

## CMLT 2400 33-530 Asian American Literature (Fall 2007)

~~ The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. ~~

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Office Hours: MF 11:00 -12:30  
Meeting Hour: 10:10 - 11:00, Joe Brown Hall 220

**Course Description:** This course examines literary works written by writers of Asian descents in North America.

**Course Objectives:** This particular course of CMLT 2400 will address the literary themes in Asian American literature such as identity searching and/or construction, hi/story writing, transgression, etc. in historical and social contexts as well as through an examination of literary styles.

### Required Texts

Hwang, David Henry. *M. Butterfly*.              Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior*.  
Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan*.                              Lee, Chang-rae. *Native Speaker*.  
Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies* (handout)

### Recommended text and others

Takaki, Ronald. *Strangers from a Different Shore*.  
*Snowing Falling on Cedars* (Feature Film), *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* (TV show), *Slaying the Dragon* (Documentary), Handouts: TBA.

### Grading:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Weekly quizzes:	20%
Presentation (10 minutes)	20%
Two written Response (200-250 words, post on WebCT)	30%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	10%
Grading Scale: A= 92, A-=90, B+=86, B=82, B-=80, C+=76, C=72, etc.	

Attendance and Participation(10%): Students' regular attendance and active participation in class are expected. Students are allowed 5 absences (excused and unexcused). Each absence beyond 5 will lower a student's final average by 1 point. Students are encouraged to make contribution to the topics in discussion and any concerns that are relevant to the topics.

Weekly Quizzes (20%): There are weekly quizzes every Friday that are directly related to the content (author, characters, plots, geography, etc.) of the required reading assignments through the semester. The quizzes cannot be made up. If you must be absent on Friday, arrangements must be made before the quiz.

Presentation (20%): Each student must do one 10-minute presentation in class during the semester. Students are free to choose their topics, e.g. they can explore further a topic that the class has raised; they can use different texts to analyze a literary theme; they can analyze a certain text in its social and historical contexts, etc. All students should make their decision of their presentation dates and sign up in the first three weeks of the class.

Responses on WebCT (30%): Each student must post two responses on WebCT during the semester. The responses should contribute directly to the discussion of the reading assignment or the films. The responses should have a length of 200-250 words, a clear theme and convincing arguments with examples from the texts. Students are encouraged to read all the responses and reply either online or in class. All students should make their decision of the texts they want to write response to and sign up in the first three weeks of the class.

Midterm (10%): The midterm exam will cover material from the first day of class until midterm. The midterm exam cannot be made up. If you must be absent on the day of the midterm exam, arrangements must be made before midterm.

Final (10%): The final exam will cover material from midterm until the final day of class. The final cannot be made up. If you must be absent on the day of the final, arrangements must be made before the final day of class.

**Class Policies:**

- It is the policy of the University of Georgia to accommodate persons with disabilities. Students with a disability or health-related issue who need a class accommodation should make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible.
- Please turn off anything that makes noise (cell phones, pagers, etc.) before class.
- All reading assignments are compulsory and should be completed before class. Students are expected to look up unfamiliar words in a dictionary.
- Late assignments will not be accepted. Students should keep backup electronic and/or hard copies of assignments in order to avoid technical problems. If you require an extension, arrangements must be made before the assignment is due. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances may be made.
- Academic dishonesty will be defined and punished according to U.G.A. guidelines. All academic work must meet the standards contained in A Culture of Honesty. Each student is responsible for knowing those standards before performing academic work. For more information consult your student handbook or <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi>.
- Each student is expected to keep a reliable and regularly checked email address by which the instructor may contact him or her.

**Class Schedule:**

Week 1

8/17 Course Introduction

Week 2

8/20 Takaki “Confronting ‘Cultural Literary’: the Redefining of America” (handout)  
Student exchange their short online research of the current situation of Asian Americans

8/22 *Interpreter of Maladies*: “When Mr. Pirzara Came to Dine.” Dacca and Indian

8/24 *Interpreter of Maladies*: “Mrs. Sen’s” (quiz)

Week 3

8/27 *Interpreter of Maladies*: “Interpreter of Maladies”

8/29 *Obasan* 1-32

8/31 *Obasan* 33--64 (quiz)

Week 4

9/3 Holiday

9/5 *Obasan* 65-100

9/7 *Obasan* 101- 130 (quiz)

Week 5

9/10 *Obasan* 131-168

9/12 *Obasan* 168-204

9/14 *Obasan* 205-230 (quiz)  
 Week 6  
 9/17 *Obasan* 231-264  
 9/19 *Obasan* 265-300  
 9/24 Screening: *Snowing Falling on Cedars* (quiz)  
 Week 7  
 9/24 Screening: *Snowing Falling on Cedars*  
 9/26 *Obasan* and *Snowing Falling on Cedars*  
 9/28 *Native Speaker* 1-18 (quiz)  
 Week 8  
 10/1 *Native Speaker* 19-59  
 10/3 *Native Speaker* 60-99  
 10/5 *Native Speaker* 100-130 +Midterm Review (quiz)  
 Week 9  
 10/8 Midterm Exam  
 10/10 *Native Speaker* 131-155  
 10/12 *Native Speaker* 156-188 (Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline, quiz)  
 Week 10  
 10/15 *Native Speaker* 188-211  
 10/17 *Native Speaker* 212-249  
 10/19 *Native Speaker* 250-276(quiz)  
 Week 11  
 10/22 *Native Speaker* 277-312  
 10 /24 *Native Speaker* 312-349  
 10/26 Fall Break  
 Week 12  
 10/29 Screening: *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*  
 10/31 Discuss *QE*  
 11/2 *M. Butterfly*: Orientalism and more (quiz)  
 Week 13  
 11/5 *M. Butterfly* Act I  
 11/7 *M. Butterfly* Act II  
 11/9 *M. Butterfly* Act III and Huang's commentary (quiz)  
 Week 14  
 11/12 *The Woman Warrior*: "No Nam Woman"  
 11/14 *The Woman Warrior*: "White Tiger"  
 11/16 *The Woman Warrior*: "Shaman" 55-87  
 Week 15  
 11/19 *The Woman Warrior*: "Shaman"87-109  
 11/21-11/23 Thanksgiving  
 Week 16  
 11/26 Screening: *Slaying the Dragon*  
 11/28 *The Woman Warrior*: "At the Western Palace" 111-135  
 11/30 *The Woman Warrior*: "At the Western Palace" 136-160 (quiz)  
 Week 17  
 12/3 *The Woman Warrior*: "A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe" 163-209  
 12/4 *Slaying the Dragon* and *the Woman Warrior* (Friday class schedule)  
 12/5 Final Exam Review

Final Exam: 12/10: 8:00-11:00 a, Joe Brown Hall 220