Fall 2014  
English 247:003 – Multicultural Literature  
Dr. Toni Čuljak

Time: M T W Th 11:00-11:50 AM  
Location: Randall Hall 117  
Office: LL 403D  
Phone: 963-1531  
E-mail: culjakt@cwu.edu  
Office hours: M, T, W 12:00-12:45 and by appointment

Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- grade in English 101: Composition 1

Required Texts:  
A number of additional readings are in .PDF format in Course Documents section of the course Canvass site.

Course Description: This course presents an introduction to the diversity of contemporary American literature. We examine the representations of a variety of racial, ethnic, and social groups in America through their fiction, drama, poetry, non-fiction, and film. We explore concepts of selfhood and identity, the immigrant and minority experiences, the clash of cultures, all in literary and historical context. We will examine texts by Native-American, African-American, Latino/Latina and Asian-American writers from the United States. Through this course, we will, hopefully, begin to see the richness of the expanding canon of American literature in the late twentieth century.

Learning Outcomes: By the completion of this course, students should be able to:  
- Represent their general knowledge of the historical background of the major minority groups of the United States. This includes both general and literary history.  
- Analyze the critical themes of American multicultural literature, including the representations of individual and cultural identity, the concept of selfhood, cultural difference/the clash of culture, the American Dream.  
- Present an understanding of the forms of literature and how they are structured and defined, including the poem, the short story, the novel, the play, etc.
• Demonstrate an ability to read closely, to interpret effectively, and to analyze and synthesize literary works in their cultural contexts.

Requirements & Assignments
• Students are expected to prepare for each class session by completing the required readings prior to class and being prepared to discuss them in class.
• There will be several other ways for students to demonstrate their command of the subject matter covered in the course:
  o No student will pass the course without completing all major written assignments (*).
  o Extensions on assignments will be given only in response to emergency situations.
  o In such cases, you are to contact the faculty member as soon as possible.
• Each course requirement will count towards the final grade as follows:
  *Analytical or Creative essay 1: 25%  Reading Quizzes: 25%
  *Analytical or Creative essay 2: 25%  Attendance and participation: 25%

Academic Credit and Work Load: CWU stipulates that one credit = a total time commitment of three hours each week of the quarter.
• This is a five credit course and will require 15 hours of work/week
• This takes into account 3 hours and 20 minutes of class (Mon.-Th.: 11:00 to 11:50 am)
• This leaves 11 hours and 40 minutes/week for readings, discussion preparation, study for quizzes, and paper writing, editing, and proofreading.

Grade Scale: Letter grades will be assigned for each assignment based on the CWU grade scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>84-86</td>
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<td>80-83</td>
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<td>77-80</td>
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<td>74-76</td>
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<td>70-73</td>
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<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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Performance Policy:
• Students are responsible for knowing all material presented in class and all assigned readings.
• Cheating on quizzes or plagiarizing (i.e., failure to acknowledge the source of ideas or information that is not your own) will result in an "F" for the course.
• Deadline extensions, make-up quizzes, and/or incompletes will not be given except for emergencies. You paid for the course, finish it.
• In fairness to all students, in-class activities (e.g., small-group discussions) cannot be made up. Extra-credit work cannot be substituted for in-class activities.
Readings:

- Reading is part of active learning; you are responsible for this material.
- Required readings, except the required books, are in .pdf format in the Course Documents section of the English 247 Canvas website.
- Readings should be completed before the class in which they are scheduled to be discussed.
- Download the readings, read them with care, take notes, and reread them after class lectures and discussions. Print out the online documents and bring them to class.
- The readings and class lectures are designed to complement one another not to substitute for each other.
- If you do not understand the reading materials, you are expected to ask questions in class or during faculty office hours.

Quizzes:

- Regular quizzes on lecture and reading materials will be given.
- Quizzes may take the form of short answer, T/F, multiples choice, essay questions or a combination of these options.
- Quizzes will be given approximately every other week but may be given at any time at the discretion of the instructor.
- Quizzes may not be made up unless prior arrangements have been made.
- During the final examination period for this class, you will have the opportunity to take a bonus quiz which will allow you to drop your lowest quiz grade.

