English 2223: Survey of World Literature from 1650--SPRING 2015 (WLII)

Instructor: Timothy F. McGinn, M. A.
Office: Burns Hall #1014 Phone: #986-6905
(voice mail—please leave a message)
Contact Hours: (Also available by appointment.)
Tuesday & Thursday: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Monday -- Thursday: 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

In Writing Center (Burns Hall #1003) (#986-6929) Mon. & Wed. 9:00-11:30 a.m., Friday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
E-MAIL address: tmginn@nwacc.edu Faculty web page at: http://faculty.nwacc.edu/tmginn/ (see page two for directions)
Additional Contacts: (These people are listed in case you don’t feel comfortable talking to me for any reason during the semester.)
  Chair of Language Arts: Jim Laughton—Office: BH 1123, #619-4287.  Email: jlaughto@nwacc.edu
  Interim Dean of Communication & Arts: Curtis Harrell—Office: BH 1124, #619-4359.  Email: charrell@nwacc.edu

****I APOLOGIZE FOR THE SMALL FONT SIZE, BUT I AM TRYING TO SAVE TREES AND CUT COPY COSTS!****

COURSE DESCRIPTION, PREREQUISITES AND COURSE GOALS
English 2223: Survey of World Literature from 1650 introduces the student to the literature of the world as well as the literature from English-speaking countries. The students may read literature from Asia, Africa, South America as well as from Europe and North America. Reactions and comparisons to the students’ lives are explored as the students read, interpret and analyze this literature. To enroll in the course, students must have completed ENGL 1013 and ENGL 1023 with a C or better, or have consent of the instructor. To fulfill the student learning outcomes for this course, students will
✓ Identify major literary figures of period, their genres, themes and major works.
✓ Identify major literary movements of the period.
✓ Analyze literary works, finding themes and elements that characterize the genre.
✓ Compare and contrast major literary pieces.
✓ Connect literary works to the history and the artistic concerns of period.
✓ Identify characteristic elements of periods and/or genres.

**Blackboard will be used for the Journal and to supplement the class with a Norton coursepack and other material. It will also be used in the case of bad weather or anything that disrupts class attendance. (See the Course Continuation Plan on the next page.)

REQUIRED TEXTS
The NORTON Anthology of World Literature, Books D, E & F (Be sure to get the books for WLIT II, NOT World Lit I)

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, RESPECT, AND CIVIL DISCOURSE
During this semester, we will most likely be exploring sensitive topics and examining ideas from diverse perspectives in our readings and in our writings. One of the goals of a college is to challenge us all to think again about all that we know (and all that we don’t know). This ongoing enterprise demands that we all share responsibility for creating and maintaining a civil environment in our classrooms and in the larger college community. One way we will establish this environment is by respecting one another, in all that we do, say, and think. In addition, the Northwest Arkansas Community College Catalog states that students are expected to:
✓ attend class,
✓ be prepared and organized,
✓ keep appointments and use scheduled office hours to discuss concerns about the class,
✓ turn in assignments and tests on time,
✓ and keep an open mind so that they may learn the value of higher education.

If any of you have questions about this statement, please speak with me. For more information, see the Northwest Arkansas Community College Catalog. You can get it from the school’s home page under “Academics.”

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (FROM AMY ROBERTSON-GANN)
If you have a disability or medical concern which you feel may impact your access to or progress in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC works with students and faculty collaboratively to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations for students. Once your registration with the DRC is complete, you should contact me privately, DURING OFFICE HOURS, to discuss your Accommodation Letter. The DRC is located in Room 114 on the first floor of the Student Center. For more information, please email (preferred) disability@nwacc.edu or call the main office at (479) 986-4076.

ATTENDANCE
According to the Northwest Arkansas Community College Catalog, “registered students are expected to attend all classes.” Attendance for this course is required because if you attend class regularly, you will both learn more and be better prepared to submit assignments. Each student is expected to fully participate in each class session. Participation includes coming to class prepared for each session—all readings and assignments completed. It also includes participating in class discussion and generally contributing to the goals of the course. Lateness is also a factor in attendance. Missing part of a class once or twice is not an issue but regular lateness affects the rest of the class and your grade. AFTER SIX ABSENCES, YOUR GRADE WILL GO DOWN ONE LETTER GRADE PER ABSENCE. AFTER TEN ABSENCES, ONE-THIRD OF THE CLASS, YOU WON’T BE ABLE TO PASS THE COURSE. TALK TO ME DURING OFFICE HOURS IF YOU THINK ATTENDANCE WILL BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU. I will use folders with sign-in sheets, so it is your job to sign in each time you come to class.

FP GRADE (FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE) (FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE)
Grades of FP will be issued to those students failing to participate in class activities and failing to officially withdraw from their course(s). Students will be assigned a grade of “FP” if they do not complete at least 50% of the assigned coursework. Students must demonstrate participation by submitting assignments, completing quizzes and assignments, and accessing course functions. Failure to participate in all courses attempted by a student is considered an unofficial withdrawal and the student may be required to repay all or a portion of the financial aid received for the semester. Federal regulations mandate that the Financial Aid Office determine the percentage of the semester the student completed. This calculation will establish the amount of financial aid funds that must be returned to the Department of Education.

