Moberly Area Community College
Common Syllabus
LAL153 Introduction to Contemporary Literature
Current Term

Instructor: 
Office number: 
Office hours: 
Contact information: 
Classroom number: 
Class days and time: 

Catalog Description: *LAL153 Introduction to Contemporary Literature (3-0-3)
This course focuses on the appreciation of Contemporary literature with particular emphasis on surveying a diverse scope of genres (short stories, poetry, drama). It focuses on terminology, techniques, and critical interpretation of literature written in the last 30 years. (FA, SP, SU)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

Text(s):
Title: Coyota in the Kitchen: A Memoir of New and Old Mexico
Author: Rodríguez
Publisher: University of New Mexico Press
ISBN: 978-0-8263-5672-7

Title: Proof: A Play
Author: Auburn
Edition: 2001
Publisher: Farrar, Straus & Giroux
ISBN: 978-0-571-19997-6

Title: Skeleton Crew
Author: Morisseau
Publisher: Samuel French
ISBN: 978-0-573-70516-8

Other Required Materials: Per instructor’s policy

Purpose of Course: The course will provide an overview of contemporary literature. It is designed to give students an understanding of an appreciation for poetry, essays, short stories, and drama. It prepares students for further study of literature, enhances reading comprehension and writing skills,
encourages interpretative dialogue and debate and helps students to appreciate literature as an art form.

**Course Objectives:**
- Experience various interpretations of literature.
- Substantiate their own analysis/interpretation of various works through written assignments, class discussions and tests.
- Understand writer’s intent in conjunction with various other literary criticisms (once the student has formed and expressed personal analysis).

**Course Content:**
1. Interpreting and Evaluating Fiction
2. Types of Fiction and Elements of Fiction
3. Contemporary Stories
4. Elements of Poetry
5. Contemporary Poetry
6. Elements of Drama
7. Contemporary Drama

Students are expected to remain current with the readings. Each student should respond to the selections being discussed. Class discussion promotes debate, substantiation of ideas, self-esteem and critical thinking. When students have formulated personal interpretation and analysis, the instructor should attempt to point out author’s intent and also bring forward various other critical analysis of the work. The course will cover a variety of contemporary authors.

**Assessment of Student Learning:** The grading scale will follow a standard of 100-90% A, 89-80% B, 79-70% C, 69-60% D. Grading will be based on tests and quizzes over the lectures and literature, in-class activities, writing assignments, oral reports, library assignments, or other projects.

**Expected Study Time Commitments:** Students should expect to spend approximately 2 to 4 hours per week studying, reading, and working on assignments for each registered credit hour. For example, 6 to 12 study hours per week may be expected for a 3 credit hour class.

**Description of Major Assignment(s)/Project(s):** Lectures will be presented on the history, genre, and interpretation of contemporary literature. Occasionally, videos will be viewed. A variety of authors, stories, poems, plays, and essays will be read and discussed with special emphasis on content, interpretation, writing style and techniques. Students will be able to discuss plot, theme, character, tone, style, symbolism, illusion, setting, point of view, and structure. The course includes class discussions of assigned reading led by the instructor, small group discussions, class discussions led by students, written assignments, quizzes and tests. Students will prepare and deliver one oral report on a writer of their choice and several of his/her works. Students will also write one critical analysis of any short story listed on the course outline.

**Major Assignments:**
- Short Story Unit: 3 page analysis of any short story on course outline
Poetry Unit: Oral presentation of author and two of his/her poems
Drama: Group activity
Midterm and Final

Schedule of Student Assignments/Activities: Instructors will identify a Student Assignment/Activities schedule. Instructors have the prerogative to construct the schedule by class periods, weeks, or an overview of topics to be covered.

Statement to Connect Course with General Education Outcomes: In compliance with MACC’s General Education outcomes, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- **Managing Information**: Students will demonstrate the ability to discern when there is a need for information; and to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.
- **Valuing**: Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the moral and ethical values of a diverse society; and to appreciate the values of diversity, equity, and sustainability.

