

English 2309 section 004
WORLD LITERATURE
Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Ana Savic
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Class – section 004: MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m.; **location** COBA 251.

Course Description and Objectives

In ENGL 2309 – World Literature, we will read a variety of world literature masterpieces that raise significant aesthetic, cultural, and social issues. We will focus on developing your ability to engage intellectually with texts and ideas and to articulate your thoughts clearly and effectively both orally and in writing. You will be asked to look beyond surface-level meanings and consider how literary texts reflect the author's ideology or the social and political concerns of the time through their themes and stylistic devices. Our overall goal in this class is to help you discover complex aspects of literary art and sharpen your ability of perceptive and informed reading.

This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirements in Language, Philosophy, and Culture. The required objectives of these courses are the development of students' critical thinking, communication skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility. Many elements of this course foster development of these objectives, which are explicitly addressed in the "Signature Assignment" (see below). The Departmental general guidelines for sophomore literature can be found by typing "sophomore literature" in the "Search UT Arlington" box on the University website: <http://www.uta.edu/uta>.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Articulate an understanding of several major pieces of world literature.
2. Define major features of selected literary periods and genres.
3. Define and use vocabulary appropriate to literary study.
4. Demonstrate an ability to discuss literature using textual evidence to support assertions.
5. Demonstrate a deepened understanding of the cultures, times, people, and situations that produced these works.
6. Employ correct MLA documentation of primary and secondary sources.

Enrollment requirements: ENGL 1301 and 1302 required.

Required Texts:

Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
Texts linked from Blackboard.

Grading:

Your course grade will be based on the grades of your exams, your papers, your quizzes/homework/in-class assignments, and your class participation. You must submit all paper assignments and exams in order to pass this class. The final grade breakdown will be as follows:

Participation	10 %
Daily quizzes, homework and in-class assignments	10 %
Term paper 1	20 %
Midterm exam	20 %
Term paper 2: Signature Assignment	20 %
Final exam	20 %
Total	100 %

- A (90-100 %)
- B (80-89 %)
- C (70-79 %)
- D (60-69 %)
- F (59 % and below)

Daily quizzes, homework, and in-class assignments – expect short quiz questions on all assigned readings. The quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period, and they cannot be made up. I will drop the two lowest quiz scores at the end of the semester.

Term paper 1 – a literary analysis paper that will ask you to examine a specific theme in a literary work we read and discussed in this class.

Midterm exam will be held in Week 7.

Term paper 2: Signature Assignment – a literary analysis paper that will ask you to examine a specific theme in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

The signature assignment addresses all four of the course University prescribed objectives.

Personal responsibility: This essay includes the integration of outside sources; it, therefore, requires students to demonstrate personal responsibility as they use the words and ideas of other writers in an accurate and ethical manner. Citing sources properly isn't just a matter of mechanics. It's a question of personal responsibility (with real consequences for students) that overlaps with students' responsibility to the academic community of which they are a part. The construction of a clearly articulated thesis statement supported by a careful analysis of textual evidence demonstrates **critical thinking** and **communication skills**. The development of a well-organized essay that demonstrates the correct use of grammar and other writing mechanics and demonstrates an awareness of the how to appeal convincingly to an audience further addresses the

communication objective. The critical analysis of the way the selected text engages a significant issue of social responsibility addresses the **social responsibility** outcome.

Specific Requirements

For this assignment you will write a well-organized, effectively developed 3-4 page (900-1200 words) analysis of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. Your essay should effectively analyze the way the novel engages colonialism (or related themes, such as cultural change, tradition, tradition vs. modernity, cultural negotiation, etc.) as a significant global issue. You are required to use two secondary sources – they must be academic sources! – in your analysis of Achebe's novel.

Choose **one** of the following topics:

1. Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* takes its title from W. B. Yeats' poem "The Second Coming." Write an essay explaining and interpreting the significance of the title. Why do you think Achebe decided to take a line from a European poem as a title for his novel about British colonialism in Africa? How does the title capture one of the main themes of the novel?
2. Discuss the conflict between fathers and sons and explain how it relates to one of the main themes of the novel.
3. Compare/contrast the two great friends - Okonkwo and Obierika. What major conflict do these two characters embody and how does this conflict relate to one of the main themes of the novel?
4. Discuss the role of proverbs and folktales in the novel. Do the folktales mirror any of the themes of the novel?
5. Compare/contrast Mr. Brown with Rev. Mr. Smith. What do these characters suggest about colonialism?
6. What do you make of Okonkwo's decision at the end of the novel? Was there any foreshadowing of this? Does the ending function as a symbol in any way? If it does, what do you make of the District Commissioner's statement?

