

Dr. Christine Loflin

Humanities 103

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10:45-11:15 and 2-3

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English 345: Contemporary World Literature

Course objectives: In this course, we will be reading contemporary fiction from India, Sudan, South Korea, China, and Great Britain. Two general themes of the course are:

- 1) How do we evaluate contemporary literature?
- 2) Are there any shared themes, topics, styles across these different texts? What is contemporary literature about?

In this course, students will learn to

- Write concise analytical papers about literature
- Identify literary principles that are valuable for interpreting contemporary literature
- Discuss and compare texts across cultures
- Write a research paper on contemporary fiction

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Class Participation: This will count for 10% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion. Quizzes will be part of your class participation grade.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me.

Grading percentages:

Class attendance:	10%
Eight short papers	40%
Midterm	10%
Research Paper/presentation	25%
Final Exam	15%

Tentative schedule:

Tentative schedule of assignments

8/29 Introduction

9/3--9/19 Readings: How it strikes a contemporary,“ Leila Aboulela *Minaret*

9/3 First paper due

9/19 Second paper due

9/24-10/2 *The White Tiger*

10/4 no class 3rd paper due

10/8 Fall Break

10/10-10/17 *Indian short stories TBA*

10/17 4th paper due

10/22-10/29 Kyung-Sook Shin *Please Look After Mom*

10/31-11/5 5th paper due Research paper workshops

11/7-11/14 Kazuo Ishiguro *Never Let Me Go*

11/14 6th paper due

11/19 Annotated Bibliography due

11/19-11/26 YiYun Li *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*

11/21 drafts of research paper due (optional)

11/24 7th paper due

11/28 Thanksgiving

12/3-12/10 Research presentations

12/5 Final short paper due

12/10 Review for final

