

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*1200	Course Title: Reading the Contemporary World	Date of Offering: WINTER 2017
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Course Instructor: Dr. Ajay Heblé	Course Format: Lectures and discussion
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course offers an introduction to the reading and analysis of contemporary literary and cultural texts. The reading list has been chosen to illustrate the development of distinctive literary voices, grounded in different places, conditions, and cultural heritages. We'll be paying special attention to the role of language and its complex relation to social and political issues. The course will also emphasize writing skills.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Essay #1. 500-750 words. Topics will be assigned.	10%
Midterm examination, Week 6	20%
Thesis paragraph for Essay #2	5%
Quiz	10%
Essay #2. 750-1000 words. Topics will be assigned.	25%
Final examination	30%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Toni Morrison, Song of Solomon (Signet)
Yann Martel, The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccamatios (Knopf)
Bronwen Wallace, Common Magic (Oberon)
Thomas King, Medicine River (Penguin)
Daniel Brooks and Guillermo Verdecchia, The Noam Chomsky Lectures: A Play (Talonbooks)

Additional texts may be assigned.

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

Course goals: what you will learn

* how language works (in literary and other representations) to inform, persuade,

entertain, and convey meaning

- * a critical vocabulary for understanding how to read and analyze literary and cultural forms in social and political contexts
- * a range of cultural, critical, social, and political positions expressed by writers of poetry, fiction, drama, prose, and popular cultural forms
- * to develop your own critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, and to find and support your own intellectual positions
- * to refine your own writing by reviewing basic rules of grammar and punctuation, and by practicing various forms of writing (including the essay)

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: