

MEDAILLE COLLEGE  
18 Agassiz Circle  
Buffalo, NY 14214

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number & Title: ENG 355 – Major Literary Forms: The Novel  
Section: 01 Credits: 3  
Semester: Fall 2007 Prerequisites: Any 200-level literature course

Instructor: Dr. Ted Pelton Availability: Monday 11am – 1pm  
Office: Main 204 Wednesday 11am – 1pm  
Phone: 880-2327  
Email: tpelton@medaille.edu

**Please note: Grading of student papers will reflect standard English usage. The MLA and APA bibliographic styles are generally used at Medaille.**

### Statement on Disabilities

Any student with a disability who believes he/she needs accommodation(s) in order to complete this course should contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible. The staff in the Office of Disability Services will determine what accommodations are appropriate and reasonable under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Main Building, Room M031, and can be reached by phone at (716) 880-2391.

### Academic Integrity

Medaille's faculty and administration expect all students to complete their academic assignments with honesty and integrity. Students who engage in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on a test, forging a signature or an entire college document) will be dealt with severely, with penalties ranging from an F on a given assignment to failing a course or even academic suspension. Students should consult their *Student Handbook* for full details on the college's policy and procedures for handling formal charges of academic dishonesty.

### A. Catalog Description of Course

A study of one of the important forms of literature: drama, short story, novel, or poetry using representative examples. The course will include the history and development of the form as well as its nature and variety. A student may take the course more than once for credit under different literary forms.

The form we will be concerned with in this class will be the novel.

## B. Objectives

- Recognize the significant traits of the novel.
- Identify the interrelationship between the novel and its history and development.
- Become acquainted with and demonstrate ability to use literary terminology.
- Apply practical criticism to the representative works read.

## C. Outline of Course Content

No course in the novel can be comprehensive, so all books considered will be viewed as representative texts, as well as being considered as particular works, from particular periods and places, by particular authors.

### I. An Introduction to the Novel

### II. The Philosophical Novel: *Candide* – Voltaire (France, 1759).

### III. The American Romantic Novel: *The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne (US, 1850)

### IV. The Contemporary World Novel: *Snow* – Orhan Pamuk (Turkey, 2005).

### V. Modernism and the Novel

#### A. *The Metamorphosis* – Franz Kafka (Czechoslovakia, 1915).

#### B. *Mrs. Dalloway* – Virginia Woolf (England, 1925).

### VI. The Postcolonial Novel: *Efuru* – Flora Nwapa (Nigeria, 1966).

### VII. Contemporary Criticism and the Novel

## D. Method of Evaluating Students

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Presentation on MLA Bibliography article	10%
Research Essay based on article	30%
Essay (two assigned – only one counts for grade)	30%
Final Identification Quiz	10%
Participation	20%

Every student in the class will be assigned a novel to research in the MLA Bibliography database, and will make a presentation on an article (i.e., not a book review) during the days we are considering that author. An essay based upon your research will be due a few days after your presentation. The presentation will be worth 10% and your response essay another 30%.

Note: as articles may need to be retrieved through Interlibrary Loan, please get an early start on finding an article on your assigned author. You are urged to locate several articles in beginning this task, so you can choose the one that works best for you.

In addition, there will be two other essay due dates. I will choose the better of the two grades on these to count in your final average. This essay will count 30%.

For all papers, you may revise if you receive a grade of C- or below. In such cases, the grade you receive on the revised essay will be the average of your new grade and the prior grade.

You are also urged to come to my office to discuss drafts of your essays. Get an early start on your essay, so as to have enough time to see me, if you have trouble. Unfortunately, I cannot accept drafts of essays for comment unless you can make the time to come to my office to discuss the essay with me. You are also urged to consult with me about your MLA article – these can be difficult to read and comprehend.

In final exam week, there will be a short Identification Quiz, where you will need to identify the author of each of ten passages, presented anonymously. This will ensure that you have read what's been assigned during the semester, and also that you have learned to pay attention to the language used by an author. This quiz will count 10%.

Your level of reading preparedness will also be measured in your Class Participation grade. Participation involves being prepared for each class meeting and interested and involved in our discussions, as well as attending 2 literary reading events during the semester, as described below. Adjustments for poor attendance will be made as part of this grade, for the purpose of figuring out your average.

### Literary Reading Event Requirement

We are extremely fortunate this semester that Orhan Pamuk, the current Nobel Prize winner in Literature and a native of Turkey, will be visiting Buffalo. We will be reading his novel, *Snow*, during the semester. You are expected to attend his reading off-campus, at The Church at Asbury Hall, on Delaware Avenue in downtown Buffalo, Friday, Nov. 6, 8pm. Tickets are normally \$15, but I will make every effort to have the college pay for this, it being a class requirement.

