

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** LIT. 813    **TITLE:** The Novel

**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

**Method of Grading:** P/NP Only

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Non-Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** none

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Study of a representative selection of novels of the 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries and of various aspects of literary criticism. Authors may include Jane Austen, Charlotte and Emily Bronte, Thomas Hardy, Henry James, William Faulkner, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, among others. Lectures, discussions, and related reading. (Units do not apply toward AA/AS degree.)

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of representative novels of the 19th, 20th, and 21st century using the standard techniques and terms of literary analysis to discuss and interpret.
2. Present a critical, independent analysis of themes in one or more novels of the 19th, 20th, and 21st century in the form of a project or presentation.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

**All Student Learning Outcomes listed above are course objectives as well. Other course objectives include the ability to do the following:**

1. Read and evaluate with understanding and appreciation major novels of the 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries
2. Apply critical thinking skills in analyzing and comparing novels from various eras as part of class discussion and written response
3. Recognize the importance of literature in its reflection of human experience

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. The craft of fiction: various techniques used in the writing of novels, such as plot, theme, characterization, types of narration, etc. The course will evaluate how styles of fiction change over the course of centuries to reflect the tastes and expectations of readers;
2. Major historical events and their influence upon and relationship to novels, such as the expansion and then dissolution of the British Empire, the burgeoning women's movement, the Civil War, the Cold War, and other such events.
3. Major literary innovations and techniques, such as stream of consciousness, magical realism, and postcolonial perspectives in 20th and 21st Century novels;
4. The history and uniqueness of the novel as one of the latest of literary forms, distinct from drama, short stories, and poetry;
5. Selected literary theories, such as reader-response criticism, biographical criticism, Marxist and feminist criticism, etc., to demonstrate how these theories can shape a reader's interpretation of a novel.
  - A. Students may examine works of literary criticism from various centuries to gauge how scholars and society responded to the various novels under discussion.
  - B. The typical activities students will engage in include but are not limited to the following: reading and discussion of novels, along with keeping a reading journal. Student groups may be asked to research and present topics related to the novels. Some attendance of live performances, readings, and outside lectures may be suggested for enrichment purposes.
  - C. Novels chosen should reflect exemplary writing from both genders and diverse ethnicities and nationalities. Novels should be representative of their eras and should be selected primarily for their importance in the development of the novel from the 19th to 21st Centuries. Possible authors include but are not limited to the following:
  - D. 19th Century: Jane Austen, Henry Fielding, Charlotte and Emily Bronte, Charles Dickens

- E. 20th Century: Thomas Hardy, D.H. Lawrence, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, E.M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, Alice Walker, Charles Frazier, Isabel Allende, Gabriel Garcia-Marquez, Zora Neale Hurston, Margaret Atwood
- F. 21st Century: Tobias Woolf, Jeffrey Eugenides, Ian McEwan, Ann Tyler, Junot Diaz

## 7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Other (Specify): Reading Assignments: Students will be expected to prepare for class by staying current with the assigned readings, whether of the novels themselves or of literary criticism or materials on historical events pertaining to the novels. Students will read between six to eight novels per semester, depending on length of the selected novels Lecture/ Discussion: Instructors will provide analysis and background on literary issues as well as cultural or historical topics that arise from a scholarly examination of the novels. Instructors will also facilitate discussion and interpretation from students, either from individual students or in small groups. Critical Thinking: Students will analyze and interpret novels as texts, both in discussion and informal writing, which requires critical thinking. Students will be asked to apply critical theories and historical and cultural perspectives to class discussions, as well as articulate the connections between forms and themes in novels. All of these activities require critical thinking. Outside Readings, Lectures, Live Performances, Films. Some current authors of novels selected for the class reside in the Bay Area and give readings and lectures-such as ones delivered at College of San Mateo in our speakers series. Many films are also available, either representing the novels themselves or adding related cultural or historical perspectives to the novels selected for the course. Often live performances of related importance to the novels are available to students in the greater Bay Area, who may wish to attend some of these events listed above for enrichment purposes.

## 8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

### **Reading Assignments:**

Students will be expected to prepare for class by staying current with the assigned readings, whether of the novels themselves or of literary criticism or materials on historical events pertaining to the novels. Students will read between six to eight novels per semester, pending on length of the selected novels

### **Other Outside Assignments:**

Outside Readings, Lectures, Live Performances, Films: Some current authors of novels selected for the class reside in the Bay Area and give readings and lectures-such as ones delivered at College of San Mateo in our speakers series. Many films are also available, either representing the novels themselves or adding related cultural or historical perspectives to the novels selected for the course. Often live performances of related importance to the novels are available to students in the greater Bay Area, who may wish to attend some of these events listed above for enrichment purposes.

## 9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Students will be expected to keep a reading journal with a specified number or entries for each of the novels.

## 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Other:

- A. 19th Century: Pride and Prejudice; Jane Eyre; Wuthering Heights  
20th Century: The Turn of the Screw; A Passage to India; A Farewell to Arms; Their Eyes Were Watching God; The House of the Spirits; Cold Mountain  
21st Century: Atonement; The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Diaz; Middlesex; Blood Drenched Beard; Americanah; Diary of the Fall

**Origination Date:** November 2016  
**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** January 2017  
**Effective Term:** Fall 2017  
**Course Originator:** Daniel Keller