

## E f349S • 5-Toni Morrison

**Instructor:** Woodard, H  
**Unique #:** 83665  
**Semester:** Summer 2012, first session  
**Cross-lists:** AFR 374F; WGS 340

**Areas:** I / H  
**Flags:** Cultural diversity  
**Restrictions:** n/a  
**Computer Instruction:** No

**Only one of the following may be counted:** E 349S (Topic 5), 376M (Topic: *The Novels of Toni Morrison*), 379S (embedded topic: *The Novels of Toni Morrison*).

**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. Morrison's novels are a gloss on the African-American literary tradition, deeply rooted in the American literary tradition.

**Required Reading:** *The Bluest Eye*, 1970; *Sula*, 1973; *Song of Solomon*, 1977; *Beloved*, 1987; *A Mercy*, 2008; COURSE PACK (purchase at Speedway; Dobie).

**Requirements & Grading:** .25 Midterm exam; .25 Final exam; .25 One Critical Essay TBA (5-6 pages each; typed, ds); .25 Presentations (TBA)/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.

\*The course contains select novels from the Toni Morrison literary canon. 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.

### 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.

### Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

### Academic Integrity:

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>.

### 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.

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. A midterm and final exam are given.

## \*TENTATIVE COURSE READING SCHEDULE

(\*Note: Subject to announced changes)

- TH 5/31** Introduction to course; policies, etc.  
Toni Morrison, Bio-critical portrait of a  
Pulitzer and Nobel Prize Laureate. Introduction  
to *The Bluest Eye*.
- FRI 6/1** Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*.  
Lecture and discussion.
- MON 6/4** The Bluest Eye. Lecture and discussion.  
“Notes on History, Community,  
and Black Female Subjectivity” (course pack).
- TU 6/5** *The Bluest Eye*. Lecture and discussion.
- WED 6/6** *The Bluest Eye*. Lecture and discussion.
- TH 6/7** Group presentation I: Mass culture and desire.  
Introduction to *Sula*. Lecture and discussion.
- FRI 6/8** *Sula*. Lecture and discussion.
- MON 6/11** *Sula*. Lecture and discussion.
- TU 6/12** *Sula*. Discussion, “Who Cares? Women-Centered  
Psychology in *Sula*” (course pack).
- WED 6/13** Group presentation II: Folk culture in *Sula*.  
Introduction to *Song of Solomon*.
- TH 6/14** *Song of Solomon*. Lecture and discussion.
- FRI 6/15** *Song of Solomon*. Lecture and discussion.
- MON 6/18** *Song of Solomon*. Lecture and discussion.  
“Civilizations Underneath” (course pack).
- TU 6/19** *Song of Solomon*. Lecture and discussion.
- WED 6/20** Midterm exam.
- TH 6/21** *Beloved*. Lecture and discussion.
- FRI 6/22** *Beloved*. Lecture and discussion.
- MON 6/25** *Beloved*. Lecture and discussion.

**“Unspeakable Things Unspoken.” JStor.**

**TU 6/26 *Beloved*. Lecture and discussion.**

**WED 6/27 *Beloved*. Lecture and discussion.**

**TH 6/28 Group presentation III (*Beloved*): *The Margaret Garner Story*. Introduction to *A Mercy*.**

**FRI 6/29 *A Mercy*. Lecture and discussion.**

**MON 7/2 *A Mercy*. Lecture and discussion.**

**TU 7/3 *A Mercy*. Lecture and discussion.**

**WED JULY 4 HOLIDAY; NO CLASSES**

**TH 7/5 Group presentation IV: Role playing the “*Unmastered Women*” in *A Mercy*.  
*\*Mina Mae, Florens, Rebecca, Lina, Sorrow***

**FRIDAY 6 JULY, 2:00-5:00, FINAL EXAMINATION (ROOM TBA)**