Papers:

- You will be assigned two papers. They are designed to demonstrate your ability to read closely, think critically, and write coherently on an assigned topic.
- Your paper is due at the start of the class listed as the due date. You are expected to deliver it in person. I assume no responsibility for papers that have not been given to me personally.
- Papers should be cleanly and clearly typewritten. You should retain an electronic copy for your records.
- Late papers will be automatically penalized ½ grade each day after the due date.
- Papers may not be revised and resubmitted for grades.
- While we are interested in the content, your ability to express yourself clearly and effectively is very important and contributes to the value of your work.
- A clean draft with few to no errors makes a better impression/receives a higher grade than one that may contain great information but is riddled with poor sentence structure, punctuation mistakes and misspellings.
- Students may use the site, Easy Bib: http://www.easybib.com which is free and will format the information according to the style you select.
Use of CWU email:
All official communications with current students are supposed to be sent to the student’s CWU email accounts. Many students use an alternate email account or alternate internet service provider for their email. I will only send email to or respond only to emails sent from the email address listed with the Registrar’s Office.

ADA Support
Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should provide the instructors with a copy of their Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments form from the Disability Support Services Office and schedule an appointment to discuss such adjustments with the instructors by the second week of class. Students without this form should contact the Disability Support Services Office, Bouillion Hall, Room 205, or dissrecept@cwu.edu, or call 963-2171.

Attendance
- I function on the principle that essential demonstrations of adult responsibility and maturity are punctuality and preparedness. Your participation grade will reflect your respectful and informed contributions to classroom discussions. You are expected to attend class (to arrive on time and remain until class is dismissed).
- Attendance is taken via a sign-in sheet. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the sheet each day.
- Frequent tardiness will have a negative effect on your class participation grade. If you must miss class for medical or personal reasons, you are expected to notify your instructor by telephone, via e-mail, in writing, or in person as to when and why you will be (or have been) absent. My office telephone is equipped with voice mail so that you may leave word at any time.
- Student athletes are expected to provide one of your instructors a list of dates on which you will be absent for sports events.
- For all students, more than six absences whether "excused" or "unexcused" will result in your failure in the in-class portion of this course.
- This does not mean that you are entitled to miss six class periods, rather that we make allowances for the vagaries of life including illness and emergencies.
- If it becomes apparent that your attendance threatens your potential to pass this course, we will attempt to arrange a meeting with you to discuss your options.
- You are also expected to be prepared, to complete reading assignments, writing assignments, study questions, etc. and to participate actively in class. High grades in class participation are achieved by active learning, not by your mere presence in a classroom.
- You are expected to behave respectfully and appropriately with your
classmates and professor. You should not have private conversations during class time.

**Cell Phones and Computers:**
- Turn your cell phone off and leave it in your bag or pocket.
- Please obtain permission from instructor(s) to use laptops, recording devices, etc.
- If it is necessary to keep the phone on due to an emergency situation, please inform us of the potential emergency, put the phone on vibrate and leave the classroom quietly and quickly to take the call.
- **Texting in class is absolutely not tolerated.** If you are using your phone/texting in class, you will be asked to leave the room immediately. You will also lose credit for attendance and participation that day.
- Use a computer only for taking class notes. If you are using your computer to surf the net or complete assignments for other classes, etc., you will be asked to leave the room and will lose credit for attendance/participation for that day.
- Violation of cell phone and computer use requirements will negatively affect participation grade, and being asked to leave due to such violations will count as a class absence.
- If you have an issue with the above requirements, please see after class or during office hours.