College / Instructor Policies:

**Academic Dishonesty**: MACC board policy is as follows: “Academic dishonesty by students damages institutional credibility and unfairly jeopardizes honest students; therefore, it will not be tolerated in any form.” Forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following: violations of copyright law, plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, collusion, and other academic misconduct. Incidents of dishonesty regarding assignments, examinations, classroom/laboratory activities, and/or the submission of misleading or false information to the College will be treated seriously. The procedure for handling academic dishonesty is outlined in the Student Handbook (Policy Handbook, M.010). In cases of alleged academic dishonesty, the burden of proof is on the student, not on the instructor.

**Attendance Policy**: Students are expected to attend all class sessions for which they are enrolled. The College reserves the right to drop or withdraw students from courses due to lack of attendance. Students need to be aware that dropping/being dropped from a course and their last date of attendance in the course may impact their financial aid.

MACC faculty are required to track attendance and report lack of attendance. An instructor must complete the appropriate steps to drop a student within one week following the student’s violation of the attendance policy. Additionally, a student’s attendance rate will be calculated based upon the first day the academic session begins (not the student’s date of enrollment in the course). If a student does not attend a course as defined below, the student will be dropped as “Never Attended.”

**Term Length Drop Calculations**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Length</th>
<th>Drop Rule</th>
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<tr>
<td>16-week</td>
<td>Any student who misses two (2) consecutive weeks of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by</td>
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the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

8-week: Any student who misses one (1) consecutive week of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

4-week: Any student who misses two (2) consecutive days of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

Intersession: Any student who misses one (1) day of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

Acceptable justification may include, but is not limited to, family emergencies, illness or injury, college-approved co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and religious holidays.

Definition of Course Attendance

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<tr>
<th>In Seat Course</th>
<th>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Course</td>
<td>Being present, via appropriate platform, for scheduled class meetings/activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hybrid Course</td>
<td>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings and active participation in the online portion of the course which may include any or all of the following:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Completion of quizzes or exams during class meetings and online</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Submission of assignments during class meetings and online</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation in discussions during class meetings and online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Active participation in an online course includes the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Completion of quizzes or exams</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Submission of assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation in threaded discussions</td>
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Simply logging into the Learning Management System (Canvas) and/or accessing the course and course related material does not constitute active participation for the online component of hybrid courses or for online courses. *(Policy Handbook, I.090 & M.095)*

All students are expected to attend class each day. Excused absences are reserved for college excuses (a doctor’s excuse, school activity or a Dean's excuse). A student will be permitted to make
up an exam or turn in an assignment if the exam is taken or the assignment is turned in on the first day of return and if he or she has a college excuse in hand the day of return. In-class activities and quizzes cannot be made up. These points are reserved for those students in attendance only. If the student should miss class, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what was done, what was assigned, and to be prepared when he or she returns to class. This class will adhere to MACC policy for dropping the student if he or she misses two consecutive weeks of class or more than one-third of the total class periods.

**Tardiness:** Per instructor’s policy

**Make-up and late work:** Per instructor’s policy

**Extra-credit work:** Per instructor’s policy

**Student Email:** MACC Mail is the official student email system at MACC. Official college communication is sent via this email system. Students are responsible for checking their MACC Mail account regularly. Students may also receive notifications and reminders from MACC through the online learning platform. However, students should remain aware that the online learning platform messaging system and MACC Mail (student email) system are two separate systems.

**ADA Statement:** Students who have disabilities that qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act may register for assistance through the Office of Access and ADA Services. Students are invited to contact the Access Office to confidentially discuss disability information, academic accommodations, appropriate documentation and procedures. For more information, please call either the Moberly office at (660) 263-4100 x 11240 or the Columbia office at (573) 234-1067 x 12120, or visit our web page at [http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office](http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office).

**Title IX Statement:** MACC maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and sexual violence. All MACC employees, including faculty members, are considered mandated reporters of sexual misconduct and as such are expected to contact the Title IX Coordinator when they become aware, in conversation or in writing, of an incident of sexual misconduct. For more information on this policy or to learn about support resources, please see [http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy](http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy) (links to an external site) or contact Ms. Cheryl Lybarger, MACC’s Title IX Coordinator, at 660-263-4110, ext. 11369 or CherylLybarger@macc.edu.