

Introduction to Multi-Ethnic Literature

English 218-001
Fall 2008
Clow C45
English Dept. Website:
www.english.uwosh.edu

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Texts (in order of consideration)

- *Beginning American Ethnic Literatures* by Helena Grice, Candida Hepworth, Maria Lauret, and Martin Padget
- *Reservation Blues* by Sherman Alexie
- *Flight to Canada* by Ishmael Reed
- *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- Selected Poetry

Course Description

English 218 will allow students to explore a variety of multi-ethnic texts. Our study will primarily focus on the following authors: Sherman Alexie, Ishmael Reed, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Sandra Cisneros. We will also read and discuss other ethnic writers and orators. Through these works we will examine the history, depth, and persistence of the complex cultural attitudes toward race and ethnicity in America.

Course Objectives

1. To teach students strategies for close reading of literary texts.
2. To stimulate and teach strategies for critical thinking, active learning, interactivity, collaboration and communication among students.
3. To help students develop the abilities necessary to write effective prose.
4. To teach students basic literary research skills.
5. To discuss the benefits of reading literature critically and to explore how doing so can change one's view of people and cultures.

Requirements/Grading

1. Article Critical Analysis = 100 points
2. Character Analysis = 100 points
3. Exams (2) = 200 points
4. Quizzes/In-class Writing/Class Participation = TBD

Attendance

Because quizzes and class participation are worth 20% of your grade, it is imperative that you strive to make every class. Quizzes cannot be made up without an acceptable excuse (e.g. illness, family emergency, university-sponsored sporting events and field trips). Students with six hours of unexcused absences will fail the course.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to be present in class and turn in assignments on time. Failure to meet this expectation will result in a lower score – grades will drop one-half of a letter grade for each calendar day past due.

Grading Scale (%)

A: 100-95
AB: 94.9-90
B: 89.9-85
BC: 84.9-80
C: 79.9-75
CD: 74.9-70
D: 69.9-65
F: Below 65

Plagiarism

University of Wisconsin System guidelines forbid plagiarism, which is a form of academic misconduct and an intellectual crime. Among those forms of plagiarism forbidden:

- Submitting work as your own when part or all of it was done by someone else
- Submitting work that contains the language or ideas of others without identifying your source
- Handing in work for one class that you have handed in (or are handing in) for another course (English Department Website).

Course Outline

While the outline gives due dates for most reading and all major assignments, it does not list every assignment. A final word: the outline is not chiseled in stone. If we need more time to complete a task or to pursue a point of interest, we will – within reason – take it.

Week 1

9/3: Introduction; Video (*Native Americans: The Invisible People*)
9/5: Video continued

Week 2

9/8: *Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*, pp. 1-24

9/10: **Meet in the Radford Teaching Lab.** Poetry (N. Scott Momaday, Paula Gunn Allen, James Welch, Joy Harjo, Louise Erdrich, and Sherman Alexie)

9/12: Poetry

Week 3

9/15: Poetry

9/17: *Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*, pp. 49-60
Reservation Blues, Chapters 1-3

9/19: *Reservation Blues*, Chapters 4-7

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Week 4

9/22: *Reservation Blues*, Chapters 8-10

9/24: *Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*, pp. 64-85
Native Son -- Critical Review

9/26: Library Instruction

Week 5

9/29: Dunbar Poetry

10/1: Dunbar Poetry

10/3: DuBois and Washington

Week 6

10/6: Critical Analysis Conferences

10/8: Critical Analysis Conferences

10/10: *Flight to Canada*

Week 7

10/13: *Flight to Canada*

10/15: *Flight to Canada*; **Critical Analysis Due**

10/17: *Flight to Canada*

Week 8

10/20: **Midterm**

10/22: View video on Internment Camps

10/24: *Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*, pp. 133-148 Asian-American Poetry

Week 9

10/27: Asian-American Poetry

10/29: Asian American Poetry

10/31: *The Woman Warrior*; ***Beginning Ethnic American Literatures***, pp. 164-75

Week 10

11/3: *The Woman Warrior*

11/5: *The Woman Warrior*

11/7: *The Woman Warrior*

Week 11

11/10: *New Faces on Main Street* video.

11/12: *Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*, pp. 189-212

11/14 Chicano/a Short Stories

Week 12

11/17: Chicano/a Short Stories

11/19: TBD

11/21: **Character Analysis Due**; *Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*, pp. 230-39; *The House on Mango Street*

Week 13

11/24: *The House on Mango Street*

11/26-28: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14

12/1: *The House on Mango Street*

12/3: *The House on Mango Street*

12/5: *The House on Mango Street*

Week 15

12/8: TBD

12/10: **Final Exam**

12/12: Office Hours (Radford 303)