

English 232: World Literature II
Theme: Gender and Sexuality
Spring 2020

Dr. Dominic Ording
Office: Hash 162, phone: 871-7298, e-mail: dording@millersville.edu
Office Hours:

Required Texts:

Possible texts to be distributed or available on e-reserve from the library

Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*

Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Mann, *Death in Venice*

Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

A good dictionary (or two)

Other Materials:

Bring a pen and pencil and lined notebook paper to each class for taking notes and other in-class work. Also highly advised is a folder with pockets for your Commentaries, notes, and other course materials you need to keep track of in one place. All take-home assignments must be word-processed, unless otherwise indicated. You will need a stapler. Always bring the book we will be discussing to class. **Mark up your texts.**

Description:

This is a survey course examining several forms of literature from the past through the present concerned especially with gender and sexuality studies. These forms include fiction, and may also include drama and non-fiction. In fact, form and content—and their relation—will be one of the themes we explore. ENGL 232 is intended to be a reading, writing, literary analysis, and discussion course—much like a high-powered reading group—for the "general reader" and the literature enthusiast/specialist alike. The texts I've selected for this semester will, I hope, allow us to examine a wide range of human experiences and literary forms and styles. Some deal with very contemporary matters, while some will provide a historical perspective

Course Objectives and Expectations:

In the broadest terms, this course will develop your abilities to read, analyze, write about, and discuss texts closely and critically, as well as inviting you to make respectful, informed interpretations and to respond to other people's points of view. It will broaden your understanding of integral themes and aesthetic movements in literature and film from the last few centuries, including how to analyze literary texts in their cultural and historical context. Critical thinking and research skills will also be developed through the interrelated processes of reading good writing and speaking and writing about such writing. Students are encouraged to take an active role in the lifelong process of learning.

We will take multiple interpretive approaches to the texts. One central focus will be how such texts reflect and contribute to the construction, multiplication, and dissolution of individual, communal, social, and national identities. This semester, we will focus especially on gender and sexuality along with other mutually constitutive categories including culture, class, race, religion, politics, and ethnicity. We will also analyze rhetorical strategies used by authors and narrators as they treat these concerns; such analysis will inevitably raise questions surrounding the moral, political, and existential dilemmas that emerge in these treatments. Alongside the literary texts, we will view other cultural artifacts such as films in order to contextualize the written texts and to allow us to reflect on the differences between literature and film. Some of the texts we read may be challenging and controversial. One of the overall objectives of a liberal arts education is to encourage the consideration of multiple perspectives. Only through the exchange and fair-minded and well-informed comparison of diverse ideas may we develop any sound positions of our own and become able to articulate and defend these positions. Such learning is the foundation of a truly free and free-thinking, freely expressive society.

Student achievement of these objectives will be demonstrated and assessed through the following types of assignments: in-class, timed expository writing; and take-home assignments. Active participation in class discussions and collaborative work with fellow students is also important to such achievement.

Learning Statements:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- explore texts of world literature – both canonical and non-canonical – that represent at least five different languages and literary traditions, and various historical periods in Western and non-Western cultures from the late 18th century to the present;
- examine themes, structural and stylistic features, cultural and historical contexts and cultural resonances of Western and non-Western literary works from the late 18th century to the present to understand human experience;
- analyze literature critically and creatively and articulate their critical and creative positions in writing and in oral presentations;
- employ the skills of close reading, interpretation, synthesis, and critical analysis to the reading of texts across multiple cultural and linguistic traditions, various historical periods and multiple genres;
- conduct independent research in literary and cultural studies and present this research in written, oral, or creative literary formats according to the professional standards of the disciplines of literary and cultural studies;
- formulate and analyze connections between texts from various cultural and linguistic traditions, different historical periods and different genres from the late 18th century to the present to become receptive and empathetic to other cultures and experiences;; and
- formulate and analyze connections between literature from the late 18th century to the present and other disciplines.

E-mail and Electronic Devices: On occasion, I will send out class announcements to your MU e-mail address. Please redirect your Millersville e-mail to your personal account if you don't regularly access your Millersville account. (We will discuss e-mail etiquette further in class.) Our main business in class is reading, writing, and the discussion of the day's material, which entails some of us speaking while others of us listen actively and attentively (including eye-contact and conscious/conscientious responses). Any use of electronic devices may be distracting from our main tasks. Thus, such devices should never be turned on in class unless otherwise directed. On cell phones: They should remain turned off and entirely out of sight while class is in session.

Instructional Format:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to come to class prepared to take an active role in class activities. Student participation and collaboration are key elements of ENGL 232.. Class activities include leading and participating in discussions of the readings and films (including daily reports on significant passages from the readings)

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to arrive in class on time. Late students may be counted absent. Students are allowed one absence with no questions asked. Any absences over one may result in the lowering of the final semester score. If a student is absent more than five times, he/she will fail the course, unless there are extreme and well-documented circumstances. Judgment in such cases is left entirely up to the instructor. If you enroll in this course, then you agree to abide by this attendance policy.

Assessment Components and Percentage of Final Course Grade:

Commentaries	60%
Participation	40%

For Students with Special Needs:

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Office of Learning Services (348 Lyle Hall, (717)872-3178). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, in accordance with federal, state, and university regulations.

Title IX Reporting Policies:

Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment, comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681, et seq., and act in accordance with guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report to the University's Title IX Coordinator incidents of sexual violence shared by students. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. Faculty members are obligated to report to the person designated in the University Protection of Minors policy incidents of sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred.

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence, and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence, is available at <http://www.millersville.edu/socialq/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/index.php>.

On Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

If a student in this course is guilty of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty, then he/she will fail the assignment and possibly fail the course and be reported to the officials in Student Affairs. We will discuss plagiarism early on in class. If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, or if you are not certain that your use of sources is free of plagiarism, please consult me before you submit your assignments.

Writing Center/Tutoring:

You are strongly encouraged to make use of the Writing Center in Chryst Hall and the other academic support services available on campus.

Grading Scale:

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-92%	C+	77-79%	D	63-66%
B+	87-89%	C	73-76%	D-	60-62%
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%	F	below 60%

Course Requirements:

All assignments will be discussed in detail well in advance of the due dates.

Commentaries: Throughout the semester, you will be required to write short

Commentaries on the course materials; these assignments will, for instance, require a brief summary and analysis of a significant passage in the assigned reading or other text for the day. These writing tasks will generally be in the form of in-class writing assignments and/or homework assignments and/or "pop" quizzes that will be part of your ongoing Commentary. Evaluation will be based on both quantity and quality, as well as the number of entries completed. Any Commentary that is not completed because of absence or any other reason will receive no credit (0%). There are no make-ups.

Final Proviso:

WHILE WE MAY NOT ALWAYS AGREE IN OUR PERSPECTIVES ON COURSE MATERIALS, THE UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM IS A PLACE FOR THE FREE AND SAFE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. WE WILL RESPECT EACH OTHER AND OUR DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES. DISRESPECT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

