

Course: T, Th 11:00 A.M.- 12:15 P.M., Greenlaw 305
Office Hours: T 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.
W 11:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M. (and by appointment)

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English 219: Literature and Diversity
Section 002: Identity, Genre, and Form
Fall 2012

Course Description:

This course will consider the concepts of identity, genre, medium, and form as they intersect the study of English literature. We will engage texts in a wide range of media including novels, short stories, poems, graphic novels, performances, art exhibits, and recorded music. Some questions that will guide our inquiry include: Just what do we mean by “identity?” Is an identity something each person is born with or do we pick one up as we go along? Does an artist’s identity impact the way s/he expresses himself or herself? Does the subject of a text dictate how that text is composed? Along the way, we will explore some key concepts in the humanities, closely examine artists in various media, and investigate major areas of study in the liberal arts. Throughout the course we will hone written and oral communication skills, focusing particularly on building proficiency in close reading, research for the humanities, and analytic writing.

My goal is to help you cultivate the skills necessary to meet the challenges of your undergraduate coursework while diversifying your writing and communication abilities. Additionally, through practice, hard work, revision, and thoughtful feedback, I hope that everyone leaves this class with a higher level of confidence in his/her ability to negotiate *any* discourse community including your academic, professional, and personal spheres. The ultimate aim of this course is to provide you with the composition and communication skills necessary to confidently assert yourselves as the next generation of scholars and professionals representing the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Required Texts:

The Complete Persepolis

Author: Marjane Satrapi

Publisher: Pantheon; 1 edition (October 30, 2007)

ISBN-10: 0375714839

ISBN-13: 978-0375714832

The God of Small Things

Author: Arundhati Roy

Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (December 16, 2008)

ISBN-10: 0812979656

ISBN-13: 978-0812979657

Love Medicine

Author: Louise Erdrich

Publisher: Harper Perennial; Revised edition (May 5, 2009)

ISBN-10: 0061787426

ISBN-13: 978-0061787423

Stuck Rubber Baby

Author: Howard Cruse

Publisher: Vertigo; New edition (June 7, 2011)

ISBN-10: 1401227031

ISBN-13: 978-1401227036

The White Hotel

Author: D. M. Thomas

Publisher: Penguin Books (September 1, 1993)

ISBN-10: 0140231730

ISBN-13: 978-0140231731

The Haunting of Hill House

Author: Shirley Jackson

Publisher: Penguin Classics; Revised edition (November 28, 2006)

ISBN-10: 0143039989

ISBN-13: 978-0143039983

Zombie

Author: Joyce Carol Oates

Publisher: Ecco; Reprint edition (September 15, 2009)

ISBN-10: 0061778915

ISBN-13: 978-0061778919

A Visitation of Spirits

Author: Randall Kenan

Publisher: Vintage (January 25, 2000)

ISBN-10: 0375703977

ISBN-13: 978-0375703973

Wishing for Snow

Author: Minrose Gwin

Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks; Original edition (June 21, 2011)

ISBN-10: 0062046349

ISBN-13: 978-0062046345

Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following:

Presentation Paper	15%	Final Paper	20%
Participation	20%	Reading Quizzes	10%
Mid-Term Exam	15%	Final Exam	20%

The final exam for this class will be given on Thursday, December 13th at 12 noon. This date and time is fixed by the Registrar and is therefore non-negotiable. No make-up exams will be available.

Presentation Paper: For this assignment, you will write a 1,400-1,500 word research paper on a topic related to the day's reading. A list of topics will circulate during the first week of classes for sign-up; if you have any questions or concerns about signing up for your topic and presentation, please let me know. The successful presentation paper will clearly and concisely give an overview of its subject. Papers on people should focus on the major artistic achievements of the author, critical responses to his/her work, unique or notable formal qualities of his/her texts, and any biographical information that might inform our understanding of his/her work. Papers on academic disciplines or concepts in

literary criticism should provide a broad overview of the big concepts in the field, key texts and scholars important to that field, and an account of the historical development of the field. All papers must draw upon *at least three academic* sources (if you are concerned about whether a source is “academic” or not—ask) and use proper MLA citation throughout. You will present your paper orally to the class on the day that it is due; 5% of your assignment grade will be based on your oral presentation. After you have submitted your paper, it will be posted to the class Sakai site to serve as study notes for your classmates. Presentation papers must be emailed to me at bbolling@email.unc.edu by *no later than* 11A.M. on the day that they are due.

