

CMLT 2400 02-058 Asian American Literature (Summer 2008)

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

Instructor: Rui Wang Office: J.B.136
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Office Hours: M.W.12:00-1:00 or by appointment
Meeting Hour: 1:00-2:00 pm, daily, Joe Brown Hall 220

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

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

Required Texts:

Hwang, David Henry. *M. Butterfly*.
Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan*.
Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies*.
Lee, Chang-rae. *Native Speaker*.

Recommended text and others

Takaki, Ronald. *Strangers from a Different Shore*. (Introduction, handout)
Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior*.(selected readings, handout)
Slaying the Dragon (Documentary)

Grading:

Attendance and Participation 10%
quizzes: 20%
Presentation (10 minutes) 20%
Two written Responses (250-350 words, post on WebCT) 30%
Final paper (5-8 pages) 20%
Grading Scale: A= 92, A-=90, B+=86, B=82, B-=80, C+=76, C=72, etc.

Attendance and Participation(10%): There is no formal attendance policy, but students' regular attendance and active participation in class are expected to achieve the 10% of their final grade. Students are encouraged to make contribution to the topics under consideration and any concerns that are relevant to the topics. If a student does not appear in the first three classes of this course, s/he should not attend this course any more.

Quizzes (20%): There is a quiz after every three reading assignments throughout the semester. It is directly related to the content (author, characters, plots, geography, etc.)of the required reading assignments. The quizzes cannot be made up. If you must be absent on the day of the quizzes, arrangements must be made before the quiz. The lowest grade of the quizzes will be dropped.

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 raises; they can use different texts to analyze a literary theme; they can compare characters in different texts; or they can do an interpretation of some parts of a text that the class has not discussed, 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 250-350 words, a clear theme and convincing arguments with examples from the texts. Students are encouraged to read all the responses and replies.

Final Paper (20%) : The detailed requirements of final paper will be on the assignment sheet distributed around the mid-term time.

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 at the beginning of the semester.
- Please turn off anything that makes noise (cell phones, 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>.

Class Schedule:

Week 1

6/5 Course Introduction

6/6 Takaki “Confronting ‘Cultural Literacy’: the Redefining of America” (handout)

Week 2

6/9 *Interpreter of Maladies*: “When Mr. Pirzara Came to Dine.”

6/10 *Interpreter of Maladies*: “Mrs. Sen's”

6/11 *Interpreter of Maladies*: “Interpreter of Maladies” (quiz)

6/12 *Interpreter of Maladies*: “A Real Durwan”

6/13 *Interpreter of Maladies*: “The Third and Final Continent”

Week 3

6/16 *Obasan* 1-32 (quiz)

6/17 *Obasan* 33-51

6/18 *Obasan* 52-77

6/19 *Obasan* 78-100 (quiz)

6/20 *Obasan* 101-130

Week 4

- 6/23 *Obasan* 131-155
- 6/24 *Obasan* 156-177 (quiz)
- 6/25 *Obasan* 178-204
- 6/26 *Obasan* 205-230
- 6/27 *Obasan* 231-256 (quiz)

Week 5

- 6/30 *Obasan* 257-279
- 7/1 *Obasan* 279-300
- 7/2 *Native Speaker* 1-18 (quiz) >> final paper assignment sheet
- 7/3 *Native Speaker* 19- 46 (Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline)
- 7/4 Holiday!!!**

Week 6

- 7/7 *Native Speaker* 100-130
- 7/8 *Native Speaker* 131-155 (quiz)
- 7/9 *Native Speaker* 156-188
- 7/10 *Native Speaker* 189-211
- 7/11 *Native Speaker* 212-249 (quiz)

Week 7

- 7/14 *Native Speaker* 250-276
- 7/15 *Native Speaker* 277-312
- 7/16 *Native Speaker* 312-349 (quiz)
- 7/17 “Afterword” of *M. Butterfly* and *M. Butterfly* Act I
- 7/18 *M. Butterfly* Act II

Week 8

- 7/21 *M. Butterfly* Act III (quiz)
- 7/22 Screening: *Slaying the Dragon*
- 7/23 *The Woman Warrior*: “No Name Woman” 1-16
- 7/24 *The Woman Warrior*: “White Tigers” 17-54 (quiz)
- 7/25 *The Woman Warrior*: “A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe” 161-187

Week 9

- 7/28 *The Woman Warrior*: “A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe” 188-209 (quiz)
- 7/29 Final Paper Due