to failing the course. All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [Student Conduct Code](#)

Students with Disabilities

Qualified students with disabilities (physical or learning) will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please speak with me privately after class or in my office. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator.

Deadlines and Important Dates: Consult this site for updated add/drop information:
[Add/Drop Deadlines](#)

Tuesday, October 23, Midterm

Tuesday, December 11: Final Exam, 7:40-9:40 p.m.

First Half Lineup (Tentative and subject to change)

August 28: **Introduction, distribute syllabus, assign readings.**

September 14: **Lois Welch (Nonfiction/Literary Criticism)**

September 11: **Judy Blunt (Nonfiction)**

September 18: **Stephanie Land (Nonfiction)**

September 25: **Casey Charles (Fiction/Poetry)**

October 2: **Dan Brooks (Nonfiction/Journalism)**

October 9: **Matthew Haynes (Fiction)**

October 16: **Sarah Aronson (Poetry/Nonfiction/Radio)**

October 23: **Midterm**

Missoula is a vibrant literary community. Although not required, I suggest you take advantage of readings, conferences, and gatherings occurring this semester. I will announce upcoming events, but keep in mind the Second Wind Reading Series each Sunday night. Readings are frequently held on campus and at local bookstores. The Montana Book Festival will take place September 27-30 at various venues throughout Missoula. The majority of Festival events are free and open to the public. This is a great opportunity to see and hear a wide variety of writers from multiple genres.

Montana Book Festival