Final Paper: Your final writing assignment will be a 2,800-3,000 word research paper that cites *at least five* academic sources and uses proper MLA citation throughout. I will ask you to analytically engage at least one text discussed over the course of the term and a smattering of scholarship about that text. The successful paper will advance a critical thesis about the text, illustrate engagement with the work of other scholars who have also considered the text, display deft close reading skills, and make bold and assertive claims about the importance of the paper’s central argument. We will discuss this assignment in greater detail following the mid-term exam.

Participation: Because this class will be based largely on our free and open discussions as a group of scholars, it is of the utmost importance that we each participate as fully as possible during every class meeting. Classroom participation is, therefore, a substantial portion of your final grade. Participation includes, but is not limited to: constructive contributions to class discussions and activities, engagement with and support of classmates, and timely completion of reading and homework assignments. Your participation grade represents your presence in the classroom—both physically and intellectually. Each student will receive a daily participation grade of 1-3 points. Students will receive 1 point for being present, 2 points for basic participation, and 3 points for being an active participant.

Reading Quizzes: Over the course of the term, you will be given 23 short quizzes on your reading assignments. Your top 20 quiz scores will factor into your final “reading quiz” grade, meaning that I will drop your lowest *three* scores. If you are absent from class on the day of a quiz, you may *not* make up that quiz; that day’s score will count as one of your dropped scores. Quizzes will be given during the first five minutes of each class, so please be punctual. If you are tardy to class and miss the administration of a quiz, you may *not* make it up; that score will be dropped.

Mid-Term and Final Exams: We will discuss the format of these assignments and my expectations of you as these projects approach.

Attendance and Preparedness: Because this class is discussion-based, your attendance, preparedness, and active participation are integral to our success. **Attendance is mandatory.** If you accrue more than three absences, your final grade will be lowered. Ten or more absences will result in automatic failure of the class. Incompletes will not be given. Tardiness disrupts the classroom environment and is disrespectful of your colleagues and me. Repeated or excessive tardiness may be counted as an absence, so please arrive on time. If you come to class without your presentation paper on your scheduled presentation day, you will be considered absent. Failure to complete papers on time will adversely affect your grade. I do not accept late assignments.

Conferences and Office Hours: Please schedule an appointment with me during my weekly office hours if you have any questions, if you are struggling with an assignment, or if you would simply like to chat. If my office hours are not convenient for you, let me know and we will arrange another mutually convenient time. I highly recommend stopping by to discuss projects like your presentation paper and your final paper.

Plagiarism and the Honor Code: Plagiarism is a very serious Honor Code violation as it is a breach of the academic community's trust. Every piece of work you produce in this class (oral or written) must be your own. You are bound by the Honor Code in all that you do at this University, and so am I. I take that responsibility very seriously. I am required to report any work I believe may be plagiarized. Handing in work that is not your own not only violates the Honor Code, it also ruins the trust between us. If I find you have plagiarized in my course, I will fail you on the assignment – no exceptions – and I will seek additional, more severe penalties from the Honor Court. If you are struggling with an assignment, please speak to me. If you are struggling with your time management, please speak to me. Please speak to me if you have any questions. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an acceptable excuse for breaching the Honor Code. And please remember: this policy applies to drafts as well as final products.

Academic Etiquette: Toleration for diverse opinions voiced in class and online is essential. I expect all students to treat each other with respect. In order for us to learn from each other, we have to allow each other to make mistakes, and/or to offer unpopular positions for debate. Before class begins, please turn your cell phones off. If your phone rings or if you send texts during class, I will make every possible effort to embarrass you. Unauthorized use of any technology in the classroom (texting, checking email, Facebook, etc.) will result in a student being counted absent for the day, including an automatic zero for participation and reading quizzes. I do not respond to emails after 7 P.M., so please send any correspondence at an appropriate time. Finally, we are all adults now and I will expect you to take responsibility for your learning.

Computers: Computers are not permitted for in-class use except by special permission of the instructor. The temptation of distraction is just too great. Should an activity require the use of your computer during class, you will be notified by the instructor at least one week in advance. You should observe appropriate behavior during all computer-based activities related to this class. Engaging in activities deemed to be offensive or inappropriate may be considered violations of the UNC Honor Code.

Sakai: Sakai is a web-based instructional environment that will provide our digital home for this semester. Here, you will find the course syllabus, assignments, notes, reading materials, resources, and important announcements/reminders. To sign into Sakai, go to: sakai.unc.edu. Your username and password are your university Onyen and password.

The Writing Center: The UNC Writing Center is an excellent resource if you need additional help with your writing outside of class. In either face-to-face or online sessions, tutors will help you at any stage in your composition process. Tutors will not revise, edit, or proofread your papers for you. However, they will help you organize your paper, think through your ideas, and improve your arguments. For more information about the writing center or to schedule an appointment, visit their website at <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/>.

