

Spring 1-15-2001

ENG 3705-001: Multicultural American Literature

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English 3705, Multicultural American Literature

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Spring 2001

Phone: x6985 or 345-7983 before 10 p.m.

Course Description:

A study of American Multicultural literatures from approximately 1700 to the present, featuring African-American, Asian-American, Native American, and Latino/a writers, with emphasis on race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. Prerequisites for the class are English 1001C and English 1002C. This course fulfills the Group 2 requirement for English majors.

Texts: Please note that some of the readings will be self-selected from the following works, according to the theme on which the class is focused.

Lauter, Paul, Editor. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature, Volume I and II*—selected works.

Shange, Ntozake. *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enough*.

The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano

Six Women's Slave Narrative—you'll read one of these and share your findings with Group members and the rest of the class.

Mukherjee, Bharati. *Jasmine*.

Lorde, Audre. *Zami: A New Spelling of my Name*.

Alvarez, Julia. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*.

Crow Dog. *Crow Dog: Four Generations of Sioux Medicine Men*.

Silko, Leslie. *Ceremony*.

Secondary works on reserve for group projects.

Course Objectives: After completing this course, you will

1. Understand the literary definition of "multicultural," and learn to read multicultural texts in ways that privilege the rites and institutions reflected in this body of literature.
2. Recognize and explore the following aspects of multicultural literatures: literary achievements of multicultural writers, literary history, and cultural identifications, the role of oral tradition and its transmission and transformation in multicultural texts.
3. Investigate issues and repercussions of class, gender, and sexuality in multicultural texts.
4. Focus on the social, historical, and cultural conditions which inform the multicultural literatures of the U.S.
5. Explore the historical and theoretical relationships among canonical and non-canonical texts in American literature.

Course Requirements:

1. Response Statements. These are primarily about two pages typed and reflect careful reading and synthesis of course materials. Your responses will serve as a source for discussion in class as a whole or in small groups. Some of your responses will be brief written responses or in-class responses.

2. Short Papers. These 2 papers will be from approximately 3-4 pages and will focus on works you have read for class. You can expand one of your response to meet this requirement, as well.

3. Longer Conference Length Paper. This paper will be from approximately 8-10 pages and will ask you to focus on the social, historical, and cultural conditions which inform the multicultural literatures of the U.S. This paper will go through the writing process and will include some revisions.

4. Group Presentation. Your presentation will ask you and your group members to examine multicultural literature through the lens of secondary sources like Gloria Anzaldua's *Borderland/La Frontera*. The main objective of this presentation is to interrogate the study of multicultural American literature and to explore what makes a study of American literature and culture "complete."

5. In-class discussion/participation/attendance. Because this is a discussion-driven class that includes a group presentation and a paper that will be going through a writing process that includes peer review, your attendance is very important. You should also complete the reading you've chosen or been assigned for the class (even on days responses are not due), so you can contribute to the class or group.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Plagiarism:

The English Department states, "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's work'—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of 'F' in the course.

Grades: Grades will be determined as follows for a total of 100%:

| | |
|--|------|
| 1. Weekly Response Statements | 20% |
| 2. Two Short (3-4 page) essays | 20% |
| 3. One Conference Length (8-10 page) paper with revision | 20% |
| 4. Group Presentation | 20% |
| 5. In-class discussion/participation/attendance | 20% |
| <hr/> | |
| | 100% |

Grading of Papers:

Paper grades will be based on content and on the following areas: Audience Awareness, Organization, Development, Sentence Structure, Word Choice, Grammar/Usage/Mechanics. The first three areas will be weighted more heavily than the second three.