Students must also **attend at least one** of the events of the Write Thing Reading Series during the semester. All are on Thursday evenings at 7pm in Huber Hall library. The dates are as follows:

- Sept. 20 – Poet Joseph Lease
- Oct. 11 – Fiction writer Anouar Majid
- Oct. 25 – Fiction writer Aimee Parkison
- Dec. 6 – Fiction writer and poet Maxine Chernoff

#### E. Course Attendance Policy

Attendance at all classes is expected. Attendance will be taken at the start of each session. As this class meets twice a week, the instructor reserves the right to lower a student's final grade by 1/3 for each absence after the third. If you know you will be missing a future class, please tell me ahead of time.

#### F. Course Textbooks

- Candide* – Voltaire (France, 1759). Penguin. Deluxe ed. ISBN 0143039423.
- The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne (US, 1850). Penguin. ISBN 0142437263.
- Snow* – Orhan Pamuk (Turkey, 2005). Vintage. ISBN 0375706860.
- The Metamorphosis* – Franz Kafka (Czechoslovakia, 1915). Dover. ISBN 0486290301.
- Mrs. Dalloway* – Virginia Woolf (England, 1925). Harvest. ISBN 0156628708.
- Efuru* – Flora Nwapa (Nigeria, 1966). Heinemann. ISBN 0435900269.

All books are available through the MBC-Medaille electronic bookstore. Because of the amount of reading assigned, it will not be permissible to share texts in this class – each student must have his or her own books.

***Note: You may purchase these books from any reliable vendor, but make certain you are ordering the correct book and that the vendor you are using is reputable. Students are ultimately responsible for acquiring books for classes and are expected to do so in a timely manner.***

#### Syllabus

Please complete assigned reading prior to the class for which it is scheduled. Particular page assignments TBA, but as a general rule read approximately the amount of pages proportional to the number of days we are covering a particular book (i.e., if we are spending 5 days on a book, approximately 1/5 of the book will be covered in each class session, etc.).

Sept.	5	W	Intro
	7	F	Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> , chapters 1-6
	10	M	<i>Candide</i> , chapters 7-15
	12	W	<i>Candide</i> , chapters 16-23
	14	F	<i>Candide</i> , chapters 24-30
	17	M	<b>Meet at library for MLA database orientation</b>
	19	W	Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>

**Sept. 20 – Write Thing Series: Poet Joseph Lease.  
Huber Hall Library, 7pm.**

	21	F	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> ; essay #1 assigned
	24	M	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	26	W	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	28	F	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
Oct.	1	M	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	3	W	<b>Presentations on <i>Candide</i> and <i>The Scarlet Letter</i></b>
	5	F	<b>Presentations on <i>Candide</i> and <i>The Scarlet Letter</i></b>
	8	M	OFF – Hemispheric Encounter Recognition and Memorial day
	10	W	Orhan Pamuk, <i>Snow</i> ; essay #1 due

**Oct. 11 – Write Thing Series: Fiction writer Anouar Majid.  
Huber Hall Library, 7pm.**

	12	F	<i>Snow</i>
	17	M	<i>Snow</i>
	19	W	<i>Snow</i>
	21	F	<i>Snow</i>
	22	M	<i>Snow</i>
	24	W	<i>Snow</i>
	26	F	<i>Snow</i> ; essay #2 assigned

**Oct. 25 – Write Thing Series: Fiction writer Aimee Parkison.  
Huber Hall Library, 7pm.**

	29	M	<i>Snow</i>
	31	W	Franz Kafka, <i>The Metamorphosis</i>
Nov.	2	F	<i>The Metamorphosis</i>
	5	M	<i>The Metamorphosis</i>

**Nov. 8 – Nobel Prize winning novelist Orhan Pamuk, Asbury Hall at The Church, 324 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo (ticket required)**

7	W	<b>Presentations on <i>Snow</i> and <i>The Metamorphosis</i></b>
9	F	<b>Presentations on <i>Snow</i> and <i>The Metamorphosis</i></b>
12	M	Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
14	W	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
16	F	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
19	M	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> ; essay #3 assigned
21-23	W-F	Thanksgiving Recess
26	M	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
28	W	Flora Nwapa, <i>Efuru</i>
30	F	<i>Efuru</i>
Dec. 3	M	<i>Efuru</i>
5	W	<i>Efuru</i>

**Dec. 6 – Write Thing Series: Fiction writer and poet Maxine Chernoff.  
Huber Hall Library, 7pm.**

7	F	<b>Presentations on <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> and <i>Efuru</i></b>
10	M	<b>Presentations on <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> and <i>Efuru</i>; essay #3 due</b>

Final Identification Quiz date, TBA