

Course Syllabus
ENGL 3372: Multicultural Literature
Summer 2010
Department of Languages

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the literature of a variety of ethnic and racial groups represented in the general population of the United States.

COURSE SEQUENCE IN CURRICULUM AND PREREQUISITE INFORMATION

Successful completion of freshman English and permission of professor

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Dr. C. Michalos
E-mail: cmichalos@hbu.edu
Office Phone: 281 649-3612
Office Location: UAC 119
Office Hours: M-TH: 12:30-2:30 or by appointment
Web Page Address, Web Board, ListServ:

LEARNING RESOURCES

Course Text(s): *Pigs in Heaven* – Barbara Kingsolver
Woman Hollering Creek – Sandra Cisneros
A Lesson Before Dying – Ernest Gaines
The Joy Luck Club – Amy Tan
When the Emperor Was Divine – Julie Otsuka
Possessing the Secret of Joy – Alice Walker
Persepolis – Satrapi

Supplementary Text(s): Handouts
Other Required Materials:

RELATION TO THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

This course fulfills the goal of the University to provide a quality liberal arts education to its students.

RELATION TO COLLEGE GOALS AND PURPOSES

This course fulfills the mission statement of the College of arts and Humanities: *to foster the intellectual, moral and aesthetic growth of its students.*

RELATION TO DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND PURPOSES

English 3372: Multicultural Literature may be used to satisfy literature requirements for majors and non-majors

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Overview/purpose of course:

In an age of multiculturalism and ethnic diversity, students should study the literature of representative groups in order to become aware of and education about cultural differences.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Students will become familiar with the literature of a variety of ethnic and racial groups in the United States.
2. Students will participate in a variety of ethnic activities in and out of the classroom.
3. Students will write a number of papers in which they describe and reflect upon their various experiences, literary and actual.
4. Students will become more aware of and sensitive to cultural differences and see these differences as *diversity* not *deficiency*.

Technology, writing, or oral objectives: Students will write papers and make oral presentation using technology to facilitate their assignments.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

Week One: **M:** Introduction to course
 T: Videos
 W: Poetry handouts
 TH: Native Americans - handouts
 F: Native Americans: handouts
 Paper One Due: 7/16: Ethnic restaurant

Week Two: **M:** *Pigs in Heaven*
 T: *Pigs in Heaven*
 W: African-Americans - handouts
 TH: African-Americans - handouts
 F: Paper Two Due: 7/23: House of Worship

Week Three: M: *A Lesson Before Dying*
T: *A Lesson Before Dying*
W: *Woman Hollering Creek* - selections
TH: *The Joy Luck Club* - selections
F: **Paper Three Due: 7/30: Museum**

Week Four: M: *When the Emperor Was Divine*
T: The Holocaust: handouts
W: *Possessing the Secret of Joy*
TH: *Persepolis*
F: *Persepolis*

Week Five: M: **Paper Four Due: 8/3: Reflection**
Recipes for banquet due
Oral presentations
T: **Oral presentations/International banquet**

The content of this outline and the attached schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Though some lecture may be necessary, class discussion is the method of choice. Students will visit museums, restaurants and houses of worship to enhance their understanding of other cultures. Oral presentations are also required.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Course requirements

Paper One: Due 7/16: Students will eat at an ethnic restaurant (not Italian, Mexican, Chinese or Japanese) that represents a culture other than their own and write a 500 word essay that describes their experience.

Paper Two: Due 7/23: Students will visit a house of worship other than their own and write a 500 word essay that describes their experience and also compares and contrast this worship service with their own.

Paper Three: Due 7/30: Students will visit either the Holocaust Museum or the Buffalo soldiers Museum and write a 500 word essay that discusses what they saw, heard and learned, and how their visit affected them.

Paper Four: Due 8/3: Students will write a five-page essay in which they describe aspects of culture that were revealed or illuminated or explained to them during our class discussions and out-of-class experiences. Students will describe if and how the course has changed them.

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the date assigned. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** If a student is absent on the day a paper is due, the paper must be FAXED (281 649-3601) or emailed to me by 9:00 A.M. on that date or the grade is zero.

Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, use 12point font and follow appropriate MLA format. Fasten with a paper clip. Submit a hard copy and flash drive or disc version in a labeled envelope.

Oral Presentation: Students will give brief oral presentations in which they discuss aspects of their respective cultures (e.g., marriage traditions, rituals, dress, language).

International Banquet: Students will prepare dishes from their respective cultures and provide classmates with recipes for an international cookbook.

Reading Quizzes: Each class will begin with a quiz on that day's assignment.

Grading standards

3 papers @ 15%	45%
Oral presentation	15%
International banquet	10%
Reading quizzes	10%
Reflection paper	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Student appraisal

Students will complete evaluation forms as regularly administered by the University. The College dean, department chair and professor will review the evaluations and respond accordingly.

CLASS POLICIES

Academic honesty

Please refer to the current catalog for the university's policy and procedures regarding academic honesty. Note that the university utilizes "Turn-It-In" and other programs to investigate possible plagiarism activities. All major papers for this course will be submitted to the plagiarism prevention software, **Turnitin.com** on or before a paper's due date. No paper will be graded without meeting this requirement beforehand. A separate handout will be provided to give detailed instructions on this process which must include the class identification number and class password.

In accordance with FERPA, and to best protect the students' privacy, no personal identification (e.g., name, social security number, H number) should be uploaded with the text of student papers. However, Turnitin will ask for the student's name and e-mail address when setting up a personal account. This identifying information will be used by the professor to evaluate the

student's paper and cannot be viewed by other faculty or students. To further increase confidentiality, the student may choose to use a pseudonym (false name) when setting up his or her personal Turnitin account.

If a pseudonym is used for Turnitin, the student must provide this identifier next to his/her typed name on the paper copy which is submitted to the professor. Five (5) points will be deducted if the professor is unable to easily match the paper copy to the Turnitin submission of the student's paper.

Any suggestion of academic dishonesty will be investigated. Any proof of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. Students should complete the on-line Academic Integrity tutorial (in Blackboard) during the first week of class.

Grievance procedures

Please refer to the catalog currently in use for the university's policy and procedures on academic grievances.

Absence and tardy policies

Attendance in class is important and it is university policy that students must attend class and that faculty will require attendance with penalties for non-compliance. Please see the catalog currently in use for the university's policy on classroom absences caused in the course of student representation of the university, such as athletics, chorale, and mock trial activities.

Apart from the absences caused when students represent the university, students might need to miss class and/or lab sessions from time to time due to illness or other reasons. Instructors will permit students to be absent from a maximum of three class meetings that are scheduled in this syllabus for MWF and for TTH courses during the Fall and Spring semesters. Upon the fourth absence, faculty will begin to penalize a student's grade in the course as the professor deems appropriate. For summer session courses that meet throughout the week, instructors will permit students to be absent a maximum of 2 class meetings. For courses that meet once a week, whether regular semesters or in the summer, instructors will permit students to be absent a maximum of one or two class meetings (upon the discretion of the instructor) before penalties are applied. Students are advised to use the allowed absences for illnesses and significant events beyond their control. Regular attendance in class is important for student success.

Please be on time. Two latenesses=one absence. You are late if you arrive after I take attendance.

Students may miss three (3) classes. Students who exceed the limit must officially withdraw from the course or their grade will be an F.

Students who leave class early without prior permission will be marked absent.

Students involved in school-related activities that may take them off campus must discuss these absences with me ahead of time so that alternate arrangements can be made for assignments.

Students should attend to their personal needs before class.

Students should turn off all electronic devices.

Late work

No late work is accepted except under documented extenuating circumstances.

Missed tests

Students are responsible for arranging make-up quizzes.

Learning disabilities; describe documentation required

If you have a learning disability and need special accommodations, please visit the office of Accommodations Services in Hinton 101 or call x3359 within the first two weeks of class, preferably the first week. This office will provide information that may lead to the establishment of the appropriate accommodations. A Letter of Accommodations will then be sent to the professor of record for that specific semester. The student will also be given a copy of the Accommodations Letter. This entire process must be repeated for each semester that accommodations are requested.

Children in classroom

In almost all instances, children are not allowed in the classroom nor are they allowed to be on campus unattended. Class sessions are for enrolled students only unless other arrangements are approved by the instructor in advance.

Classroom Behavior Expectations

Students are full partners in fostering a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from the time spent in class, students are expected to demonstrate civil behavior in the classroom. Unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of behavior that detracts from the learning experience of fellow students. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result in a request for the offending student to leave the classroom.

Classroom behaviors that disturb the teaching-learning experiences include the following behaviors: activated cellular phone or other device, demands for special treatment, frequent episodes of leaving and then returning to the class, excessive tardiness, leaving class early, making offensive remarks or disrespectful comments or gestures to the teacher or other students, missing deadlines, prolonged chattering, reading newspapers during class, sleeping, arriving late to class, dominating discussions, shuffling backpacks or notebooks, disruption of group work, and overt inattentiveness.”

Early Alert

As an instructor, I am committed to your success, not only in this class, but in all aspects of HBU life . To ensure that every student takes full advantage of the educational and learning opportunities, HBU has implemented an *Academic Early Alert Referral System (EARS)*. If I think you would benefit from some of these special programs or services available to you, I will

make the appropriate referral. You, in turn, will be expected to take advantage of the help offered to you.

Email Policy

All university and class email communication will be sent to your HBU email account. You are responsible for checking this frequently. If you choose, you may reroute your HBU email to another email address. Your emails should be in a professional format with correct spelling, capitalization, and grammar.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING SYLLABUS

Dr. C. Michalos

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COURSE IN TERMS OF HISTORY, MOMENT, MOVEMENT, TRENDS, TIMELINESS, BODY OF BASIC KNOWLEDGE, ETC.

Instructor's Signature

Date

Student Contract for English 3372

My signature on this document confirms the following:

1. I have read this syllabus thoroughly.
2. I understand the policies and requirements for successful completion of English 3372.
3. I understand that my grade will be adversely affected if I fail to comply with the policies or fulfill the requirements of this course.
4. I will neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance in the completion of any assignment.
5. I accept responsibility for my education.

Print Name

Student signature

Date