Spring 2001 English 3402 Tentative Course Calendar--Subject to Change

January:

Intro. to Course and Focus on Multicultural Beginnings and Literary History

- 9 Introduction to Course. Read excerpts from *Heath* Volume I for Thursday
- 11 *Olaudah Equiano*. **Response due.**
- 16 *Olaudah Equiano*
- 18 One of the Six women's slave narratives
- 23 One of the Six women's slave narratives. **Response due.**

Cross-Cultural Identity

- 25 *Heath*, Volume II excerpts
- 30 *Heath*, Volume II excerpts. **Short Paper I due.**

February:

- 1 *Jasmine*
- 6 *Jasmine*. **Response due.**

Oral Traditions

- 8 *Heath* Volume I and II excerpts
- 13 *Heath* Volume I and II excerpts. **Response due.**
- 15 *Crow Dog*
- 20 *Crow Dog*. **Response due.**

Rites and Institutions

- 22 *Ceremony or For Colored Girls...*
- 27 *Ceremony or For Colored Girls...* **Response due.**

March:

- 1 *Heath* Volume I and II excerpts. **Short Paper II due.**
- 6 *Heath* Volume I and II excerpts. **Response due.**

Gender, Class and Sexuality

- 8 *How the Garcia Girls*
- 13-15 NO CLASS—Spring Break!
- 20 *How the Garcia Girls...* **Response due.**
- 22 *Zami*
- 27 *Zami.* **Response due.**

Social, Historical, and Cultural Conditions

- 29 Shorter works from Heath and one longer work, self-selected

April:

- 3 Shorter works from Heath (Contemporary Period Section) and one longer work, self-selected. **Response due.**
- 5 Shorter works from Heath (Contemporary Section) and your longer work, self-selected
- 10 Shorter works from Heath (Contemporary Section) and your longer work, self-selected.

Multicultural American Literature and Culture: A Burgeoning Field of Study

- 12 Reserve Readings. **Conference Paper draft due for Peer review and conference.**
- 17 Group Presentations. **Conference Paper final draft due.**
- 19 Group Presentations
- 24 Group Presentations
- 26 Group Presentations

May 1-4, Final Exams

Heath Anthology Selections

January 11, Multicultural Beginnings/Literary History: Jupiter Hammon (Group I--679-685), Prince Hall (Group I--685-694), and Gendrick Aupaumut (Group I--751-756)

Phillis Wheatley (Group II--712-728);

Samson Occom (Group III--728-751)

January 25 and January 30, Cross-Cultural Identity: Group I--George Copway (Vol. I, 1753-1467), William Apes (Vol. I, 1753-1760), Elias Boudinot and Chief Seattle (Vol. I, 1769-1772), Sojourner Truth (Vol. I, 1908-1915), Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo (Vol. I, 1952-1964), Jose Marti (Vol. II, 819-828)

Group II--Frances E.W. Harper (Vol. I, 1915-1944), Juan Nepomuceno Seguin (Vol. I, 1944-1952), Paul Laurence Dunbar (Vol. II, 486-501),

Group III--Alice Dunbar-Nelson (Vol. II, 514-520), Charles Alexander Eastman (Vol. II, 763-776), Sui-Sin Far (Vol. II, 899-916), Zitkala-Sa (Vol. II, 925-941).

February 8 and February 13, Oral Traditions: Group I: Native American Traditions (Vol. I, 22-67)

Group II: Two Mexican-American Oral Tales (Vol. I, 771-774), Native American Oral Poetry (Vol. I, 2641-2671), Songs and Ballads (Vol. I, 2671-2692)

Group III: African American Folktales (Vol. II, 193-213), Blues Lyrics (Vol. II, 1722-1729), Mourning Dove (Vol. II, 1929-1937), Carved on the Walls: Poetry by Early Chinese Immigrants (Vol. II, 1956-1972)

March 1 and March 6, Rites and Institutions: Group I: Harriet E. Wilson (Vol. I, 2628-2638), Julia A.J. Foote (Vol. II, 35-41)

Group II: Booker T. Washington (Vol. II, 982-1009)

Group III: W.E.B Du Bois (Vol. II, 1009-1033)