



ENG 525.01E ("Contemporary Literature") COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2015

Instructor: M. Hunter Hayes (Associate Professor and Head, Literature and Languages)

Office Location: 140 Hall of Languages

Office Hours: MWF, 9:00-11:00 and by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Martin Amis, *Heavy Water and Other Stories* (9780375701153)

Julian Barnes, *The Lemon Table* (9781400076505)

Roddy Doyle, *The Deportees and Other Stories* (9780143114888)

Sarah Hall, *The Beautiful Indifference: Stories* (0062208454)

Kazuo Ishiguro, *Nocturnes* (9780307455789)

Claire Keegan, *Antarctica* (9780802139016)

A.L. Kennedy, *Original Bliss* (9780375702785)

Salman Rushdie, *East, West: Stories* (9780679757894)

Will Self, *The Quantity Theory of Insanity and Other Stories* (XXXX)

Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House and Other Stories* (9780393312805)

*Students are welcome to use any edition of the above titles.

Course Description

This course examines short narratives, specifically short-fiction collections Published during the past 25 years by writers from the United Kingdom and Ireland. Students should expect to begin developing a working set of theoretical principles for short fiction as a genre with special attention to collections as opposed to individual stories. Students will read ten contemporary short-fiction collections; write one article-length research paper (20-25 pp.) and, before the paper is due, a proposal for the final paper; develop a 15-minute conference paper and presentation with the presentation delivered to the class; and engage in weekly discussions and other course activities.

Catalogue Description: "A study of post-1945 and recent literature in the United States and /or the United Kingdom and Ireland. Special emphasis will be placed on the ways in which national and international phenomena both social as well as aesthetic, have informed an increasingly diverse understanding of literary texts. Topics for analysis could include late Modernism and its links to postmodern thought, Cold War writing, literatures of nationhood, post colonialism, the institutionalization of theory, multiculturalism and its literary impact, and the ever-growing emphasis placed on generic hybridity, especially as it concerns visual and electronic media. May be repeated for credit when the emphasis changes."

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will critique and interpret contemporary works of short fiction by writers from the UK and Ireland over the past 25 years as measured by a research-length analytical paper.
2. Students will critique and interpret contemporary works of short fiction by writers from the UK and Ireland over the past 25 years as measured by a conference-style presentation and related paper.
3. Students will demonstrate that they are active and engaged members of the course as measured by the quality and quantity of regular course discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Each student's performance in the following areas will determine the student's grade for this course:

- **Final Research Paper (40% of course grade)**: All students will complete a final research paper on a topic relevant to the focus of this course. The paper should have authoritative critical support (current books, chapters, articles, etc.) in addition to a well-honed, original argument or interpretation. The paper should be approximately 20-25 pp. in length.
 - See *Student Learning Outcome #1*
- **Conference Paper and Presentation (40% of course grade)**: All students must complete a conference-style paper for a 15-minute presentation on a topic relevant to the focus of this course. Ideally, this paper will develop from one of your other assignments for the class. All students will present the paper at the end of the semester. The paper and presentation will receive a single grade for both elements of the presentation.
 - See *Student Learning Outcome #2*
- **Research paper proposal (10% of course grade)** All students will submit a brief (approx.. 5 pp.) proposal of what they intend to present as their final paper for the course. The proposal should identify the works and authors they wish to examine, critical approach, a working introduction with clear thesis, and a working bibliography.
 - See *Student Learning Outcome #1*
- **Class Participation (10% of course grade)**
Participation grades require completing all assignments, including readings in a timely fashion; productive use of discussions and thoughtful replies to other colleagues' discussions. Some discussions might be online during selected weeks.
 - See *Student Learning Outcome #3*

GRADING

Scale used to compute final letter grades:

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: 59-Below

- *No work submitted late will be accepted. All work not submitted on time will receive a grade of zero (0).*
- *No extra credit work will be assigned.*

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses, you will need to use a current, Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Internet Explorer 9.0 or 10. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - speakers or headphones.
- Depending on your course, you might also need a:
 - webcam
 - microphone

For courses where interactive tools are used, like VoiceThread or ClassLive Pro, headphones are suggested for use with recording and playback. We recommend a webcam with an integrated microphone, such as the Microsoft LifeCam Cinema. All devices should be installed and configured before class begins.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. Java can be downloaded at: <http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- You will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - Adobe Reader
 - Adobe Flash Player

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see:
<https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to:
<http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the 'Tech Support' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You will then be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

Note: Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed?

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or 1-866-656-5511
2. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

Internet Access

An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at <https://leo.tamuc.edu>.

Learner Support

Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](#)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location.

Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](#)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students may contact me during the week by email or by meeting in person in my office. I will likely not reply to emails or to questions posed in the virtual office during the evenings or on weekends. Please be aware that all communication in the virtual office is public, available for the entire class to see. As a result I will not respond to questions about a student's grades in the virtual office in order to protect the privacy of all students.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Because your active participation in discussions is expected, attendance is vital for success in this course. Students must complete all assignments on time, stay current with the readings,

and engage in discussions each week. **No late work will be accepted.** Although differing views and debates among class members are encouraged, I expect all students to treat other class members with respect and courtesy. Rudeness and insulting remarks will not be tolerated. Please be considerate of all other members of this class.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (Student's Guidebook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

Some notes on academic integrity: All students are expected to comply with the university's policies regarding academic honesty. *Academic Honesty Statement: Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion.* (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3])

Any student who commits any infraction of the academic honesty policy as outlined in University Policy [13.99.99.R0.10 \("Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty"\)](#) will receive a failing grade for the course. Students should consult the policy and become familiar with the definitions and procedures.

University Specific Procedures

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Departmental-Specific Procedures

Student Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 \(“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”\)](#).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Tentative Course Schedule:

September 2nd: Course introduction

- How do we define “contemporary”?
- Developing generic theories of the short story

September 9th: Kennedy, *Original Bliss*

September 16th: Amis, *Heavy Water*

September 23rd: Barnes, *Lemon Table*

September 30th: Short Films (HL 203, 5:30 PM)

October 7th: Self, *Quantity Theory of Insanity*

October 14th: Welsh, *Acid House*

- Paper Proposal due

October 21st: Ishiguro, *Nocturnes*

October 28th: Rushdie, *East, West*

November 4th: Hall, *Beautiful Indifference*

- Presentation Discussion

November 11th: Keegan, *Antarctica*

November 18th: Doyle, *Deportees*

November 25th: No Class

December 2nd: Presentations

December 9th: Presentations