

**SYLLABUS- ANG 1033**  
**Twentieth Century Literatures in English**

Professor Caroline Brown  
Winter 2012  
Course Meeting Times: Tues, 1-4pm  
Office: C-8137  
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**Course Description**

Writers write, oftentimes creating works of beauty and ideological force. But what do writers have to say about the position of the author and the process of writing itself, of other modes of artistic expression and of aesthetics, the study of form? What is the dividing line between writing and other creative formats, from music to the visual arts? In “20<sup>th</sup> Century American Literature,” we will explore the significance of art, aesthetics, and literary experimentation in the oeuvre of a selection of world writers in English, using their works to better understand twentieth century literature, culture, and politics.

**Required Texts (Available at UdeM Bookstore)**

A.S. Byatt	<i>The Matisse Stories</i>
Esi Edugyan	<i>Half-Blood Blues</i>
Henry James	<i>The Lesson of the Master</i>
Gayl Jones	<i>Corregidora</i>
Jamaica Kincaid	<i>Lucy</i>
Toni Morrison	<i>Jazz</i>
Colm Tóibín	<i>The Master</i>

**Course Objectives**

- (1) A primary objective of this course is for us to be conscious of how we engage in critical inquiry and, in the process, claim space as scholars.
- (2) Central to this process is reading. It’s necessary to read for class. Read critically and on time.
- (3) Discussion is the most obvious manifestation of the life of the mind in the university classroom. It’s also essential in the creation of a community of thinkers. In order to create a healthy environment, it’s important to treat others with respect while feeling that we have the right and responsibility to question and challenge other thinkers and writers.
- (4) **Essay #1** is due at the mid-point of the course, **Tues., Feb. 28**. Instead of working your way through the entire text, focus on one facet of the work that you want to investigate (i.e.-character, symbolism, narrative strategies, etc.) and develop a thoughtful analysis of this point. Rather than provide a passive summary, you want to develop an argument.
- (5) There will be an **In-class Final Exam** administered on **Tues., April 17**. There will be no make-up sessions or substitutions. You are expected to sit for the exam with the other members of the class.

### Course Mechanics

- Class participation is a must. It improves the quality of discussion (and is graded for both content and frequency).
- All essays must be typed. Each should be double-spaced and have a one-inch margin. Please use a standard font. Remember to title your essays and include page numbers. Staple all pages together.
- Plagiarism, the uncredited use of another's words, research, and thoughts, is forbidden. It will not be tolerated. Please document your sources appropriately.
- You are responsible for collecting any materials or assignments handed out during an absence.

### Course Requirements

Participation	10%
Reflection Papers	10%
Essay (4-5 pages)	40%
Final Exam	40%

### SCHEDULE

#### **WEEK 1** (1/10)

Introductions

#### *Reflections on the Writer and the Literary Text*

#### **WEEK 2** (1/17)

*The Lesson of the Master* (Henry James)

#### **WEEK 3** (1/24)

*The Master* (Colm Tóibín)

#### **WEEK 4** (1/31)

*The Master* (Colm Tóibín)

#### *Visual Art and Aesthetics*

#### **WEEK 5** (2/7)

*The Matisse Stories* (A.S. Byatt)

#### **WEEK 6** (2/14)

*Lucy* (Jamaica Kincaid)

#### **WEEK 7** (2/21):

*Lucy* (Jamaica Kincaid)

#### **WEEK 8** (2/28):

*Due:* Essay

#### **WEEK 9** (3/6):

*Vacation*

#### *Music and Performance*

**WEEK 10** (3/13)

*Corregidora* (Gayl Jones)

**WEEK 11** (3/20)

*Corregidora* (Gayl Jones)

**WEEK 12** (3/27)

*Jazz* (Toni Morrison)

**WEEK 13** (4/3)

*Jazz* (Toni Morrison)

**WEEK 14** (4/10)

*Half Blood Blues* (Esi Edugyan)

**(4/17) FINAL EXAM**

A.S. Byatt (Random House) *The Matisse Stories*  
Geoff Dyer (xxx) *But Beautiful*  
Esi Edugyan (xxx) *Half-Blood Blues*  
Henry James (Melville House 9-7809774-607849) *The Lesson of the Master*  
Jamaica Kincaid (Plume 978-0452-266773) *Lucy*  
Toni Morrison (xxx) *Jazz*  
Colm Tóibín (Scribner 978—0-74332-5041-2) *The Master*