

**CMLT 2500: Comparative Ethnic American Literature Syllabus
Fall 2007**

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Office Hours: Fri. 1-2
Wed. 1-2 or by app.

Course Description

This course is a selection of novels that have been written by American authors from various ethnic groups. Given the importance of ethnicity to many people it is essential that everyone in the class remains open to the differences that the concept of ethnicity produces and that we treat one another with respect. At the same time, it is essential that we remain aware of how we think of our own ethnicity and the potential artifice of ethnicity as a literary device. If students are prepared to treat the literature as literature and treat other students with respect then they should not take this course. The purpose of the course is to read these novels and discuss them with one another in order to further our understanding of one another and how we understand ethnicity as it is represented in literature. Given the nature of the course it is essential that students come to class and participate in the discussion since that is the primary function of the class. The papers and exams are exercises that allow you to prove your ability to thoughtfully participate in a more fully realized version of what you've experienced from reading the novels. The content of some of the novels is meant for consideration by adults and students are expected to treat the material and one another accordingly. Talking while someone else is speaking is motivation enough for me to ask anyone to leave the classroom and receive an absence for that class period. Students will only benefit from the class if they take the material seriously and engage one another in a constructive discussion of ideas.

Cell Phone Policy: Turn your cell phones or any other electronic devices off before class begins. (including Blackberries, iphones, or any other texting device). The use of any such device in class is grounds for dismissal from the class on that day and the assignment of an absence for the class.

Required Texts:

- Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison ISBN: 0679732764
- Desirable Daughters* by Baharati Mukherjee ISBN: 0786885157
- American Pastoral* by Phillip Roth ISBN: 0099771810
- Flight* by Sherman Alexie ISBN: 0802170374
- The New Americans* by Ruben Martinez ISBN: 1565849981
- The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston ISBN: 0679721886

Grading Policy:	Attendance and Participation	15%
	Quizzes	10%
	Midterm Exam	15%
	3 (3-5 page) papers worth 15% each	
	Final Exam	15%

Attendance Policy:

Students are allowed 6 unexcused absences. For every absence over 6, half of a letter grade will be deducted from the student's final grade. The instructor reserves the right to determine whether or not an absence is considered an excused absence.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

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

Tentative Schedule

Week 1-2: *The New Americans*

Week 3-4: *Flight*

Week 5-7: *Desirable Daughters*

Week 8-9: *The Woman Warrior*

Week 10-12: *American Pastoral*

Week 13-16: *Invisible Man*

No class on Sep. 3rd (Labor Day), Oct. 26th (Fall Break), and Nov. 21st-25th (Thanksgiving Break).

The Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline is October 12th. Students who have not withdrawn from the course before this date will receive a W/F after this date which is the equivalent of an F for the course.

Dates for the exams and due dates for the papers will be given at least two weeks in advance of the date.