

UC 11875 12F ✓

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Undergraduate Council
 New Course Course Change
 Core Category: WID Effective Fall 2014

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council
 New Course Course Change
 Effective Fall 2013

1. Department: MCL College: CLASS
 2. Faculty Contact Person: Alessandro Carrera Telephone: 3-3069 Email: acarrera@uh.edu

APPROVED MAR 27 2013

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
 • Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
WCL / 4365 / World Fiction & Reportage
 • Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.):
WCL / 4365 / WORLD FICTION & REPORTAGE
 • SCH: 3.00 Level: SR CIP Code: 1601040001 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

RECEIVED OCT 12 2012

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements
 5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? Yes No
 If Yes, please complete:
 • Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
 ____ / ____ / ____
 • Course ID: ____ Effective Date (currently active row): ____

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): ____
 • Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? Yes No
 • Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? Yes No
 • Can the course be repeated for credit? Yes No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
WCL / 4365 / World Fiction & Reportage
 • Course ID: 48200 Effective Date (currently active row): 20128

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)
 Cr: 3 (3.0). Prerequisites: ENG 1304 Description (30 words max.): Recent works of transnational literature or national literature with transnational appeal, including both fiction and reportage that highlight world issues and global awareness.

10. Dean's Signature: _____ Date: 10/9/12
 Print/Type Name: Dr. Sarah Fishman

REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: MCL

Person Making Request: Alessandro Carrera

Telephone: 3-3069

Email: acarrera@uh.edu

Dean's Signature: _____

Date: September 10, 2012

Course Number and Title: WCL 4365 – World Fiction & Reportage

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

Students will be able to demonstrate a familiarity with the scope and variety of works in world fiction and non-fiction reportage, and will be able to analyze those works as expressions of individual and group values within an historical and social context. Students will be able to effectively communicate their understanding of works of world fiction and non-fiction reportage as powerful means of communication in the age of globalization. Students will be able to identify and evaluate the influence of world fiction and reportage from all over the world on intercultural experiences. Students will explore issues of personal and social responsibility in class and in their writing. Students will achieve a solid introduction to the understanding of the overall field and will be asked to produce written work of quality corresponding to the level of the course involved.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

Communication

American History

Mathematics

Government/Political Science

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Social & Behavioral Science

Creative Arts

W.I.D. Component Area Option

Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication Skills

Social Responsibility

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Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

Critical Thinking:

Students will write a final paper that asks them to analyze contemporary novels, reportages, or hybrid fiction-and-non-fiction books in light of a critical understanding of aesthetic judgments and an appreciation of the interconnectedness of contemporary world.

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT

After reading *Zone* by Mathias Énard and *Gomorrhah* by Roberto Saviano analyze the two books (one a novel, the second one a non-fiction reportage) from two out of these three points of view (1500 words minimum):

Critical: How do both authors deal with the contemporary historical reality of the Mediterranean countries. Explain the difference of their approach and evaluate the one that, according to your opinion, is more effective (if you think this comparison is possible; and if you think it isn't, explain why).

Historical: Put both books in their historical context (you will need internet or library research to do that). Which countries do they address? How do they explain the historical and social changes that their characters (either fictional or real) encounter?

Political / Personal: The books engage the reader in different fashion, because of the way in which political and historical reality become personal in the stories they tell. What do you understand of the underlying reality that makes the background of their stories? And what feature of these books is the one that affects you the most? Their violence and shock-value, the seriousness of the themes they address, or the individual tragedies they describe? Can you picture yourself in the landscape the two authors describe? What would your reaction be if you just "were there"?

Communication Skills:

In the same final paper as above, students will demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively.

Empirical & Quantitative Skills:

N/A

Teamwork:

N/A

Social Responsibility:

In the same assignment as above, students will explore issues of social responsibility together with their assessment of cultural issues.

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Personal Responsibility:

In the same assignment as above, students will explore issues of personal responsibility together with their assessment of cultural issues.

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course? Yes No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature: Dr. Hilde

MCL / CLASS**WCL 4365 World Fiction & Reportage
(Writing in the Disciplines)****Prof. Alessandro Carrera****713-743-3069****acarrera@uh.edu**

Recent works of transnational literature or national literature with transnational appeal, including both fiction and reportage that highlight world issues and global awareness.

