Course Description

- The Fall 2018 version of LIT 230 focuses on the role of money and media in modern world literature and film. We will explore how the emergence of “modernity” in the past two centuries is tied to shifting definitions of labor, markets, and environments, each of which is rooted in much earlier concepts (like the promise or risk or obligation) that constellate across world literatures. Beginning with nineteenth-century realism and ending with a post-apocalyptic zombie novel, the course traces a network of relations that link literary, economic, and environmental problems together. Ultimately, the course suggests that the study of transnational literary and visual narratives offers a window into the central dilemmas of the twenty-first century and, perhaps, a shared vocabulary to confront them.

Meets: TTH 8:40-10:10, LA 727
Instructor: Tom Nurmi, thomas.nurmi@msubillings.edu
Office Hours: W 2-5, LA 425, or by appt.

Booklist

* By enrolling in this class, you agree to all terms, assignments, and responsibilities. You agree to treat the course as professional work, including all email exchanges, and attendance is mandatory. You should not be late, and you should not miss classes. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave more than 10 minutes early, you are counted absent. Missing any more than two classes will result in a two percent (2%) deduction from your final grade, per absence.

* If you have a legitimate conflict, please discuss it with me ahead of time. Any work missed as a result of tardiness or absence is your responsibility to make up. Quizzes are not made up, however, if you give 24 hours’ notice before an absence, you may take an alternate quiz.

* The Academic Support Center in the Student Union Building (http://www.msubillings.edu/asc/) offers a variety of services, and you should also be familiar with the MSUB Student Policies & Procedures Handbook (http://www.msubillings.edu/VCSA/PDF/Studenthandbook.pdf) for information on appropriate behavior and academic integrity.

* MSU Billings is committed to providing equal access. If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me so that we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that disability-related accommodations are necessary, please contact Disability Support Services (657-2283; located in the College of Education, Room 135). We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

* Should you need help for health or counseling, there is a mental health counselor on campus at Student Health Counseling Services, 2nd floor Petro (657-2153). If you feel overwhelmed, angry, depressed, or need help or support, please contact Student Health Service in the SUB (657-2153) or after hours: Billings Clinic Emergency Department (657-4150), Billings Clinic Hospital Emergency Room (2800 10th Ave N), or Community Crisis Center (259-8800), 704 N 30th.

Assignments and Grading

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Essay 1</td>
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Learning Outcomes

To successfully complete LIT 230, students will:

• Read, discuss, and evaluate a variety of texts from diverse cultures.

• Analyze literature from a comparative perspective.

• Describe the impact of diverse literatures on culture and history and vice versa.

• Write critically about world literature in a comparative context.
Daily Syllabus

* Note: Assignments are subject to changes. It is your responsibility to stay current. Any readings not included in the required texts will be available on the D2L course website.

9/6 – Introductions

**Unit 1: Labor**

9/11 – What Is World Literature?
* Create your own course website [see D2L]. Email site address to thomas.nurmi@msubillings.edu
* “Preface” and “Enlightenment” selections from the Norton Anthology of World Literature, Vol. 2 [D2L]
* “Midas” from Tales From Ovid [D2L]

9/13 – Land, Territory & Economy
* Adam Smith, selections from The Wealth of Nations (1776) [D2L]
* Leo Tolstoy, “How Much Land Does a Man Need?” (1886) [D2L]

9/18 – Parables of Labor [Post 1]
* Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street” (1853) [D2L]

9/20 – Parables of Labor
* Karl Marx, selections from “Estranged Labor” (1844) [D2L]

9/25 – Parables of Labor [Post 2]
* Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (1915), Parts I & II (pp. 204-226) [D2L]

9/27 – Class Canceled

10/2 – Parables of Labor
* “The Metamorphosis,” Part III (pp. 226-237) [D2L]

**Unit 2: Markets & Networks**

10/4 – Money Dreams [Essay 1 Due]
* Max Weber, Ch. 2 from The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (1905) [D2L]
* Greg Smith, “It’s Just a Movie” [D2L]
* Watch: Modern Times (1936), dir. Charlie Chaplin [Streaming on Kanopy]
* John Dos Passos, selection from The Big Money (1936) [D2L]

10/9 – The Deal [Post 3]
* Jorge Luis Borges, selection from “The Zahir” (1949) [D2L]
* David Mamet, Glengarry Glen Ross (1982), Act I (pp. 7-51)
10/11 – The Deal
* Glengarry Glen Ross, Act II (pp. 52-108)

10/16 – The Crash [Post 4]
* Jenna Osman, selection from The Network (2010) [D2L]
* Watch: The Big Short (2015), dir. Adam McKay [Library Reserves]

10/18 – The Entrepreneur

10/23 – Class Canceled [Post 5]

10/25 – The Entrepreneur
* White Tiger, pp. 53-166

10/30 – The Entrepreneur [Post 6]
* White Tiger, pp. 167-228

11/1 – The Entrepreneur
* White Tiger, pp. 228-276

Unit 3: Environments

11/6 – No Class, Election Day [Essay 2 Due]

11/8 – Oil!
* Upton Sinclair, selection from Oil! (1927) [D2L]
* Italo Calvino, “The Petrol Pump” (1974) [D2L]
* Ken Saro-Wiwa, “Night Ride” (1986) [D2L]

11/13 – Toxic Modernity [Post 7]
* Stephen King, “The Raft” (1982) [D2L]

11/15 – Mediated Modernity
* Isabel Allende, “And of Clay Are We Created” (1989) [D2L]
* Chu T’ien Hsin, “Man of La Mancha” (1994) [D2L]

11/20 – Junk Modernity [Post 8]
* Wallace Stevens, “Man on the Dump” (1923) [D2L]
* Watch Wall-E (2008), dir. Andrew Stanton [Library Reserves]

11/22 – No Class, Thanksgiving

11/27 – Beyond Modernity [Post 9]

**11/29 – Beyond Modernity**  
* *Zone One*, pp. 129-201

**12/4 – Beyond Modernity** [Post 10]  
* *Zone One*, pp. 201-271

**12/6 – Beyond Modernity**  
* *Zone One*, pp. 272-322

**12/12 – Final Essay Presentations, 12 PM: LA 627** [Essay 3 Due on D2L, 12 PM]