

Prof: M.D. O'Donnell
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Office: 136 Joe Brown Hall

CMLT 2500: *Contemporary Ethnic American Literature*

“Cultures in Conflict: Readings in American Cross-Cultural Strife”

This course will serve as a primer in the major literature devoted to cross-cultural conflict during the 20th century and continuing today. Whether stemming from political, ethnic, economical, or gender-based differences, the American cultural landscape has been carved by social oppression and rebellion. This course will help to familiarize you with some of our country's still most sensitive topics and difficult obstacles to overcome: privilege, prejudice, and power over others.

WARNING: This course will include respectful yet frank discussions of racial and gender slurs, violent acts, conscious and unconscious bias, and outright prejudice. If you do not wish to be involved in these discussions both in class and on WebCT forums, this might not be the class for you.

DO YOUR OWN WORK: *“All academic work must meet the standards contained in ‘A Culture of Honesty.’ All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before any academic work.”*

COME TO CLASS: Continued attendance is mandatory, not to mention especially helpful in passing the class. I reserve the right to drop any student from the course after 4 unexcused absences. Excuses and extraordinary circumstances notwithstanding, the class cannot perform efficiently without its students.

AREN'T I NICE: Instead of making you buy several heavy and expensive anthologies, the green Bel-Jean packet (CMLT 2500, O'Donnell) will serve as your primary text (~\$35.00).

GRADING: I grade on the point system, with point values determining the grade equitably.

One Paper/Presentation = 40 pts.

Two Tests = ~ 40 pts. each

One Final = ~ 40 pts.

2 Forum Postings per Week = ~ 6 pts. each week, 90 pts. possible

Participation/Extra Credit = in class

Total pts: ~ 250 pts. possible

WEBCT REQUIRED: This class will have an ongoing online component in which you will be required to make forum postings (requirements on separate sheet).

CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT: *“The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.”*

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Jan. 7 ~ Introduction

9 ~ Liberation Theory

11 ~ The Souls of Black Folk

14 ~ Race Matters

16 ~ J.W. Johnson

18 ~ Langston Hughes

21 ~ MLK Day-Birmingham Jail

23 ~ White Privilege

25 ~ Gwendolyn Brooks

28 ~ Monopoly

30 ~ M.X. Ballot/Bullet

Feb. 1 ~ Library Day

4 ~ Trans-National America

6 ~ Soul/Indian & Ghost Dance War

8 ~ Test 1

11 ~ More Power

13 ~ Cane

15 ~ Woman Hollering Creek

18 ~ Sexism

20 ~ White Tigers

22 ~ Sylvia Plath

25 ~ Man Child

27 ~ Jews Without Money

29 ~ South of the Slot

Mar. 3 ~ La Frontera

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4 ~ Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline

5 ~ Shirt

7 ~ Poetry Explication Day

10 ~ Spring

12 ~ Break

14 ~ Week!

17 ~ L.D. Cervantes

19 ~ Simon Ortiz

21 ~ Test 2

24 ~ You're Short

26 ~ Rainy Mountain (e-reserve)

28 ~ Memories/Catholic Girlhood

31 ~ Angel Island Wall Poetry

Apr. 2 ~ 17 Syllables

4 ~ Garret Hongo

7 ~ The Master's Tools

9 ~ The Jungle

11 ~ Howl

14 ~ MLK-Mountaintop

16 ~ M.X. Autobiography

18 ~ Spotted Eagle (e-reserve)

21 ~ Presentations

23 ~ Presentations

25 ~ Presentations

28 ~ Party Day!

30 ~ Final Exam @ Noon