

Dr. Biling Chen
Intro to Fiction: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness
MWF 1:00 PM, Spring 2019
Office: IRBY314
Office Hours: MW 8:00-8:50; 2:00-4:00 PM
 F 8:00-8:50; 2:00-3:00 PM
Office TEL: 852-2637
Email: blchen@uca.edu

Required Texts:

Philip Roth: *Goodbye Columbus*
Gish Jen: *Who's Irish?*
Rick Moody: *The Ice Storm*
Ruth Ozeki: *My Year of Meats*
Viet Than Nguyen: *The Refugees*
Mohsin Hamid: *Exit West*

Course Description and Objectives: Through reading short stories, novellas, and novels by contemporary writers with various backgrounds, students will learn how the value systems of the United States transform in different decades after WWII, and how multiculturalism and globalization affect the world in which we live today.

Grading System:

1. 100 points: class attendance, active participation, and courtesy
2. 100 points: posting questions on google classroom (**code: t7p0x0**), quizzes, and group discussions
3. 200 points: two oral presentations (3-4 minutes each)
4. 200 points: two papers (2-3 pages each)
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.) **You 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 4:00 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 email me the proper documentation to demonstrate your special need before 1/18.
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 through the end of finals week by logging in to myUCA and clicking on the Evals button.
14. Check the electronic version of this syllabus for UCA's emergency policies. Go to the website of the English Department, click on Faculty and Staff, find my name, scroll down, and you will find the syllabus there.
15. **Title IX disclosure:** If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to

“student-on-student” or “employee-on-student”), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>. **Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.*

Syllabus

1/11 Introduction

To Rebel, Or Not to Rebel? That Is the Question

1/14 P. Roth: Goodbye Columbus, Chapters 1-3

1/16 Chapters 4-6

1/18 Chapters 7-8

1/21 MLK Day, no class

1/23 “The Conversion of the Jews;” “You Can’t Tell a Man by the Song He Sings”

1/25 “Defender of Faith”

1/28 “Eli, the Fanatic”

1/30 “Eli, the Fanatic”

Towards A Multicultural Society

2/1 G. Jen: *Who’s Irish?* “Who’s Irish?”

2/4 “In the American Society”

2/6 “Water Faucet Vision”

2/8 “Chin”

2/11 optional one-on-one conference at my office for first oral and paper

2/13 first oral presentation (3-4 minutes)

A Culture of Narcissism—the Me Generation

2/15 first paper due (2-3 pages); Rick Moody: *The Ice Storm*, pages 3-51

2/18 pages 52-102

2/20 pages 105-151

2/22 pages 152-202

2/25 pages 205-253

2/27 pages 254-274

3/1 review

3/4 midterm exam

Strangers Within and Without

3/6 V. Nguyen: *The Refugees*, “Black-eyed Women”

3/8 “The War Years”
3/11 “The Other Man”
3/13 “The Transplant”
3/15 “The Americans”
3/18, 3/20, 3/22 spring break

We Are What We Eat?

3/25 R. Ozeki: My Year of Meats: Prologue; Chapters 1-2
3/27 Chapters 3-4
3/29 Chapters 5-6
4/1 Chapters 7-8
4/3 Chapters 9-10
4/5 Chapters 11-12; epilogue
4/8 optional one-on-one conference at my office for second oral and paper
4/10 second oral presentation (3-4 minutes)

Men and Women in the Global South and North

4/12 second paper due (2-3 pages); Jhumpa Lahiri, “Boori Ma” (handout)
4/15 M. Hamid: Exit West, Chapters 1-3
4/17 Chapters 4-6
4/19 Chapters 7-9
4/22 Chapters 10-12

4/24 review
4/26 study day
4/29 final exam; 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

