

Literary Intersections of Ethnicity and Globalization

ENGL 3920 (Survey of Ethnic Literatures): Sect. 1

MW: 3-4:20 p.m.; Language 114

Fall 2010

Professor Javier Rodríguez

General:

This course explores the various intersections of US ethnic literature and global literature more generally understood. For example, how might African-American or Native American literature resemble works from other parts of the world? What kinds of issues about identity, freedom, politics, and human values cut across these various domains? In other words, this course aims to test the boundaries that define "US ethnic literature" and "global literature." Perhaps you will discover that there really are some things unique to US ethnic experience? Or perhaps you will see more universal commonalities than differences? It is an open question and one that I hope we examine throughout the term.

Also, this course requires a certain amount of creativity on your part because the final weeks are devoted to what I call "applied literary study." All this means is that you will be required to work in small teams to find examples of either US ethnic or global literature and to present them to the class. The precise details of those presentations will be forthcoming. The main objective is to have you practice your critical reading and thinking skills in creative and interactive projects that are both fun and educational.

Texts:

Lucy; Kincaid

Borderlands/La Frontera (selections); Anzaldúa

E-mails from Scheherezad; Khaf

Flight; Alexi

Season of Migration to the North; Salih

Reading Lolita in Tehran (selections); Nafisi

Infinite Divisions: selections tbd; eds. Rebolledo and Rivero

The Global Village; selections tbd, eds. Newland and Roffey

Assignments:

- A. Three 600-word essays (about 2 pages each).
- B. One final paper of about 2,400 words (about 8 pages).
- C. Miscellaneous in-class exercises.

Week	Text	Wednesday	Due dates
	Monday		
1: Aug30- Sept. 1	Intros	"Puerto Rican Obituary" Pietri	
2: 6-8	Labor Day: No class	" <i>Danger Zone</i> " Gómez Peña	
3: 13-15	<i>Lucy</i>	<i>Lucy</i>	
4: 20-22	<i>Infinite Divisions</i> (selections)	<i>Infinite Divisions</i> (selections)	2-page paper
5: 27-29	<i>Flight</i>	<i>Flight</i>	
6: Oct. 4-6	<i>E-mails from Sheherezad</i>	<i>E-mails from Sheherezad</i>	
7: 11-13	<i>New World Reader</i>	<i>New World Reader</i>	2-pager
8: 18-20	<i>New World Reader</i>	<i>Global Reader</i>	
9: 25-27	<i>Season of Migr. to North</i>	<i>Season of Migr. to North</i>	
10: Nov. 1-3	<i>Global Village</i>	<i>Global Village</i>	2-pager
11: Nov. 8- 10	<i>Reading Lolita in Tehran(sel.)</i>	<i>Reading Lolita in Tehran(sel.)</i>	
12: 15-17	Web Search and Presents.	Web Search and Presents.	
13: 22-24	Web Search and Presents.	Web Search and Presents.	
14: Nov. 29- Dec. 1	Web Search and Presents.	Web Search and Presents.	
15:	Review	Review	Final Ppr-8 pg.

Dec. 6-8			

ODA STATEMENT

“The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and the letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112---The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.”

Performance Policies:

- A. All individual work must be original and properly referenced when borrowing from other sources.
- B. Students are expected and invited to participate actively during class with discussions, questions, responses, even friendly arguments.
- C. In general, students will be expected to post their essays on a secured PBwiki site established specifically for the class. This aims to save paper and ink.
- D. Students should arrive to class on time. Coming late to class is distracting and unprofessional.
- E. Eating in class is prohibited.
- F. Drinking water and soft drinks in class is allowed, unless the activity proves distracting.

Attendance Policies:

- A. Students can be absent only with prior approval from me.
- B. Typically, a student can obtain a maximum of three excused absences for any one course.
- C. Unapproved absences will count against your final class grade. For example, one unexcused absence will lower your grade on half letter—for example from A to A-. Two unexcused absences will lower your grade one full letter, from A to B. Three unexcused absences will lower your grade two letters, from A to C. Four or more unexcused absences will result in an F for the course.
- D. The only way to obtain an excused absence is to write a 300-word essay about a specific topic relevant to the course, of my selection. That is, excused absences must be earned in this way. Without such an essay, there cannot be an excused absence. These short essays must be filed no later than one week after the absence. (Again, typically, a student will be allowed no more than 3 excused absences.)

