ENG 247.01 & .02): Multicultural Literature  Fall/2013/Pimomo

Office:  L&L 408 F; Phone: 963-1553; Email: pimomop@cwu.edu
Office hrs:  MTW: 11:00-12:00 pm. Or by appointment.
Class days:  Monday through Thursday. Friday is a reading/research/writing day.

Texts:
2. Course handouts.

Course Content:
This is an introductory course in multicultural American literature. Because American literature has its roots in many knowledge traditions, we shall begin with some foundational texts from different parts of the world. We shall then focus our attention on the main literary strands in the United States and end with literature written in English from other parts of the world, thus returning to the global context we started with. This study of literature is based on the understanding of the multicultural realities of American society, from the time of the diverse native peoples to the ever-growing diversity in our time.

The Objective of this course is to learn about multicultural America through the literary and cultural expressions that are part and parcel of American history and society.

Goals:
- Read, understand, talk and write meaningfully about literary works that are expressive of the multifaceted American lives and cultures.
- Understand the cultural contexts that gave rise to the different traditions of American literature and recognize the literary concepts and features in the traditions.
- Develop an appreciation of the differences in and connections among the traditions.

Graded assignments:
- Essay on a Relevant Event/Issue (15%) & Participation (5)% 20%
  The brief essay will consist of a brief description of an event, to be specified later, and a summary of the ideas and information presented there, followed by an evaluative commentary (Length: 500-1000 words)
- Quizzes (announced & unannounced)……………………………. 20%
- Midterm Exam (Questions and instruction to be announced in advance) 30%
- Final Paper (Topics to be made available to you in good time)…. 30%

Teaching/Learning Method:
Participatory. Come prepared to discuss the day’s reading. You can’t participate if you’re absent, so attendance is crucial.
**Attendance Policy**
Attendance and consistent effort are necessary for success in this class. Hence regular attendance is required. The 4th absence lowers your grade by a full letter (example: A = B). The 5th or more equals F for the class.

**Policy on Papers:** Late papers are accepted only for authorized university reasons or with certified reasons for personal cases. No rewrites are given.

**Plagiarism**
Using someone else’s paper as your own, or having someone else write for you, or lifting parts of other people’s work without properly acknowledging them, is a serious intellectual offense and can result in your failing this class, or worse, including disciplinary action by the Student Affairs Office.

**Disabilities Policy**
If you need disability-related educational accommodation, please let me know after you’ve contacted the ADA Compliance Officer at 963-2171.

**Class etiquette**
As a sign of respect for one another and for our common learning space, **please have your cell phone and other diversionary gadgets turned off while in class.** Do speak up thoughtfully and freely, but do not advocate violence as a way to solve real life problems or model aggressive behavior in your interaction with people in the class.

**Schedule**

**September**
25 Introductions (syllabus and the class to one another)
26 Multicultural America (an introductory outline by professor)

**Course Foundation:** Principles of Human Relations and Co-existence (a selection)
30 Protagoras “Great Speech”; Native American story of Gluskabe and Grandmother Woodchuck (class handouts).

**October**
01 Ten Commandments, Exodus 20; The Beatitudes, Matthew 5; The Good Samaritan, Luke 10; First Christians, Acts 4 (Class handouts)
02 M. Gandhi, “Poverty in the Midst of Plenty” (Class handouts); Jainism’s *The Acaranga Sutra* & Non-violence (class handout).
03 Human Rights: Sophocles’ *Antigone*, (see LAC)
07 Sophocles’ *Antigone*, 868, contd….
09 Yevgeny Yevtushenko, “People,” 856.
10 Multicultural Issues & Values: A Review of Course Foundation.

**African American Lit.:**
17 Langston Hughes, The Negro Speaks of River, 80; The Weary Blues, 646; Dream Variations, 647; Harlem, 647.
22 African American literature and culture today: Professor-led discussion.

**Native American Lit.**
23 Red Jacket, 1805 Oration (class handout)
24 Joseph Bruchac, “The Circle…” (class handout)
29 Louise Erdrich, “Indian Boarding School,” 64; Duane Niatum, “Street Kid,” 84.

30 Midterm Questions and Instructions.
31 Preparation for Midterm Exam.

**November**

04 Midterm Exam

**Latino/a Literature.**
06 Martin Espada, LAC, 662-665 (3 poems); 627Aurora L. Morales, 656; Pat Mora, 658.

**Asian-American Lit.**
11 Veterans Day Holiday
12 Janice Marikitani, “Prisons,” 527; “Breaking Tradition,” 90;
13 Li-Young Lee, “The Gift,” 100; Cathy Song, “Lost Sister,” 659

**World Lit.**
18 Chinua Achebe, Dead Men’s Path,” 832.
25 Kate Chopin, “Desiree’s Baby,” 611
26 Topics for Paper; brainstorming for paper.

27 – 29 Thanksgiving Recess.

**December**

02 How to write an interpretive paper.
03 Outline for Paper due in class; discussion.
04 & 05: Office Conferences on Paper (optional)
09-12 Final Exam week.

10 **Paper is due in the English Department Office.**

*Note: There may be slight changes in the schedule as we work into the quarter. The very best to each and every one of you! PP*