English 3341, Contemporary Literature
Instructor: Dr. Hama; mark.hama@angelo.edu; Office: A021a; 486-6147
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:30pm; T/Th 11:00am-12:00pm; also, by appointment if necessary, with 24hr. notice

CLASS POLICIES

Required Texts


Please be aware that the ASU Bookstore returns unused copies of these texts to their suppliers relatively soon after the beginning of the semester, so make sure you purchase them all before that time. Each student is required to bring his/her own copy of each assigned text to class during the assigned period, and is also strongly urged to buy the listed edition. In the case of possible open-book exams, students with the wrong edition may find themselves at a disadvantage in finding listed passages. Also, you must complete the assigned reading prior to the time we cover it in class.

Course Description
Engl 3341 is a detailed analysis of contemporary literature of the past fifty years. Because I believe that our understanding of the literature deepens significantly when we examine it within its historical and cultural contexts, the course will also include background material on the many social, technological, and cultural transformations taking place throughout the world to which literary artists were responding during this period. This material will be covered in lectures, so try not to miss too many sessions or you will lose the thread of our conversation.

Absence Policy
Each student is allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. For each subsequent unexcused absence, 3 points will be deducted from your final semester grade. All absences will be charged against this allotment unless proper written documentation indicating the nature of the absence is presented; in any case, I reserve the right to determine whether the absence will be excused. Further, you are responsible for keeping up with the syllabus during any absence. You are also expected to be in the classroom and prepared for the day's work at the start of class. If you arrive after the assigned class-time on any regular basis, I will bring the matter to your attention. At that point, any further late arrivals will each be counted as an absence. Finally, a total of seven or more absences will constitute grounds for failing the course.
**Requirements and Grading**
The course work will include a midterm examination, unannounced reading quizzes, an 8-10 page research paper with an accompanying annotated bibliography, and a final examination. In the case of late written assignments, five points will be deducted from the grade for each day late, including weekends and holidays. *To be considered for a passing grade, each student must complete and turn in all assignments.* Class sessions will include lectures, class discussions, group work, and possibly some quizzes or other written assignments. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

- **Midterm Examination**
  
- **Final examination**
  
- **Annotated bibliography**
  
- **Research Paper**
  
- **Class participation/quizzes**


**Classroom Decorum:**
In order to succeed in the course, each student must be *completely* prepared with all assigned reading and must undertake an active, responsible role in all classroom activities. The 10% for class participation is not awarded simply for attendance; each student must earn it by contributing to the exchange of ideas upon which every successful course depends. Please *do not* come to class unprepared; if you do, I reserve the right to ask you to leave and to charge you with an absence. Any student who falls asleep will be awakened and asked to leave the class. If these actions would embarrass you, please come to class prepared and alert. Also, eating, drinking, talking disruptively, habitually forgetting the textbooks, and doing coursework for other classes are prohibited. Following University tobacco-use policy, no tobacco products of any kind, including chew or dip, are to be used in the classroom. Finally, please turn off all electronic gadgetry—cell phones, etc. You will be charged with an absence for each time you use your cell phone or any other tech device in class without my express permission. This includes having the phone out on your desk or anywhere else it might interfere with your attention in this class.

**Academic Honesty**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at [http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf). At minimum students who are determined to have violated this policy will receive a failing grade on the assignment, and may also receive a failing grade in the course

**Students with Disabilities**
Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
Syllabus

T 8/29  Class Introduction  
        Lecture on Contemporary Period

Th 8/31  Lecture on Post-modernism and the Contemporary Novel


Th 9/7  continue *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*, Chaps. 23-42, pp. 194-330

T 9/12  continue *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*, Chaps. 43-61, pp. 331-467

Th 9/14  **Research Project assigned**  
        Library Research Orientation


Th 9/21  continue *The Black Prince*, Part Two, 197-295


Th 9/28  Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*, Parts I-V, pp. 3-75

T 10/3  continue *The Handmaid’s Tale*, Parts VI-X, pp. 77-188

Th 10/5  continue *The Handmaid’s Tale*, Parts XI-XIII, pp. 189-263

T 10/10  continue *The Handmaid’s Tale*, Parts XIV-XV and “Historical Notes,” 265-311

Th 10/12  Harold Pinter, *The Homecoming*, Act One, 5-44

T 10/17  Discuss midterm exam  
        continue *The Homecoming*, Act Two, 44-82

Th 10/19  **Midterm Exam**


Th 10/26  continue *Top Girls*, Act Two, Scene 3, and Act 3 all, 45-87


Th 11/9    Toni Morrison, *Beloved*, 1-85
T 11/14   continue *Beloved*, 86-199
Th 11/16  Annotated Bibliography due
          continue *Beloved*, 200-275
T 11/21   David Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Act One, 9-51
Th 11/23  Thanksgiving holiday
T 11/28   *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Act Two, 52-108
T 12/5   continue *Waiting for the Barbarians*, Chaps. III & IV, pp. 57-121
Th 12/7   Last day of class
          Research paper due
          Discuss Final Exam
          continue *Waiting for the Barbarians*, Chaps. V & VI, pp. 121-156

Final Examination: Thursday, December 14, 10:30am-12:30-pm