The objective of the writing in the disciplines in a World Fiction & Reportage core curriculum course is to expand students' knowledge in relation to human groups and cultures, in relation to behaviors, ideas, and values expressed in literary works of Western and non-Western origin that often combine fiction and non-fiction elements, a novelistic approach with the reportage research background. Through study of European, Latin-American, African, Asian, and Middle-Eastern contemporary novels, reportages, or hybrid fiction-and-non-fiction books (all in English translation), students will engage in critical analysis, form aesthetic judgments, and develop an appreciation of the interconnectedness of contemporary world. Specific goals include the following:

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in world fiction and non-fiction reportage.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and group values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works of fiction and reportage and the humanities.
4. To develop an appreciation for the principles of imagination and realism essential to today's fictional and reportage literature.
5. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of world fiction and reportage from all over the world on intercultural experiences.
6. To achieve a solid introduction to the understanding of the overall field and to produce written work of quality corresponding to the level of the course involved.

Students will receive guidance in analyzing works of fiction and reportage in relation to social contexts, as well as in broader cultural contexts.

They will participate in the comparative analysis of literary works and the evaluation of analyses by their peers and professionals, so they will develop criteria for considering their own work.

They will be asked to produce drafts and help evaluate each other's work in the light of the overall field and its contexts this leading to their final draft paper.

Evaluation of Students:

Attendance and Participation:	25%
1000 word Analyses (individual or as part of a group):	25%
1000 word Analyses (individual or as part of a group):	25%
Final paper (1000 words minimum)	25%

Student Evaluation of Course:

Students will be given a questionnaire about course midway in the semester and at semester's

end. The questionnaire will raise questions about reading assignments, requirements, classroom procedures, etc. Students will also evaluate the course at the end of the semester using the standard evaluation form.

On the basis of the midterm student evaluation of the course, the professor may consider possible adjustments in the syllabus before semester's end. No syllabus change will raise the requirements or level of difficulty for the course, or make it less likely for the student to succeed. The final standard evaluation will be used for rethinking the course for the next time it is given.

Bibliography

- Bolaño, Roberto. *2666*. Picador, 2009.
 Énard, Mathias. *Zone*. Open Letter, 2010.
 Gosh, Amitav. *The Circle of Reason*. Mariner Books, 2005.
 Jian, Ma. *Red Dust: A Path through China*. Anchor, 2002.
 Jian, Ma. *Beijing Coma*. Picador, 2009.
 Naipaul, V. S. *Among the Believers*. Picador, 2001
 Politkovskaja, Anna. *A Small Corner of Hell*. University of Chicago Press, 2007.
 Politkovskaja, Anna. *Is Journalism Worth Dying for?* Melville House, 2011.
 Rushdie, Salman. *Midnight's Children*. Random House, 2006.
 Saviano, Roberto. *Gomorra*. Picador, 2008.
 Saviano, Roberto. *Beauty and the Inferno*. Maclehorse Press, 2011.
 Sebald, W. G. *The Emigrants*. New Directions, 1997.

Schedule in Brief

- Week 1: Southern Europe & the Mediterranean: *Zone*, by Mathias Énard
 Week 2: Southern Europe & the Mediterranean: *Zone*, by Mathias Énard
 Week 3: China: *Red Dust: A Path through China*, by Ma Jian
 Week 4: China: *Beijing Coma*, by Ma Jian
 Week 5: Italy: *Gomorra*, by Roberto Saviano.
 Week 6: Italy: *Beauty and the Inferno*, by Roberto Saviano.
 Week 7: Latin America: *2666*, by Roberto Bolaño
 Week 8: Latin America: *2666*, by Roberto Bolaño
 Week 9: Russia: *A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya*, by Anna Politkovskaya
 Week 10: Russia: *Is Journalism worth Dying for?*, by Anna Politkovskaja
 Week 11: Jewish Diaspora: *The Emigrants*, by W. G. Sebald

Week 12: The Muslim World: *Among the Believers*, by V. S. Naipaul

Week 13: The Muslim World: *Among the Believers*, by V. S. Naipaul

Week 14: India: *Midnight's Children*, by Salman Rushdie

Week 15: India: *The Circle of Reason*, by Amitav Gosh.