English 347: The Novel in Context  
(prerequisite: C or above in Eng 299)

Session: Fall 2014  
Instructor: Dr. Marjorie Allison  
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Main office phone: 298:1103 (just messages)  
Office: 326 Simpkins Hall  
Office Hours: M,W,F: 9:30-11, and by appt.  
Office Hours: M,W,F: 9:30-11, and by appt.  
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Main office phone: 298:1103 (just messages)  
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Required Texts:
Alvarez, Julia. *In the Time of the Butterflies*  
Barclay, Robert. *Melal*  
Barrio, Raymond. *The Plum Plum Pickers*  
Davenport, Kiana. *Shark Dialogues*  
Ferre, Rosario. *The House on the Lagoon*  
Hagedorn, Jessica. *Dream Jungle*  
Momaday, N. Scott. *The Way to Rainy Mountain*  
Zinn, Howard. *A People’s History of American Empire*

Students may also need to read materials from course files accessed at WesternOnline.

***Students should also own a copy of Diana Hacker’s *A Pocket Style Manual* or a similar manual

(In addition to reading the above texts, we may view films or film clips together)

Course Description:
Literature and the stories people tell about themselves can help to create national identity or start a revolution. Powerful empires (Roman and British) or nations (United States and Russia) often have literary traditions that promote or criticize the power and influence of the state. In this course we will examine novels that examine US political involvement around the world and/or the aftermath of a US presence. We will read novels from such places as Hawai‘i, The Philippines, and Panama to explore how novelists have used their work to respond to US power. For background, we will also read a graphic text by Howard Zinn that puts US history into a context often ignored by mainstream media.

As always, this course will also have the goal of increasing each student’s critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. Further, we will explore the aesthetic choices the authors have made—why might they choose to write as they do and what is the effect of their choices?

Requirements and Grading:
Participation: In this course students are expected to participate fully in class discussion. This is not a lecture course and each student must come to class each day ready and willing to raise questions and make comments about the text at hand. Students will be asked to bring in outside materials at times. The success and quality of the course is in the hands of the students—only full participation and commitment will make the course “work” to its fullest potential. Each student will be asked to help lead class discussion at least once this semester. (Class Participation is worth about 15% of
the final grade, or 150 points).

Quizzes: Throughout the semester students will have 11-12 quizzes and/or informal assignments that will be worth 10 points each. The quizzes will be based primarily on factual information from the current class reading. At the end of the semester, 1-2 of the lowest quiz scores will be dropped. (The combined quiz average for the semester will be worth about 10% of the final grade, or 100 points).

Papers: You will write three formal papers. The shorter papers will each be about 4 pages long. The longer paper will be about 8 pages long and include secondary sources. In the papers you will respond to one or two of the texts and explore a question of interest to you. (The first paper is worth about 10% of the final grade, or 100 points, second is worth about 15% of the final grade, or 150 points, the longer paper is worth about 20% of the final grade, or 200 points).

Exams: You will take two exams which will be comprised of short answer and essay questions. (The exams will each be worth about 15% of the final grade, or 150 points each).

General Information
--Participation, Attendance and Punctuality: Because this course is based upon class discussion, attendance and participation are crucial to the success of the course and the success of individual students in the course. In order to participate you must not only attend class but also arrive on time. If you are absent, it is up to you to find out from classmates what material you have missed and to find out what you need to do for the next class session. Any student who falls into a pattern of absenteeism will find his or her final grade adversely effected; persistent lateness will have a similar effect. Each student is allowed four absences for the semester--no questions asked. For each absence beyond four, I will deduct one half grade from your final grade for Class Participation. A pattern of chronic absences will result in the final, overall grade being lowered.

--Conduct: I expect my classes operate with great respect for a large diversity of ideas and viewpoints. This atmosphere is essential in any academic setting. I expect all students to respect and listen to other viewpoints—I do not expect all students to agree on issues. So, mature, respectful, and thoughtful dialogue is encouraged. Insensitive comments and conduct will not be tolerated, whether aimed at me or at a class member. Please see the Code of Student Conduct:
http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php

--The papers must be typed or word-processed. Grades on late papers will be lowered half of a grade for each day late unless you have made special arrangements with me before the due date.--I reserve the right to not write comments on late papers.

--University Writing Center: “The University Writing Center is available to assist you with general and specific questions on writing assigned in any discipline and at any academic level. The one-on-one assistance available at the University Writing Center is valuable for generating ideas, talking about global-level issues such as organization, and even working through grammatical problems. The University Writing Center is located in Malpass Library (3rd floor, west side). Call for an appointment (298-2815) and
be sure to bring a copy of your assignment."

--Grading is done in accordance with college guidelines and are earned according to the following standard:

100-93 = A
92-90 = A-
89-87 = B+
86-83 = B
82-80 = B-
79-77 = C+
76-73 = C
72-70 = C-
69-67 = D+
66-63 = D
62-60 = D-
59 and below = F

--All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

--Please turn off your cellphone ringer during class, and please refrain from texting during class.

--Exams can only be rescheduled in advance of the test.

--A final note--you are urged to keep an extra copy of your papers and of any other important work. If you work at a computer, make a physical backup of your working disk--backup the disk, don't just backup the files. If you hand something in late or in to my e-mail account, be sure that you confirm with me that I received the material.

WIU Policies

- **ADA**: In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. For the instructor to provide the proper accommodation(s) you must obtain documentation of the need for an accommodation through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and provide it to the instructor. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor’s attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 309-298-2512 for additional services.

- **Student Rights and Responsibilities**: [http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php](http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php)

- **Academic Integrity Policy**: [http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php)

HONEST WORK IS EXPECTED; I cannot say this strongly enough. Plagiarism will be reported to CAGAS. Please see the above link regarding the Policy on
Academic Integrity.

Reading Schedule
(This schedule and list is subject to change according to the needs of the class. All changes will be announced in class, and it is up to you to keep informed about any changes.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>Class Introductions</td>
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<td>8/27</td>
<td>Begin Zinn</td>
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<td>9/1</td>
<td>No Class-Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Finish Zinn</td>
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<td>9/5</td>
<td>Begin <em>The Way to Rainy Mountain</em></td>
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<td>“ and <strong>PAPER ONE DUE</strong></td>
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<td>Begin <em>The Plum Plum Pickers</em></td>
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<td><strong>MIDTERM EXAM</strong></td>
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11/3  “
11/5  “
11/7  Begin *Shark Dialogues* and **PAPER TWO DUE**

11/10 “
11/12 “
11/14 “

11/17 “
11/19 “
11/21 “

**Thanksgiving Break 11/24- 11/28**

12/1  Begin *In the Time of Butterflies*
12/3  “
12/5  “ and **Paper Three Due**

12/8 “
12/10 “
12/12 Wrap-up- and finish *Butterflies*

**Final:** Wed, Dec. 17th at 10 am