

ENG 468 Contemporary Writers Colloquium Spring 2016

Instructor Xavier Cavazos

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Required Texts:

Chin, Ava *Eating Wildly.*

Diaz, Natalie *When My Brother Was an Aztec.*

D'Aguair, Fred *Children Of Paradise.*

Additional reading material will be posted in the class modules. Poems and Prose written by you and your classmates serve as an integral text for this class.

Course Description: Adopted from Kathy Whitcomb

Hello writers! Welcome to Contemporary Writers Colloquium. We are here to take the writing life seriously! This class will give you the opportunity to experience, study, discuss and analyze the newest work by three working and established American writers. You will attend readings by Ava Chin, Natalie Diaz and Fred D'Aguair---and ask them questions in their craft talks. We will be working in our writing workshop on new poems. You will also be writing reviews of the readings, giving a PowerPoint presentation on one of the visiting writer's work, and writing an explication of a one of the texts. We will also spend one of our weeks on preparing for the writing life *after* college: submitting your work, looking for jobs, continuing school, and finding a writing community.

Major Projects and Grading:

Explication paper	15% of grade
PowerPoint presentation	15% of grade
Homework Poem exercises	15% of grade
Workshop Poems and comments	15% of grade
3 Reading Quizzes	10% of grade
Final writing portfolio	30% of grade

NOTES:

The grades in this class are weighted by percentage. To figure your grade by the number of points given an assignment on Canvas will not be accurate. It is important not to skip assignments if you want to get a good grade.

There will be NO acceptance of late exercises or assignments. These will be counted as missing.

Manuscript format and workshop copies: All writing assignments, including exercises and homework, must be submitted as Word docs. Include your name on all your assignments and PROOFREAD your work. Use 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

Diversity

In my classroom, diversity is welcomed and celebrated. I will not tolerate any forms of prejudice or discrimination, including those based on age, color, disability, gender, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. We are here to learn in a climate of civility and mutual respect.

To find out more about diversity, contact the Diversity Education Center at X1685 or see the website at:

www.cwu.edu/~diversity

ENG 468 CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

This syllabus is subject to change; changes will be announced in Canvas.

WEEK ONE

3/29

Review syllabus.
Sign ups for presentations.
Workshop schedule & format.
Ava Chin will be here on our second Tuesday of class so you must have the book read by the first day of class to be ready.

Due: Participate in Introduction Discussion.

Due: Reading Quiz #1, oral.

Due: In class writing activities.

Due: Discussion of the book.

WEEK TWO

4/5

Attend: 12pm craft talk, Black 151

Attend: Lion Rock Reading, 7:30pm SURC Theater. Get your book signed.

Due: Three-page Non-Fiction draft.

WEEK THREE

4/12

Final Discussion Eating Wildly.

Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Ava Chin Chapter.

Due: Non-fiction Peer-review of Non-Fiction

WEEK FOUR

4/19

Due: Powerpoint on D'Aguliar Chapter

Read: *Children of Paradise*.

Attend: 1pm craft talk, D'Aguliar, Black 151

Attend: Lion Rock Reading, 7:30pm

Due: Final revision of Chin prompt by Monday night Midnight.
New D'Aguliar prompt given in class.

WEEK FIVE

4/26

Read: *Children of Paradise.*

Due: In-class writing assignments

Due: PowerPoint on D'Aguliar Chapter

Due: Fred D'Aguliar Reading Review.

Due: draft of D'Aguliar.

WEEK SIX

5/3

Final Discussion of D'Aguliar.

Due: Peer-revision of D'Aguliar draft due

Due: In-class writing exercise

Due: Reading Quiz #2, D'Agulair, oral.

Due: Review of D'Aguliar

WEEK SEVEN

5/10

Read: *When My Brother was an Aztec.*

Read: Review of *When My Brother was an Aztec.*

Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Natalie Diaz poem.

Natalie Diaz poetry prompts.

Due: Final revision of Fiction.

WEEK EIGHT

5/17

Read: *When My Brother was An Aztec.*

Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Natalie Diaz poem.

Due: Draft of Diaz poem prompts

Attend: Diaz noon craft talk, Black 151.

Attend: Lion Rock Reading, 7:30 pm, Wellington Event Center.

Poetry Paper Guidelines (5-page min. explication papers).

WEEK NINE

5/24

Writing Portfolio Guidelines.

Due: Peer-Review of Diaz poem prompt.

Due: Diaz Reading Review.

Final thoughts on Diaz.

WEEK TEN

5/31

Participate in Writing Life Discussion.

Due: Poetry Papers (follow guidelines).

Writing Portfolios due Tuesday (follow guidelines).

Week Eleven

6/6-9

Finals

Reading at Brooklyn's Pizza at exam time.