

World Literature - English 250

Course Syllabus

Class Information

- Units: 3
- Semester: Fall 2009
- Instructor: Lynn Haggitt
- E-mail: lhaggitt@mendocino.edu
- Phone Contact: 707 468-3123
- Office Location: 1157 MacMillan Hall
- Office Hours: Online - Monday - Friday 3 times a day - morning, afternoon, evening
- Campus Hours: Tu&Th 11:00-12:00, W: 12:00-1:00
- Class Location: Online

Course Outcomes & Goals

This course will explore the ways in which different cultures use literature to treat similar themes and problems through the careful reading of selected texts from a range of cultures throughout the world. You will deepen your understanding and appreciation of our selected texts and ways to discuss and write about them - both as unique artistic achievements and as works which are affected by their specific historical contexts. Each text has been carefully selected for the ways it will deepen your understanding of the plight of others and how they overcame tremendous obstacles to make their way in the world.

Teaching Methodology

This online course stresses active learning on your part. My role will be to create an intellectual environment which promotes this type of learning.

Throughout the semester we will focus on discussing and writing about our readings. Take a minute to reflect on how often you have **asked a question** (rather than made a comment) in other classes you've taken so far in your college career. Perhaps once or maybe even twice a class? Now take another minute to reflect on the type of questions you've asked in class. Are they questions that can be answered quickly or are they questions that promote critical thinking and deep reasoning?

In this course, you will be expected to be actively engaged in the reading and writing process by formulating and sharpening key questions about literary texts. The discussion questions will guide you to a deeper understanding of our readings, and hopefully, will allow you to write about our topics. Understanding literature can sometimes be a difficult task, but I will never tell you what to think, or what is "right" or "wrong." My goal is to help you develop the capacity to make judgments about our readings, and to achieve your own goals for your personal intellectual development.

Texts and Resources

Textbook Information: Please read all notes below - this list may be subject to some minor changes.

All books will be available in our campus bookstore, used bookstores, online via Amazon, used book dealers, family and friends. Some titles you may already have at home.

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe

Night – Elie Wiesel

The Namesake – Jhumpa Lahiri

Masks – Fumiko Enchi

Jessie De La Cruz – Gary Soto

Fools Crow – James Welch

First They Killed My Father – Loung Ung

Kaffir Boy – Mark Mathabane

Approximate cost: **Cost will vary** - some of these can be purchased for as little as \$1 in used bookstores (online) or obtained free from the library, family or friends

If you are in the Willits area, you can find many of these books at The Book Juggler.

Computer with programs compatible to this course

Internet connection (**dial up not recommended**)

Access to VHS or DVD Player

Rental of DVD's

E-mail address

Method of Instruction

Independent reading assignments followed by group discussions, chat room, and then journal writing to reflect the understanding and knowledge of the assignments. This will include video/DVD viewing and response writing. This course also includes essay writing assignments using appropriate college writing to show development of ideas and research strategies.

Grading Policy

Understanding of concepts and content of course materials will be measured by:

1. Assessment of class discussions-50 pts each (15)
2. Assessment of quizzes/homework-50 pts each (15)

3. Evaluation of 2 researched essays on a literary topic. 100 pts each
4. A final comprehensive exam-500 pts

Attendance

You are required to “Attend” class. It is important you show up for discussions in an online class because we do not have the opportunity to chat as in a regular classroom. You must get to know your peers via these discussions. Half of what you will learn will be from reading responses from other students and your instructor.

Discussion Board

Class requirements for attendance include posting to the discussion board once a week no later than Wednesday, by 8 pm. You must respond to the discussion board questions and to at least 3 of your classmates. This equals a total of 4 postings every week for the course. You can post/respond more, but 4 is the minimum. **There are no partial points for fewer postings.**

Online Chat Room

The online chat room will be enabled around assignment four. You can check into the chat room any time you like, to further our discussion topics in a more informal way, but it is not a requirement.

Special NOTES:

Please respond as quickly as possible to discussion board questions! If you post at 7:40 on Thursday night, it is nearly impossible for other students to respond.

Check your messages and the announcement board regularly for new information! It is a good idea to check your class often.

This is an ONLINE course, and I expect you to be ONLINE twice a week. I will respond/ grade your work weekly and post your grades in the grade book. **Essays take longer than one week to grade due to their length.**

If you do not show up for two weeks, I will drop you from the class site and you will no longer be able to enter the course. You must drop the course at Admissions & Records. If you have an emergency, PLEASE let me know - we can make alternative arrangements if need be.

Late Work

I do NOT accept late work except by prior arrangement, and only in emergencies. If you can not complete your assignments on time, you must make arrangements with me BEFORE assignments are due for an alternate date. Homework, discussion boards, chat room are due on date announced UNLESS changed by me! Late work will never receive full credit!

You will NOT be able to make up weekly discussion questions!

Netiquette or Love Thy Online Neighbor

Classroom Behavior

- This is an online class, and we cannot see each other as we write our discussions and responses. Since I require each person to post to the discussion board each week, I assume we will have interesting conversations about a variety of subjects. However, offensive language aimed at a person or group because of differences in gender, sexual preference, race or religious beliefs will not be tolerated. Please be respectful of each other. Do not use profane language or YELL at people online. Do not USE SLANG, remember this is a college classroom.
- Think before you push that button!

Students with Disabilities

If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out the assigned course work, please contact the staff in Disabled Student Services, in the Counseling Office on the Ukiah Campus or call 707 468 3048. DSP&S will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Honesty

Students are required to adhere to the college's Academic Honesty Guidelines. Students are expected to avoid any type of dishonesty including, but not limited to the following:

1. Plagiarism (copying someone else's sentences or phrases, using another author's ideas without acknowledgement of the source, re-writing a research paper that incorporates significant material from a paper written by another person, submitting a research paper borrowed from another student or commercial use).
2. Cheating.
3. Fabrication.
4. Duplication of assignments.
5. Aiding in dishonesty.

When an instructor is confronted with evidence of academic dishonesty s/he will take appropriate action against the student. This action may include: reassignment of the paper, exam, or project; assignment of a failing grade; or recommendation to the Superintendent/President for dismissal from the course.