The High Administrator from the Office of Judicial Affairs cutting the heart from a student who plagiarized a paper. Students who cheat on quizzes, copy or buy papers, text during class, or otherwise violate policies may experience similar punishments.
Calendar of Readings (subject to change)

Week 1 —
9/24  W:  Introduction
9/25  Th:  Central concepts

Week 2 —  Asian American Literature and Culture
9/29  M:  A Brief History of Asians in America (Powerpoint)
          Canvas: Chinese Exclusion Act; Kingston, "No-Name Woman"
9/30  T:  Canvas: Song, "Picture Bride"; "Lost Sister"; "Untouched
          Photograph of a Passenger".
10/1  W:  Discussion
10/2  Th:  WWII and the Japanese Internment
          Canvas: Executive Order 9066

Week 3 —
10/6  M:  Canvas: Yamada, “Cincinnati”; “The Question of Loyalty”; Okada,
          selections from No No Boy
10/7  T:  Film: American Passtime (2007)
10/9  Th:  Discussion

Week 4 —  Latino/Latina Literature
10/13 M:  Latino/a History and Culture
10/14 T:  Canvas: Vega –" Spanish Roulette";
10/15 W:  Faculty Development Day – No Class
10/16 Th:  Valdez, “Zoot Suit”21-60

Week 5 —
10/20 M:  Valdez, “Zoot Suit”60-94
10/21 T:  Film: Zoot Suit
10/22 W:  Film: Zoot Suit
10/23 Th:  Discussion

Week 6 —
10/27 M:  Canvas: Espada, "Tony Went to the Bodega but He Didn't Buy
          Anything"; "Jorge the Church Janitor Finally Quits"
10/28 T:  Canvas: Laviera, "latero story (can pickers); Sagel, “Baca Grande”
10/29 W:  Discussion
10/30 Th:  Discussion

Week 7 —  African American Literature
11/3 M:  A Brief History of African Americans
11/4 T:  Canvas: Hayden, “Runagate, Runagate”; Cullen, “Incident”;
          McKay, “If We Must Die”, "The Lynching"
11/5 W: Canvas: Ellison, “Battle Royal”
11/6 Th: Mosely, Devil in a Blue Dress 1-80

Week 8 —
11/10 M: Mosely, Devil in a Blue Dress 81-146
11/11 Th: Veterans Day Holiday – No Class
11/12 W: Mosely, Devil in a Blue Dress 147-201
11/13 Th: Mosely, Devil in a Blue Dress 202-263

Week 9 — American Indian Literature
11/17 M: A Brief history of American Indians
11/18 T: Erdrich, Tracks 1-40
11/19 W: Erdrich, Tracks 41-95
11/20 Th: Erdrich, Tracks 96-165

Week 10 —
11/24 M: Erdrich, Tracks 166-225
11/25 T: Discussion
11/26 W: Thanksgiving Break
11/27 Th: Thanksgiving Break

Week 11 —
12/1 M: Canvas: Caldwell, “Cooking Woman”
12/2 T: Canvas: Hogan, “Making Do”
12/4 Th: Canvas: Silko “Call that Story Back”
Internet, Cell-Phones and Texting Policy:

Obviously, the use of electronic devices in modern society has become increasingly commonplace. But the use of such devices is not generally allowed in a class setting. This includes listening to music on I-Pods or other media players, texting or talking on cell phones, emailing, instant messaging, shopping, or ‘surfing’ the internet on I-Pads, laptops or other devices, as well as playing games or watching video, etc. As these activities are disrespectful and distracting in a learning environment (to you, the instructor and other students), the professors reserve the right to ask students using such devices and engaging in such activities to leave class immediately. If you are asked to leave the class for one of the above-listed infractions, please do not argue the point with the instructor or make a scene upon leaving. Just get up and depart. Students asked to leave will not be readmitted to the class without first coming to the office hours of one of the professors and discussing the issue at length with them. If you have a problem with any aspects of this policy, then do not take this course.

Please turn off or silence all electronic devices at the start of class and use laptops or I-Pads for notes and (occasionally when allowed by the professors) certain in-class assignments only. If you are the kind of person who cannot sit through a course that meets for only a little more than forty-five minutes without using your phone or texting someone, then this class is NOT for you.

By signing this page, you are acknowledging that you understand and accept the above policy. This page should be read, signed, and detached from the syllabus and turned into the instructors on your first day in class.

Signature: ___________________________ Print full name clearly: ___________________________

Date: __________________________