ADMINISTRATIVE DROP POLICY
Students are expected to attend all classes. Instructors are permitted to use attendance as part of grading for a particular course and have the authority to lower a grade or fail a student based on attendance. If an instructor chooses to use attendance as part of grading, the specific attendance policy will be distributed with other
course information at the beginning of the semester. In order to maintain College compliance with federal and state regulations and to report correct data to the state, instructors will complete an electronic form to initiate an administrative drop from a course if a student has not participated in at least one session of a class by the census reporting date, e.g. the end of the eleventh day of classes in a regular term and the end of the fifth day during each summer term. Instructors teaching online classes will complete the same electronic form to initiate an administrative drop if the student has not fulfilled the initial participation requirements established in the course syllabus.

COURSE CONTINUATION PLAN (FROM DR. STEVEN GATES, PROVOST AND CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER)
NWACC reserves the right to enact a class continuation plan in the event of class cancellations due to weather or other emergency events. The instructor will maintain continuity using Blackboard online system or other alternate means as determined by the instructor. You will be contacted via your established communications channels with instructions. Students will be expected to continue with assignments. Online classes will continue to operate according to schedule. Consideration may be given for exceptional circumstances.

INCOMPLETE GRADES
"Incomplete" should be requested if the student needs the deferment, and a timetable for submitting the remaining work. For more information, see the Northwest Arkansas Community College Catalog.

INCOMPLETE GRADES
An incomplete will be permitted only in very unusual cases that make it impossible for students to complete course requirements on time. In the event that an "Incomplete" should be necessary, a request for an incomplete grade must be submitted in writing at least one week prior to the end of the term. In addition to a statement indicating why the student needs the deferment, the student should submit a list of the requirements that have been completed, a list of requirements that have not been met, and a timetable for submitting the remaining work. For more information, see the Northwest Arkansas Community College Catalog available on the NWACC webpage: www.nwacc.edu.
COURSE GRADE CRITERIA

Point Totals for the Final Course Grade: The scale below will be used to determine your final course grade.

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F 0-59%

Grades for this class will be weighted as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit I Connections Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit II Connections Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit III Connections Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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The Journal is one third of your grade and can quickly become impossible to catch up on if you don’t keep up. After we are finished with each book, the Journal for that section of the course will close and you won’t be able to go back and add entries. Write your entries in Blackboard before you come to class and you will be caught up and get more out of class.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

- **Journal:** Weekly writing entries will be required for every reading so that you are making connections you can use both for class discussion and group work as well as for possible paper topics. EACH work requires its own entry where you will summarize the work in approximately 250 words and then comment on the work, also in 250 words. These comments should be personal and not analytical. The Journal will count for 30% of your grade. After each Section/book, I will look at your journal and give comments on what you have written, but in order for you to have the best possible grade for this semester-long project, I will only give the final version a grade. Remember to use only your own thoughts in answering the journal questions, not Spark notes, E-notes or Cliffs Notes or any of the other online or bookstore shortcuts. Reading is the major purpose behind this class so shortcuts that eliminate close reading defeat that purpose and deny you the chance to practice a hugely marketable work skill.

- **Class participation:** Each class period will consist of some in-class group work. Your participation will be judged on both the quality and quantity of your work and the average will account for 10% of the course grade. Off topic comments that lead away from the group’s task will hurt your grade while quality, on-topic comments that help the group perform well will help your class participation grade. Discussion questions will be given to every group at the beginning of class and each group will present its findings to the rest of the class, either by speaking aloud or by writing on the board. Group discussion time is usually 20-30 minutes and the rest of the class is devoted to the class presentations. **If you come prepared and ready to talk every day, quizzes may never appear.**

- **Connections Papers:** For each Unit/Book, students will write a 3-4 page paper focused on tracing a common “connection” in two literary works by different authors. Students must select TWO literary works from ONE of the textbook volumes. Each Book’s material will then generate one of the three papers. The works you choose to write about MUST be assigned and read for class. Connections to be explored might include artistic, literary, social, political, or historical concerns. **No secondary research should be used in these papers.** Stick with the original sources/texts we read and your interpretation of their meaning. EACH Connections paper will be graded on a 100 point scale and will account for 20% of the course grade. (ALL three then add up to 60% of your course grade.) See the Connections Paper Handout posted on the course Blackboard page for detailed guidelines, evaluation criteria, and due dates.

Recent research in cognitive science, psychology and neuroscience has demonstrated that deep reading — slow, immersive, rich in sensory detail and emotional and moral complexity — is a distinctive experience, different in kind from the mere decoding of words. Although deep reading does not, strictly speaking, require a conventional book, the built-in limits of the printed page are uniquely conducive to the deep reading experience. A book’s lack of hyperlinks, for example, frees the reader from making decisions — Should I click on this link or not? — allowing her to remain fully immersed in the narrative.

That immersion is supported by the way the brain handles language rich in detail, allusion and metaphor: by creating a mental representation that draws on the same brain regions that would be active if the scene were unfolding in real life. The emotional situations and moral dilemmas that are the stuff of literature are also vigorous exercise for the brain, propelling us inside the heads of fictional characters and even, studies suggest, increasing our real-life capacity for empathy.

Excerpt from “Reading Literature Makes us Smarter and Nicer,” which appeared in Brilliant Report, a weekly newsletter written by Annie Murphy Paul.

Final Note: If the reading ever becomes too much for the WHOLE class, I may adjust the number of readings or pages of a specific reading, but for this course to be a true World Literature II, we need to cover over three centuries of literature, so WE ARE ALREADY MISSING a lot of good stuff as it is. I have discovered from past instructors of this course what seems to be a good reading load, so I think it should work.

—Mr. M.