Requirements:

1. Put an MLA heading on the left-hand side of the paper.
2. Essay should be 3-4 pages long (900-1200 words), typed and double-spaced.
3. Essay should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman with one-inch margins.
4. Give your paper an original title which hints at your thesis or reflects your argument; highlight or underline your thesis statement.
5. Support the thesis in several body paragraphs by analyzing specific details, examples, and quotes from the story.
6. Integrate two outside sources; your outside sources must be academic sources.
7. Document sources (e.g., quotes) using MLA format.
8. Provide a List of Works Cited (<http://www.uta.edu/library/help/files/cite-mla.pdf>); the Works Cited page does not count toward the length requirement for the paper.
9. Submit your essay as a Word document using the Safe Assign Tool on Blackboard; the SafeAssign Tool monitors for plagiarism.

Final exam will be held during the finals week.

Participation – readings, lectures, and discussion are essential components of the course. You are expected to have read the assigned readings **before** each class meeting. Failure to attend class

on a regular basis will lower your grade. Class time will consist of lectures and discussions; please come to class prepared with questions about the reading material.

Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed to have **three** unexcused/excused absences. Each additional absence will result in one percent reduction of your overall grade percentage.

Late papers will be deducted 5 points for every day they are late.

Electronics policy – turn off your cell phones or other electronic devices when in class. Texting or checking email is absolutely forbidden during class. Electronic devices may be used to access the course materials only. Any other use is considered a violation of the course and university policies. If you are texting, listening to your iPod, or browsing the internet, you will be marked absent for that day.

E-mail policy – students are responsible for checking their emails regularly for university or class updates. You are required to use your UTA email account when you communicate with your instructors. As instructors often need to communicate with students after the last scheduled class day, students should continue to check their UTA email accounts and visit the course website until final grades for the course are posted. Please check the Undergraduate Catalogue for more detailed explanations of academic regulations.

Academic Integrity

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

“I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.”

Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, 2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2). You may cite the words or ideas of another, but you must document your sources properly using the MLA guidelines. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the

conventions of citation. You may want to review the UTA library tutorial on plagiarism: <http://libraries.uta.edu/infolit/plagiarism/plagiarism.htm>, or talk to me, if you have any questions about how to document a source appropriately or if you are unsure about what constitutes fair usage of someone else's words. All students caught plagiarizing will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and will receive **zero** points on the assignment.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and the letter of federal equal opportunity legislation. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Student Support Services

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, will assist you with any writing assignment while you are a student at UT-Arlington. You may schedule appointments online by following directions available at www.uta.edu/owl/appointments, by calling 817 272-2601, or by visiting the Writing Center. If you come to the Writing Center without an appointment, you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis as tutors become available. The Writing Center is not an editing service; tutors will not correct your grammar or rewrite your assignment for you, but they will help you learn to solve your grammatical and organizational problems.

Drop Policy

April 1 is the last day to drop classes. For more information on the UTA's Drop Policy visit the Office of the Record's website at: <http://www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess/schedule-changes-adddrop-policies>

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

<p>Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381</p>

Tentative Schedule of Assignments
(Subject to change – if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact me or a classmate to check if I made any changes in the reading schedule)

Week 1 – Great Epics and Foundational Narratives

W 1/20 – Introduction to the class. Discussion of the syllabus.

F 1/22 – Homer: *The Odyssey*, Book V.

Week 2 – Great Epics and Foundational Narratives

M 1/25 – Homer: *The Odyssey*, Books V-VI (5-6).

W 1/27 – Homer: *The Odyssey*, Books VII-VIII (7-8).

F 1/29 – Homer: *The Odyssey*, Books IX –X (9-10).

Week 3 – Great Epics and Foundational Narratives

M 2/1 – Homer: *The Odyssey*, Books XI-XII (11-12).

W 2/3 – Abolqasem Ferdowsi: *Shahname. The Tragedy of Sohrab and Rostam*.

F 2/5 – Abolqasem Ferdowsi: *Shahname. The Tragedy of Sohrab and Rostam*.

