LIT 201
Introduction to Literary Studies

Spring 2017

Course Description

• LIT 201 is the gateway course to the English major. It provides students a foundation in close reading and essay writing that will prepare them for success in 300-level literature surveys and 400-level upper-division electives. The course is organized by genre to supplement national narratives of literary history, offering exposure to schools of literary criticism and theory while supporting student writing through workshops and digital feedback.

• This course explores multiple modes of reading and analyzing literary works to develop the capacity for literary study at the college level. We will read selections from four literary genres – poetry, drama, the novel, and the short story – along with key literary terms and various approaches to literary criticism. Students will hone their abilities to write a developed analytical essay in response to a literary text, with a clearly articulated theoretical perspective and engagement with primary and secondary sources.

Course Information

Instructor: Tom Nurmi
Meets: MW 2-3:30, LA 625
Email: thomas.nurmi@msubillings.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-1, LA 425

Required Texts

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 best way – and perhaps the only way – to improve your writing is to come to office hours and work directly with me on the specific details of your essays. The Academic Support Center in the Student Union Building (http://www.msubillings.edu/asc/) offers a variety of services to help you as well.

In addition, you should be familiar with the MSUB Student Policies & Procedures Handbook for information on appropriate behavior and academic integrity. I encourage everyone to stop by my office hours (W 2-5 in LA 425) for any reason throughout the semester (help on an essay, questions on the reading, or anything else). If you cannot make my office hours, let me know and we can arrange a time to meet.

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.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing LIT 201, students will have:

[1] Demonstrated careful reading of literary texts, with special attention to the relation between poetics and genre.

[2] Produced a close reading of a literary text that shows how form, style, and poetics shape thematic concerns, with clear and effective writing in service of a reasoned and evidenced arguments.

[3] Incorporated historical, cultural, and literary contexts into an interpretation of a literary work.

[4] Integrated literary criticism from secondary sources to examine a literary text from one or more theoretical perspectives.


Assignments and Grading

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<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes &amp; Group Work</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faulkner Criticism Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>80%</td>
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</table>
  - Essay 1                    | 20%        |
  - Essay 2                    | 20%        |
  - Essay 3                    | 20%        |
  - Essay 4                    | 20%        |

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Daily Syllabus

* Assignments are subject to change. It is your responsibility to stay current. If you miss a day, check with me via email for changes. Any reading assignments not included in the required texts will be available on the D2L course website.

1/18 – Introductions
  Read for Class:
  * Jonathan Culler, “What is Literature and Why Does It Matter?” (Ch. 2) from *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* [D2L]

Poetry

1/23 – Dickinson
  * Literary Terms [D2L]
  * Culler, “Rhetoric, Poetics, and Poetry” (Ch. 5) from *Literary Theory* [D2L]

1/25 – Dickinson
  * Literary Terms [D2L]
  * Emily Dickinson, “Fascicle 16” (11 poems) [D2L]

1/30 – Dickinson
  * Literary Terms [D2L]
  * Emily Dickinson, selected “envelope” poems [D2L]

2/1 – Calvocoressi

2/6 – Calvocoressi
  * Last Time, pp. 27-68

2/8 – Essay 1 Writing Workshop
  * Bring an outline and intro paragraph for Essay 1 to class

Drama

2/13 – Shakespeare [Essay 1 Due]
  * Literary Terms [D2L]

2/15 – Shakespeare
  * *Hamlet*, 1.2-1.5 (pp. 154-196)
  * *Hamlet in Context I – 17th c. England*: Stephen Greenblatt, “Circulation…” (pp. 1-8 only) [D2L]

2/20 – No Class, President’s Day

2/22 – Shakespeare
  * Literary Terms [D2L]
  * *Hamlet*, 2.1-3.1 (pp. 196-247)
  * *Hamlet in Context II – Ancient Greece*: Selections from Aeschylus, Sophocles & Euripides [D2L]

2/27 – Shakespeare
  * Literary Terms [D2L]
  * *Hamlet*, 3.2-4.3 (pp. 247-296)
  * *Hamlet in Context III – 18th to 20th c. Criticism*: Selections from Goethe, Coleridge & Jones [D2L]

3/1 – Shakespeare
* Hamlet, 4.4-5.2 (pp. 296-354)
* Hamlet in Context IV – Contemporary Criticism: Greenblatt, “Hamlet in Purgatory” [D2L]

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>No Class, Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>No Class, Spring Break</td>
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<td>3/13</td>
<td>Essay 2 Writing Workshop</td>
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<td>Ferré</td>
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Novel

Tom H. Culler, “Narrative” (Ch. 6) from Literary Theory [D2L]
William Faulkner, “Bio” [D2L] & Absalom! Absalom! (1936), Ch. 1 (pp. 1-22)
Absalom, Absalom!, Ch. 2-5 (pp. 23-140)
Absalom, Absalom!, Ch. 6 & 7 (pp. 141-234)
Absalom, Absalom!, Ch. 8 & 9 (pp. 235-303)
Absalom, Absalom!, Ch. 10 & 11 (pp. 304-577)

Short Story

Jean Franco, “Foreword” to The Youngest Doll [Papeles de Pandora] (1976, 1991) (pp. ix-xvi)
Rosario Ferré, The Youngest Doll, pp. 1-18
4/26 – Essay 4 Writing Workshop

5/3 – Essay 4 Presentations, 10 AM: LA 625 [Essay 4 Due]