ENGL 3920.450:

Ethnic American Literatures

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Course Description

"Race is a social construct" is now a widely known and accepted idea, perhaps even common sense for many people beyond those in higher education. "Race" is a made-up concept, a story we have been told, a story that we tell others and ourselves, until we come to believe it to be a scientific fact. Thus, the belief in "race" is deeply tied to *stories*. Therefore, the study of literature—stories in different genres and forms—is essential for understanding of race and its history and politics. This class will explore various stories about race and ethnicity, examine how these various texts reflect and reveal our assumptions, challenge and subvert dominant narratives, and center marginalized voices—voices that have been historically silenced by the social politics of race—in literature.

Required Text*

Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative	by Thomas King	9780816646272
Borderlands - La Frontera	by Gloria Anzaldúa	9781951874025
Speak, Okinawa	by Elizabeth Miki Brina	9781984898463

*You may purchase or rent your textbook through the UNT Barnes and Noble Bookstore (unt.bncollege.com) or at Voertman's on Hickory St. (940-387-1313). If you buy your textbook from a third-party seller online, be sure you have the correct edition and ISBN.

Require Tasks & Grade Distribution*

Discussion Posts	30%
Weekly Writing	30%
Quizzes	5%
Final Project	35%

Total	**100**

*More detailed assignment descriptions will be provided in Canvas.

Grading Scale

A 90 -100 % indicates excellent work
B 80 - 89 % indicates good work
C 70 - 79 % indicates satisfactory work
D 60 - 69 % indicates passing work
F 0 - 59 % indicates failing work

Consequently, essays that meet the basic requirements earn a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn A's and B's, you will have to work harder to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing. A grade of C or better is required by the university to receive credit for this course.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to:

- Cheating--submitting work that is not your own (This include using generativeAI)
- Fabrication--pretending you are writing about a real interview when you really made it up
- Facilitating academic dishonesty--helping someone else cheat
- Forgery--pretending your work is someone else's
- Plagiarism--using someone else's published work without citing it correctly
- Sabotage--setting someone else up to fail

A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. I am obligated to report any academic dishonesty. No policy can cover every possible scenario for AI, so when in doubt about whether how you plan to use AI is acceptable or not, contact your instructor immediately.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The Dean of Students Office forces the Code of Student Conduct. The Code explains:

- What conduct is prohibited
- The process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students
- The sanctions that can be assigned
- When students may have violated the Code, they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

Late Work Policy

All assignments must be submitted by the due date specified in Canvas. Assignments will have a 48-hour grace period for submission, but once work is submitted past the "due date" I will deduct 5 % for each day (not business day) your work is late. If you need extra tim, you must request an extension *at least* 24 hours before the paper is due.

Communication Expectations

Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow at least 24 hours for a response during the week and 48 hours over the weekend. As a university student, you are expected to write formal and professional emails to your instructors and professors. In your emails, you must have a clear subject line, formally address the instructor, and clearly state your purpose. See the following example:

> Subject: ENGL 3920_Question about [X]
>
> Dear [instructor's name],
>
> My name is [student's name], and I am in your online ENGL [Course#/ Section#]. I am writing to you in regard to [explain the issue].
>
> Thank you,
>
> [student's name]
> [UNT number]

Note | I do *NOT* accept assignments via email attachments. All assignments must be submitted in Canvas.

Participation and Civility

Respect the class environment by using your time effectively and helping your classmates do the same. This expectation applies to both in-person and online settings. In our online classroom, please

- *Submit assignments on time.* Meeting deadlines helps keep the class running smoothly and shows respect for everyone's time.
- *Communicate thoughtfully.* Use respectful language in discussion posts and replies. Avoid offensive or inappropriate language
- *Respect others' chosen names and preferred pronouns.*

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Standards

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Academic Integrity standards are violated when students engage in academic dishonesty behaviors, including, but not limited to, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty and my decision on academic sanctions will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Plagiarism can include copying a passage from a source verbatim without citing it, but it can also include improper or misleading citations. Please note that all source material must be acknowledged, even if the material is paraphrased or sourced from generative AI technologies. Be careful always to acknowledge the work of other writers and take the time to work out the distinction between your original thoughts and arguments and those of others.

Additionally, the use of any generative AI writing tools is prohibited in this class. Assignments for the course have been designed to help you develop as a thinker, reader,
and writer without using these technologies. You will generate ideas, read, revise, and write independently or when appropriate in consultation with peers, UNT Writing Center tutors, and me. Any use of generative AI in your work for this class violates our syllabus and thus will be treated as an instance of cheating. Ignorance of the generative AI tools in your chosen digital writing technologies, whatever they may be, is not sufficient to excuse the violation. If you are unsure about a digital writing tool (even automatically integrated ones), don't use it for this class.

Acceptable Student Behavior

According to UNT policy 07.012, student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be notified verbally or in writing and may be directed to leave the classroom. Additionally, the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. For additional information, refer to the Dean of Students website.

ADA Accommodations

According to UNT policy 16.001, UNT will make reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA). Then, the ODA will provide them with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty members detailing the students' accommodation needs. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours. Students may request reasonable accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation and meet with all faculty members prior to accommodation implementation every semester.
For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly provide students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.
For additional information, refer to the Eagle Alert website.

Academic Freedom

UNT has a robust policy regarding academic freedom and academic responsibility. Crucially, this policy encompasses not only the rights of faculty members but also the rights "of the student to freedom in learning." As a student in this classroom, therefore, you have the right to encounter and debate new ideas, diverse forms of knowledge, and unfamiliar or contrary points of view. According to UNT policy, "it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive." At the same time, to encourage the free exchange of ideas, and to ensure that your right to learn is protected, the tone for such discussion must always be civil and respectful; hateful or discriminatory speech will not be tolerated. For more information, please consult the full UNT policy at https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-035.

Audio/Video Recording

Although UNT is a publicly supported institution, our classroom is not a public space. Therefore, in order to protect the intellectual property and privacy rights of both faculty and students, video and audio recordings are prohibited during class. The exception is for students who have been granted explicit approval as an ODA accommodation. For more information, please consult the full UNT policy at
https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/faculty/faculty-guide/accommodations-explained/Audio-Recording-Faculty.html

UNT Resources

Technical Assistance:

Information Technology Help Desk | University of North Texas
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Writing Assistance:

Writing Center | University of North Texas
Email:WritingCenter@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2563
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 150

Syllabus and Schedule Changes

Instructors try to make their syllabi as complete as possible. However, during the course of the semester I may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies or assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary. Students will be informed of any major changes in writing.

Weekly Reading Schedule

Week 1 (Oct. 12–18)
Course Introduction
Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative by Thomas King

Week 2 (Oct. 19–25)
Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative by Thomas King—continued

Week 3 (Oct. 26–Nov. 1)
Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza by Gloria Anzaldúa

Week 4 (Nov. 2–8)
Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza by Gloria Anzaldúa—continued

Week 5 (Nov. 9–15)
Speak, Okinawa by Elizabeth Miki Brina

Week 6 (Nov. 16–22)
Speak, Okinawa by Elizabeth Miki Brina—continued

Week 7 (Nov. 23–29)
Spring break

Week 8 (Nov. 30–Dec. 6)
I Am Not Your Negro available on UNT Online Library

Week 9—Final Week