ENG 247: Multicultural Literature  Fall/2014/Pimomo

Office: L&L 408 F; Phone: 963-1553; Email: pimomop@cwu.edu
Office hrs: MTW: 10:00-11:00 am. 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 many 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 Cultural/multicultural Issue …. 20%**
  The essay will consist of a brief description of a current event (or issue) in the US or in the world, a summary of the sides and issues related to the event, followed by an evaluative commentary using ideas from the readings in this class and other relevant sources. (Length: 1000 words or so)
- **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. Rewrites are a must before submitting a paper. Request for a rewrite after grading is granted only if the professor is convinced the original paper has potential for real improvement.

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

Course Foundation: Principles of Human Relations and Co-existence (a selection)
29  Protagoras “Great Speech”; Native American story of Gluskabe and Grandmother Woodchuck (class handouts).
30  Ten Commandments, Exodus 20; The Beatitudes, Matthew 5; The Good Samaritan, Luke 10; First Christians, Acts 4 (Class handouts)

October
01  M. Gandhi, “Poverty in the Midst of Plenty” (Class handouts); Jainism’s The Acaranga Sutra & Non-violence (class handout).
02  Human Rights: Sophocles’ Antigone, (see LAC)
06  Sophocles’ Antigone, 868, contd….
08  Yevgeny Yevtushenko, “People,” 856.
09  Multicultural Issues & Values: A Review of Course Foundation.

African American Lit.
15  Study Day/Faculty Development Day (Read my essay on Poetry in Canvas)
20 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)
27 Joseph Bruchac, “The Circle…” (class handout)
28 Linda Hogan, LAC, “First Light,” 80; Tapa Honso, “A Breeze Swept
     Through” (class handout).
29 Louise Erdrich, “Indian Boarding School,” 643; Duane Niatum, “Street
     Kid,” 84.

Latino/a Literature.
30 Evangelina Vigil-Pinon, “warm heart….” 81; Pat Mora, “Borders,” 354;
     “Legal Alien,” 656; Aurora Levins Morales, “Puertoricanness,” 596.

November
03 Midterm Questions and Instructions.
04 Martin Espada, LAC, 662-665 (3 poems); 627Aurora L. Morales, 656; Pat
     Mora, 658.

Preparation for Midterm exam
05 & 06
10 Midterm Exam
11 Veterans Day Holiday
12 Gary Soto, “Oranges,” 362; “Black Hair,”

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

World Lit.
19 Chinua Achebe, Dead Men’s Path,” 832.
20 Wole Soyinka, “Telephone Conversation,” 649; Nadine Gordimer, “The
     Moment Before the Gun Went Off,” 583.
24 Denise Levertov, “What Were They Like?” 523; Yusef Komunyakaa,
     “Facing It,” 519; Jeffrey Harrison, “Reflections on the Vietnam Wall
     Memorial,” 518.

26, 27, 28: Thanksgiving Recess.

December
01 Kate Chopin, “Desiree’s Baby,” 611
02 Topics for Paper; brainstorming for paper.
03 How to write an interpretive paper.
04 Outline for Paper due in class; discussion.
08-11 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