

E 349S ● 5-Toni Morrison

Instructor: Woodard, H

Unique #: 35345

Semester: Spring 2012

Cross-lists: WGS 340, AFR 374F

Areas: N/A

Flags: Writing, Cultural Diversity

Restrictions: N/A

Computer Instruction: N/A

Prerequisites: Nine semester hours of coursework in English or rhetoric and writing.

Description: This course examines select novels by Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, Toni Morrison. The novels thematize womanism as theory in experiences uniquely shared by women across ethnic, class, and regional boundaries. Collectively, Morrison's characters confront a wide range of challenging crises: infanticide, familial relationships and conflict, cultural survival, etc. Morrison's novels are a gloss on the African-American literary tradition, deeply rooted in the American literary tradition.

Texts:

REQUIRED READING:

The Bluest Eye, 1970.

Sula, 1973.

Song of Solomon, 1977.

Tar Baby, 1981.

Beloved, 1987.

Jazz, 1992.

A Mercy, 2008.

COURSE PACK (purchase at Speedway; Dobie)

Requirements & Grading:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- .60 Two Critical Essays (5-6 pages; typed, ds)
- .20 A Reading Notebook (12 page minimum; weekly entries, typed, double spaced. See separate instruction sheet)
- .20 Critical citations TBA/reading quizzes
class participation.

ATTENDANCE:

Regular attendance is required. More than four absences will be sufficient grounds for failure in the course. Penalties may range from a reduction in overall course grade to failure of the course itself. I reserve the right to make decisions on a case-by-case basis. The four allowed absences will include illness, deaths of relatives, and other emergencies. If you are more than five minutes late or leave before class ends (without permission), you will be counted absent for that class. You are responsible for all work covered in your absence. Read each novel completely by the first day of discussion for that book. No makeup for quizzes is permitted. Course pack articles are required reading.

English Major Area: SENIOR SEMINAR

*The course contains select novels from the Toni Morrison literary canon. Three lecture hours per week for one semester. The subject of each class meeting may be determined from the assigned reading for the day (see course schedule). The instructor retains the right to vary this syllabus.

Grading Scale:

Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following rubric. Please note that to ensure fairness, all numbers are absolute, and will not be rounded up or down at any stage. Thus, a B- will be inclusive of all scores of 80.000 through 83.999. The University does not recognize the grade of A+.

A (94-100); A- (90-93); B+ (87-89); B (84-86); B- (80-83); C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D+ (67-69); D (64-66); D- (60-63); F (0-59).

Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade. This is a writing-intensive course. No final exam is given.

Schedule:

*TENTATIVE COURSE READING SCHEDULE

(*Note: Subject to "announced" changes)

- TU 1/17 Introduction to course; policies, etc.
Toni Morrison, Bio-critical portrait of a
Pulitzer and Nobel Prize Laureate.
- TH 1/19 Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*.
Lecture and discussion, Mass/popular culture
and desire. "Notes on History, Community,
and Black Female Subjectivity" (course pak).
- TU 1/24 *The Bluest Eye*. Lecture and discussion.
- TH 1/26 *The Bluest Eye*. "Toni Morrison and the Burden
of the Passing Narrative" (course pak).
- TU 1/31 *The Bluest Eye*. Lecture and discussion.
- TH 2/2 Morrison, *Sula*. Lecture and discussion.
- TU 2/7 Morrison, *Sula*. Lecture and discussion.
- TH 2/9 Morrison, *Sula*. Lecture and discussion.
"Who Cares? Women-Centered Psychology
in *Sula*" (course pak).
- TU 2/14 *Sula*. Discussion, "Civilizations
Underneath" (course pak).
*HAND IN READING NOTEBOOK ENTRIES 1-4.
- TH 2/16 *Song of Solomon*. Lecture and discussion.
- TU 2/21 *Song of Solomon*. Lecture and discussion.
- TH 2/23 *Song of Solomon*. Lecture and discussion.
CRITICAL ESSAY I DUE.
- TU 2/28 *Song of Solomon*. Lecture and discussion.
- TH 3/1 Morrison, *Tar Baby*. Lecture and discussion.
Group presentation II: "Folklore & myth
in *Sula* and *Song of Solomon*."
- TU 3/6 Morrison, *Tar Baby*. Lecture and discussion.
"Unspeakable Things Unspoken," course pak.
- TH 3/8 Morrison, *Tar Baby*. Lecture and discussion.
- MON MARCH 12 – 16 SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)
- TU 3/20 *Beloved*. Lecture and discussion.

READING NOTEBOOK ENTRIES 4-8.

TH	3/22	<i>Beloved</i> . Lecture and discussion.
TU	3/27	<i>Beloved</i> . Lecture and discussion.
TH	3/29	<i>Beloved</i> . Lecture and discussion.
TU	4/3	<i>Beloved</i> . Lecture and discussion.
TH	4/5	Jazz. Lecture and discussion.
TU	4/10	Jazz. Lecture and discussion. CRITICAL ESSAY II DUE.
TH	4/12	Jazz. Lecture and discussion.
TU	4/17	Jazz. Lecture and discussion.
TH	4/19	Jazz. Lecture and discussion.
TU	4/24	A Mercy. Lecture and discussion. COMPLETE READING NOTEBOOK ENTRIES 1-8 DUE.
TH	4/26	A Mercy. Lecture and discussion.
TU	5/1	A Mercy. Lecture and discussion.
TH	5/3	A Mercy. Lecture and discussion. MAJOR ESSAY I OR II REVISION DUE.
(FRI	5/4	LAST CLASS DAY)

Policies:

Class Policies:

Absolutely no make-up for reading quizzes. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Except under extreme emergencies, and then only with the permission of the professor, late assignments will not be accepted. I reserve the right to make these decisions on a case by case basis. Students are expected to turn in all required assignments on the agreed upon due date at the beginning of class. Read all material assigned *before* class time. Participation in class discussion is required. Papers turned in during or after class on the due day will be considered late. Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) Stylebook for all papers. Type papers on white, 8.5" x 11" paper, using one side only. Bind pages with a paper clip.

Special Accommodations for Students with a Disability:

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259. Please notify the professor of any special accommodations that you may need prior to the end of the second week of class.

Policy on Religious Observance:

A student who is absent from a class or examination due to the observance of a religious holy day may complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence if proper notice has been given. Notice must be given at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester.