HUM 260H
LIBERAL ARTS SEMINAR
3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:

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by:
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Arts & Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
HUM260H Liberal Arts Seminar

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: Honors Program Admissions. Course limited to 15 students.

This semester will focus on major writers of other cultures besides Europe and America. Students will be exposed to the works of such varied authors as Amy Tan, Maxine Hong Kingston, Derek Walcott, Toni Cade Bambara, Wole Soyinka, Kitty Tsui, Thay Nhat Hahn, and others. Students will examine the social, historical, and political forces which shaped the work of important writers of the non-Western world. This course applies toward the general education humanities requirement as well as the Honors Certificate or Honors Diploma.

II. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

A. See literature as a reflection of multicultural beliefs, customs, values and history

B. Understand political and social influences on the literature studied

C. Understand and define literary genres

D. Develop an appreciation for the richness and diversity on non-Western literature.

E. Analyze literary works in terms of character, conflict, plot and theme.

F. Compare literature from different cultures and eras in terms of universal themes

III. COURSE OUTLINE

A. From Africa to America: Culture Touching Culture
   1. Naguib Mahfouz
   2. Bessie Head
   3. Doris Lessing
   4. Alexander McCall Smith
   5. Leopold Sedar Senghor
   6. Alan Paton
   7. Phyllis Wheatley
   8. Wole Soyinka
   9. Nikki Giovanni
10. Lorraine Hansberry
11. Lucille Clifton
12. Audre Lourde
13. Brent Staples

B. Asian Attitudes
1. Shirley Geok Lin Lim
2. Amy Tan
3. Kitty Tsui
4. David Henry Hwang
5. Dwight Okita
6. Janice Mirikitani
7. Maxine Hong Kingston
8. Gish Jen
9. Haruki Murakami
10. Li-Young Lee
11. Chitra Bannerjee Divakaruni
12. Bharati Mukherjee

C. Caribbean Latin American Connection
1. Marcus Garvey
2. Claude McKay
3. Derek Walcott
4. Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture)
5. Jamaica Kincaid
6. Octavio Paz
7. Claribel Alwgría
8. Edwidge Danicat
9. Aime Cesaire
10. Tato Laviera
11. Pablo Neruda

IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. African Writers
1. Define and use vocabulary appropriate for literary study
2. Define the difference between Washington’s and Du Bois’s concepts of how African-Americans can best advance in American culture.
3. Understand the theme of African-Americans as “outsider” in the work of Langston Hughes.
4. Understand and appreciate the themes of African poets/short story writers such as Bessie Head, Nikki Giovanni’s Nicki-Rosa and Clifton’s Forgiving my Father and Ellison’s Battle Royal
5. Examine and analyze plot, character, dramatic tension and theme
in Africa short stories and poems such as Giovanni’s Nicki-Rosa and Clifton’s Forgiving my Father and Ellison’s Battle Royal
6. Explore and understand the concepts of assimilation and individuality as seen in Hansberry’s A Raisin in the Sun and Lessing’s Annap.

B. Asian Attitudes
1. Understand varied Oriental customs and ceremonies as they relate to themes as they are related to themes of masculinity and femininity, marriage, birth and death.
2. Analyze and understand Asian concepts of womanhood as opposed to Western concepts.
3. Analyze and understand Asian concepts of manhood as opposed to Western concepts.
4. Examine the impact upon Caribbean writers of Marcus Garvey’s Back to Africa Movement.
5. Study and analyze political and revolutionary movements of the 20th Century as they relate to the emergence of Hispanic authors such as Octavio Paz and Tato Laviera.

C. Caribbean Connection
1. Examine the impact upon Caribbean writers of Marcus Garvey’s Back to Africa Movement.
2. Explain and understand the principles of the Negritude Movement and of the Harlem Renaissance.
3. Explore political and social forces which shaped the literature of Caribbean writers, both in their native countries and in the United States.
4. Examine such varied formats as memoir, political tract, reggae music and poem as vehicles for expressions of viewpoints of Caribbean writers, political figures, musicians and poets.
5. Study and analyze political and revolutionary movements of the 20th century as they relate to the emergence of Hispanic authors such as Octavio Paz and Tato Laviera.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION
A. Lecture
B. Student Presentations
C. Films and Music
D. Collaborative Projects
E. Research and Writing
VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook
Library and On-Line Research Skills

VIII. SUPPLEMENTARY REFERENCES

Library Collection
Selected Films
Selected Music

IX. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Student Participation
B. Mid-term and Final Exams
C. Critical Analysis Paper
D. Quizzes
E. In-class Writings

The grading scale is as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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