Week 4 – Term Paper 1 and The Renaissance

M 2/8 – Draft workshop – bring a typed draft of your term paper (**Term Paper 1 guidelines** available on Blackboard > Course Materials > Term Paper 1). Read two sample essays posted on Blackboard (Course Materials > Term Paper 1).

W 2/10 – **Term Paper #1 due** (submit a hard copy of the paper in class and an electronic copy through Blackboard > Term Paper 1> SafeAssign Term Paper 1). Michel de Montaigne: *Essays* – “Of Cannibals.”

F 2/12 – Michel de Montaigne: *Essays* – “Of the Inconstancy of Our Actions.”

Week 5 – The Renaissance and Neoclassicism

M 2/15 – Niccolo Machiavelli: *Prince*, Chapters 15-18.

W 2/17 – Niccolo Machiavelli: *Prince*, Chapters 25-26.

F 2/19 – Jean-Baptiste Poquelin Moliere *Tartuffe* (Acts 1 and 2).

Week 6 – Neoclassicism and Romanticism

M 2/22 – Jean-Baptiste Poquelin Moliere *Tartuffe* (Acts 3 and 4).

W 2/24 – Jean-Baptiste Poquelin Moliere *Tartuffe* (Act 5).

F 2/26 – Walt Whitman: from *Song of Myself*.

Week 7 – Romanticism and Midterm exam

M 2/29 – Alexander Pushkin: “The Queen of Spades.”

W 3/2 – Review for the midterm exam.

W 3/4 – **Midterm exam.** Bring the blue/green exam book (available for purchase at the bookstore).

Week 8 – Realism

M 3/7 – Leo Tolstoy: “The Death of Ivan Ilyich”

W 3/9 – Leo Tolstoy: “The Death of Ivan Ilyich”

F 3/11 – Guy de Maupassant: “The Diamond Necklace.”

Spring Break – March 14-19

Week 9 – Modernism

M 3/21 – Franz Kafka: *The Metamorphosis*

W 3/23 – James Joyce: “Araby.”

F 3/25 – Lu Hsun: *A Madman’s Diary*.

Week 10 – Tradition and Modernity; and Magic Realism

M 3/28 – Rabindranath Tagore: “Conclusion”

W 3/30 – Higuchi Ichiyo: “Separate Ways.”

F 4/1 –Jorge Luis Borges: “The Garden of Forking Paths” and “Borges and I”

April 1 – the last day to drop classes.

Week 11 – Existentialism and Post-Colonial Literature

M 4/4 –Albert Camus: “The Guest”

W 4/6 – Chinua Achebe: “The Novelist as Teacher” and *Things Fall Apart*, Chapters 1-5.

F 4/8 – Kwame Anthony Appiah’s “Facts on the Ground” and Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*, Chapters 6-8.

Week 12 – Post-Colonial Literature

M 4/11 – Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*, Chapters 9- 13.

W 4/13 – Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*, Chapters 14-20.

F 4/15 –Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*, Chapters 21-25.

Week 13 – Draft Workshop and Globalization (cinema)

M 4/18 – Draft workshop – bring a typed draft of your term paper #2 (**Term Paper 2: Signature Assignment guidelines** available on Blackboard > Course Materials > Term Paper 2: Signature Assignment).

W 4/20 – **Term Paper #2: Signature Assignment due** (submit a hard copy of the paper in class and an electronic copy through Blackboard > Term Paper 2: Signature Assignment> SafeAssign Term Paper 2: Signature Assignment). Read the selection from Timothy Corrigan (available on Blackboard).

F 4/22 – Screening: *Good Bye, Lenin!* (Wolfgang Becker, dir) – view in class. Read about the Berlin Wall at History.com (link provided on Blackboard).

Week 14 – Globalization (cinema)

M 4/25 – screening: *Good Bye, Lenin!* (Wolfgang Becker, dir) – view and discuss in class.

W 4/27 – screening: *Good Bye, Lenin!* (Wolfgang Becker, dir) – view and discuss in class.

F 4/29 – discuss *Good Bye, Lenin!* (Wolfgang Becker, dir)

Week 15 – Globalization (literature)

M 5/2 – Jhumpa Lahiri: “This Blessed House”

W 5/4 – Yoko Tawada: “Canned Foreign”

F 5/6 – Review for the final exam.

Final exam: Location – COBA 251; Date and time – Monday 5/9 – 11-1:30 p.m. Bring the blue/green exam book.