My pledge to you:

I will be available for you as much as possible. I will strive to make this class engaging and intellectually stimulating, and your constant feedback is welcomed. Additionally, please communicate to me any extenuating circumstances and I will do my best to accommodate your needs. This classroom should be a welcoming environment that provides everyone with an equal opportunity for learning and I want you to let me know what I can do to ensure that it is, in fact, such a place. Remember—you are paying to be here and should hold me accountable to your standards for facilitating your growth as scholars.

Your pledge to me:

By signing below, I indicate that I have read and understood the above requirements. I agree to abide by these requirements.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

ENGL 129.022 Fall 2012 Schedule:

August

- 8/21 Introductions
- 8/23 “A Letter to Harvey Milk”
“A Beautiful Child”
- Selections are available on the class Sakai site.
 - Truman Capote (model Presentation Paper)
- 8/28 Elizabeth Bishop
- Selections are available on the class Sakai site.
 - Elizabeth Bishop _____
- 8/30 *The Complete Persepolis* (“The Veil”-“The Dowry”)
- Marjane Satrapi _____

September

- 9/4 *The Complete Persepolis* (finish graphic novel)
- Middle Eastern Studies _____
 - Comics Studies _____
- 9/6 *The God of Small Things* (Chapters 1-5)
- Arundhati Roy _____
 - Diaspora Studies _____
- 9/11 *The God of Small Things* (Chapters 6-12)
- Post-Colonial Theory _____
- 9/13 *The God of Small Things* (finish novel)
- Literary Trauma Theory _____
- 9/18 *East Faces West: The Modern Japanese Print*
- For this class, we will meet in the lobby of the Ackland Art Museum at our normal class time for a special gallery tour.
- 9/20 *Love Medicine* (“The World’s Greatest Fishermen”- “The Island”)
- Asian American Studies _____
 - Louise Erdrich _____
- 9/25 *Love Medicine* (“The Beads”- “A Bridge”)
- Indigenous Studies _____
 - Women’s Studies _____
- 9/27 *Love Medicine* (“The Red Convertible”- “Resurrection”)
- Gender Studies _____
 - American Studies _____

October

- 10/2 *Love Medicine* (finish novel)
- Chicana/o Studies _____
 - Men’s Studies _____
- 10/4 *Stuck Rubber Baby* (Chapters 1- 13)
- Howard Cruse _____
 - Media Studies _____
- 10/9 *Stuck Rubber Baby* (finish graphic novel)
- We will be joined via Skype by author Howard Cruse
 - Queer Theory _____
 - LGBT Studies _____

10/11	<i>The White Hotel</i> (“Prologue”- “Frau Anna G.”)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sigmund Freud _____ • Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism _____
10/16	<i>The White Hotel</i> (finish novel)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MID-TERM EXAM will be due at the beginning of class. • Jewish Studies _____ • Marxist Literary Criticism _____
10/18	FALL RECESS- NO CLASSES HELD
10/23	<i>Hedwig and the Angry Inch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of this film has been put on reserve at the Media Resource Center in House Undergraduate Library. • John Cameron Mitchell _____ • Performance Studies _____
10/25	<i>Zombie</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Studies _____ • Joyce Carol Oates _____
10/30	<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> (Chapters 1-4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feminist Literary Criticism _____
November	
11/1	<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> (finish novel)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tyler Curtain will join us for discussion • Shirley Jackson _____
11/6	<i>Wishing for Snow</i> (Chapters 1-7)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory Studies _____ • Minrose Gwin _____
11/8	<i>Wishing for Snow</i> (finish memoir)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author Dr. Minrose Gwin will join us for discussion
11/13	<i>The Imaginary Invalid</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Imaginary Invalid</i> is a production staged by Playmakers Repertory Company. UNC Students may attend performances for \$10. The performance runs from 10/24-11/11. To purchase your ticket, visit http://www.playmakersrep.org/tickets/uncstudentdisc • Molière _____ • Dominique Serrand _____
11/15	<i>A Visitation of Spirits</i> (“White Sorcery”- “Holy Science”)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randall Kenan _____ • Africana Studies _____
11/20	<i>A Visitation of Spirits</i> (finish novel)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be joined for our discussion by author and professor Randall Kenan
11/22	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS- NO CLASSES HELD
11/27	Frank O’Hara
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections are available on the class Sakai site. • Frank O’Hara _____
11/29	Rufus Wainwright

- Selections are available on the class Sakai site
- Rufus Wainwright_____

December

12/4

FINAL PAPER due at beginning of class

12/13

FINAL EXAM at NOON