Description:

In this class we will read and discuss five of the most influential and interesting “British” novels of the 21st century. Each of the texts that we will study has various elements of significance, and we will consider both stylistic and thematic issues as we attempt the difficult task of accurately assessing rather current works. How may we value these authors and these specific novels, while at the same time placing them in the over-all continuum of literary history?

Program Learning Outcomes:

Students will
- closely and accurately read complex texts
- comprehend and apply critical theories with relevant interpretation to texts
- demonstrate knowledge of British literary history
- effectively conduct literary research
- write clear, grammatically correct prose

Texts:

Haddon-The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
McCann-Let the Great World Spin
McEwan-Saturday
Smith-On Beauty
Atkinson-Life After Life
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers-Eighth Edition

Course Requirements:

There will be frequent (almost daily) quizzes over the readings. They will be short answers, designed to stimulate discussion of the assigned passages for that day and will count 10 points each. These reading quizzes cannot be made up unless you have written documentation of a severe illness or some other serious and unavoidable distress that made it impossible for you to attend class on that day. Such documentation must be submitted to me and the make-up quiz must be taken no more than one class period after your return to class. I will drop the three lowest quiz grades and all other quiz grades will be averaged and counted toward your final grade.
You will also do a critical analysis essay of 10-12 pages on a topic related to one of the assigned texts. For this essay, you must accurately cite your sources according to current MLA format. Come to me as soon as possible to discuss what you want to write about—as soon as I accept your topic, you should begin your research and writing.

Grades:

- Participation ............... 20%
- Quizzes ......................... 20%
- Final Exam ....................... 20%
- Critical Essay ..................... 40%

**Participation—Attendance**

Mere attendance is not participation. I will take attendance each day, but there is no attendance grade. Participation involves careful pre-class preparation and willingness to engage the ideas that you’ve developed with your professor and classmates. The best possible format for such a class is one that mixes lectures and class discussion. In order for this format to be successful we must all read each assignment, take active notes about the various readings and our responses to them, and be willing to both assert our opinions and conscientiously listen to the opinions of others. Do not be afraid to ask questions and to offer opinions about the reading assignments. A substantial part of your final grade is based upon class participation, so I encourage you to attend regularly, be on time, and respond thoughtfully.

Participation grades will be lowered by many absences, by late arrival to class, by sleeping in class, by phones or other electronics going off in class, by net surfing, text messaging or any other disruption or discourtesy to the class.

**Final Exam:**

Because of current covid 19 policies, the final exam will be a “take home essay” that you will write and submit to our D2L drop box. The essay will focus on issues and topics that we have discussed over the semester, and you will have a significant amount of personal choice as to what you choose to write about.

**WH Grades**

Only assigned if course work cannot be completed due to unavoidable circumstances that must be documented for and approved by Dr. Given (with possible review and advice from the Department Chair).
Disabilities:
To obtain related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004/ 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Definition of academic dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of another into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Presenting someone else’s work as your own is a serious offense and will not be tolerated in the academic community of which you are a member. By this time in your academic career, you should be well acquainted with what constitutes plagiarism. If not, you should review the university policy on plagiarism at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

I reserve the right to fail any student who plagiarizes.

If you have ANY doubts about whether the idea that you are considering or the language that you are using is “yours” or someone else’s, SEE ME before you turn in your work and we will discuss how best to present it. Unfortunately, there have been several incidents at all undergraduate and graduate levels in which students thought that they could take shortcuts in their work without being caught and/or penalized. They were wrong. Remember—any of the Internet shortcuts available to students are also available to my colleagues and me. Our entire department is very serious about this issue and plagiarism in my class will result in a failing grade.
COVID-19 MASK POLICY Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.

I HAVE READ AND DISCUSSED THE ABOVE GUIDELINES. I UNDERSTAND AND WILL WORK WITHIN THESE GUIDELINES AS LONG AS I AM ENROLLED IN THIS SECTION OF ENGLISH 4312.

(Sign and Print your name here)