Dr. Biling Chen

Introduction to Fiction, spring 2018

Office: IRBY314

Office Hours: MWF 8:00-9:00 AM; MW 1:00-2:00 PM; 3:00-4:00 PM

Office TEL: 852-2637

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**Required Text:**

*My Year of Meats*  Ruth Ozeki

*Who’s Irish?* Gish Jen

*The Middleman and Other Stories* Bharati Mukherjee

*Drown*  Junot Diaz

*The Refugees* Viet Thann Nguyen

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* Mohsin Hamid

**Course Description and Objectives:** Through reading long and short fiction by contemporary American and British writers with transnational backgrounds, students will learn how multiculturalism and globalization shape the world in which we live today.

**Grading System:**

1. 100 points: class attendance, active participation, and courtesy

2. 100 points: quizzes and group discussions

3.  200 points: first oral presentation (2-3 minutes); first paper (2-3 pages).

4.  200 points: second oral presentation; (2-3 minutes); second paper (2-3 pages).

5.  200 points: midterm exam

6.  200 points: final exam

**Final Grades:**

900-1000 points: A

800-899 points: B

700-799 points: C

600-699 points: D

**Class Policies:**

1. You are expected to buy, borrow, or co-own the textbooks, because reading the assignments is essential.  I sympathize but do not accept such excuses as your parents’ inability or unwillingness to help you financially; or the Financial Aid Office’s failure to give you a loan on time, etc.
2. Before class begins, please turn off your cell-phone, beeper, iPod, or any other electronic devices; or use the restroom. Disruptive behavior, including tardiness, cheating during the exams, chatting or leaving the class in the mid of my lecture or your classmates’ presentations, will not be tolerated. **Each of the** **violations will cost you 10 points of your attendance and participation grade.**
3. Quizzes will be given before, during, or after my lecture. I will not repeat the questions or extend the time if you cannot finish the quiz because of your own tardiness.  Any missed in-class activities, for example, quizzes and group discussions **cannot be made up**.
4. You can make up your missed oral presentations and exams **within a week only if you present proofs**, such as a program of the funeral you attended, a doctor’s note on the hospital’s letterhead, a receipt from the garage to which you sent your car to be repaired, etc.
5. I take attendance every class period. You should also keep track of your own absences. You are allowed to miss 4 classes without penalty—there is no need to inform me of your absences within this limit, no matter whether you have any valid excuses. Missing 5 classes will lead to your final grade one letter lower. (In other words, if the average grade of your written, verbal, and other performances is B, you will receive C instead.) Y**ou will not pass this course if you miss 6 or more classes.**
6. Plagiarism is a crime. Use MLA documentation format if you consult secondary sources for your papers. A plagiarized paper receives an F.
7. I do not accept late papers or email versions of them. If you get sick, make sure that you find someone to bring your paper to me on the due day before 3:00 P.M.
8. I will deduct **5 points** from your **unstapled paper**. Please do not ask me for staples.
9. The final exam will take place in the time slot that the registrar assigns the class. **Please do not request an earlier final exam**.
10. If you have learning disability and need extra time writing your exams, please visit UCA Office of Disability Services (TEL: 450-3613) and have them mail me the proper documentation to demonstrate your special need before 1/19
11. Check the Student Handbook regarding Sexual Harassment and Academic Policies.
12. The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity.  Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the University’s Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook.  Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate.  Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of this university policy.
13. Student evaluations of a course and its professor are a crucial element in helping faculty achieve excellence in the classroom and the institution in demonstrating that students are gaining knowledge. Students may evaluate courses they are taking starting on the Monday of the twelfth week of instruction [insert date] through the end of finals week by logging in to myUCA and clicking on the Evals button on the top right.
14. The instructor reserves the right to modify reading assignments if need be.

**Syllabus**

1/12 introduction

*My Year of Meats*: **Impacts of the Food and Media Industries on Humans**

1/15 MLK Day, no class

1/17pages 1-30

1/19      33-63

1/22       64-94

1/24       94-127

1/26       127-157

1/29       157-197

1/31       198-241

2/2         243-284

2/5         285-321

2/7         323-361

*Who’s Irish?***: Who’s American?**

2/9 “Who’s Irish?”

2/12 “Chin”

2/14 ”In the American Society”

2/16 “Water Faucet Vision”

2/19 optional one-on-one conference for 1st oral presentation and paper in Irby 314

2/21 oral presentations

2/23 oral presentations

*The Middleman and Other Stories***: Continuous Balancing Acts**

2/26 1st paper due; “A Wife’s Story”

2/28  “Orbiting”

3/2 “Jasmine”; “Danny’s Girl”

3/5 “Fathering”; “Loose Ends”

3/7 review game

 3/9 midterm exam

*Drown***: Dreaming the American Dream**

3/12 “Ysrael”

3/14 “Fiesta, 1980” ; “Aguantando”

3/16  “Drown”; “How to Date a Browngirl, Blackgirl, Whitegirl, or Halfie”

3/19, 3/21, 3/23 spring break

3/26 “Edison, New Jersey”

3/28 “No Face”; “Negocios”

*The Refugees***: Strangers Within Ourselves and Among Us**

3/30 “The Black-eyed Woman”; “War Years”

4/2 “The Other Man”; The Transplant”

4/2 “Someone Else Besides You”

4/4” The Americans”

4/6 “Fatherland”

4/9 optional one-on-one conference for the second presentation and paper at Irby 314

4/11 oral presentations

4/13  oral presentations

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist***: Global Capitalism and Personal Choices**

4/16  second paper due; Chapters 1, 2, 3

4/18 4, 5, 6

4/20 7, 8, 9

4/23 10, 11, 12

4/25 review game

5/2 final exam, 2:00-4:00 (9:00 class)

5/4 final exam, 10:00-12:00 (2:00 class)