

Course Overview:

This course provides students with a chance to explore different perspectives on literature in multicultural societies such as Canada, the United States, and Britain. We will explore different senses of what "multiculturalism" means, the role of texts in multicultural societies, and the value of reading texts with multiculturalism in mind.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will familiarize themselves with selected English-language literature (with a broad definition of "literature"), as well as critical discussions existing in relation to those texts.
2. Students will develop competency in the area of critically discussing literary texts from a perspective focused on multiculturalism, through group discussion, discussion-leading or panel discussion events, and more.
3. Students will develop critical and "contrapuntal" reading skills when dealing with narrative literary texts.
4. Students will develop a more diverse and nuanced understanding and appreciation of the cultural diversity that composes Anglophone societies (and maybe their own society, too).
5. Students will be invited to reflect on the significance of multicultural literature to the study of their own native Korean literature.

For the purposes of this course, literature will occasionally include media forms other than just written texts, but our primary focus will be on literary texts. There will be a relatively significant amount of reading required on a weekly basis, and independent investigation of critical literature on the texts explored will be required for those wishing to do well in the course.

Teaching method:

Classes will involve lectures, large-group discussions, academic presentations or discussion panels (depending on class size), and more. In lieu of exams, critical essays exploring literary texts will be submitted. As a result, preparation and participation are *absolutely crucial*. It is also vitally important that all students to keep up with assigned course readings, and prepare regular homework assignments on the topic of those readings in the form of Question/Reaction papers. Students should arrive prepared to participate in each class, because participation marks comprise a *significant* part of your grade.

Homework

Student work for this class falls under several different categories.

- Writing weekly reactions and question-contributions
- Preparation for Panel Discussions or Presentations
- Peer feedback on essays and discussions
- Two Essays -- one midterm and one final essay (**or alternative project**)
- Other minor homework assignments
- Participation in an online, message-board discussion of texts and ideas under discussion in the classroom, hosted at the class website.

Textbook

A readings package will be available at the beginning of semester, which will be supplemented by handouts and resources made available at the course website. The contents of that package are TBA.

Should you wish to explore literature not encompassed in this course, please feel free to ask me for recommendations. I will be more than happy to help you find materials which are suited to your needs and worth exploring.

Assessment

As you can see below, course assessment is not heavily focused on examinations.

Class Participation – 20%

Online Discussions – 30%

Homework/Quizzes – 10%

Midterm Essay – 10%

Final Essay – 15%

Presentation – 10%

Department Events Participation – 5%

However, a 0% in any of the above marks will result in an incomplete grade. Students must at least attempt all homework assignments in order to complete the course.

My contact information:

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Course Outline:

The following is extremely tentative and subject to change at any time, but it should give you an idea of what's planned.

Week 1: Introductions, Paperwork, etc.

Week 2: What is Multiculturalism?

Week 3: Text discussion

Week 4: Text discussion

Week 5: Text discussion

Week 6: Text discussion

Week 7: Text discussion

Week 8: Midterm Week -- essay due

Week 9: Text discussion

Week 10: Text discussion

Week 11: Text discussion

Week 12: Text discussion

Week 13: Text discussion

Week 14: Text discussion

Week 15: Wrap-up, Final essays Due

Week 16: Exam Week (No Exam)