

Multiethnic American Literature

ENG636 | 3 Credits | Winter/Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Laura Soderberg

Office Hour: By appointment

Email: laura.soderberg@usi.edu

Dates: 1/10/22 - 5/6/22

Online Meeting: Zoom link will be sent to participants

Phone: (812) 465-1669

Office Number: Orr 3006

This is an online synchronous course that meets Monday evenings, 5-7:45 pm Central/6-8:45 pm Eastern.

Course Description

This course will contribute to the breadth and depth of student understanding of Multiethnic American literatures, including but not limited to African American, Asian American, Native, and Latinx literatures. Readings may span the entire history of American literature or may focus on one or two distinct moments from American literary history. The course may also be organized by important topics in Multiethnic American literatures and may examine canonical and non-canonical authors. Topics may vary.

Prerequisites: Program Admission

Course Learning Objectives

- Describe the coevolution of multiple traditions of "ethnic literature" in the U.S.
- Analyze literary texts within the frameworks of comparative multiethnic literature
- Create well-reasoned and well-written arguments about literature and literary scholarship.

Communication Guidelines

Netiquette

All class communications and interactions with other students and the professor should follow common social standards for respect and courtesy. Learn about the [USI Netiquette Guidelines for Online Students](#) so that you can get the most out of your class.

Communication Expectation

Please contact me by email at laura.soderberg@usi.edu with any questions or comments. I respond within 1-2 business days. Assignment feedback will be available through Blackboard, typically within two weeks of submission.

Blackboard Course Site Overview

This course's Blackboard is organized into four separate units, which are then divided into weekly modules. Start with "Unit 1: The Antebellum Period" and "Week 1." The homepage also provides the Zoom link for our weekly discussions.

Course Requirements

- **Textbooks and/or Course Materials**
Cisneros, Sandra. *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. Vintage Books, 1992. ISBN: 0679738568

Larsen, Nella. *Quicksand: And, Passing*. Ed. Deborah McDowell. Rutgers University Press, 1986. ISBN: 0813511704
Lorde, Audre. *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*. Crossing Press, 1982. ISBN: 0895941228
Okubo, Mine. *Citizen 13660*. University of Washington Press, 2014. ISBN: 0295993545
Orange, Tommy. *There There*. Vintage, 2019. ISBN: 0525436146
Taylor, Brandon. *Real Life: A Novel*. Riverhead Books, 2021. ISBN: 0525538895

Technical Requirements

- **A Reliable Computer:** a dedicated computer with an updated operating system, such as Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX.
- **High-Speed Internet Connection:** (e.g. DSL or Cable). All USI online students are required to have a stable high-speed Internet connection. A wired Internet connection is recommended for online meeting, exams, and assignment submission.
- **Office 365** (USI login needed) & [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) installed.
- **Supported Web Browser:** [Firefox](#) or [Google Chrome](#)
- Microphone & Webcam

* More information on the system requirements for taking online courses can be found at [USI Online Learning System Requirements](#)

Minimum Technical Skills

Students must be able to navigate Blackboard, access VoiceThread videos, and use word processing software and email.

Minimum Digital Information Literacy Skills

Students must be able to do the following:

1. Using online libraries and databases to locate and gather appropriate information
2. Using computer networks to locate and store files or data
3. Using online search tools for specific academic purposes, including the ability to use search criteria, keywords, and filters
4. Properly citing information sources

Assessments

In order to receive a passing grade in the class, students must:

- Participate in synchronous discussions weekly. Each week, students will prepare for these discussions by posting an informal response to the reading with a focus on points of interest and new lines of inquiry from the reading.

- Note, you are expected to attend all of these sessions, barring emergency. Absence from more than one of these sessions without documented emergency will result in a 5% penalty to your final grade for each absence.
- Write two short papers (3-4 pages) developing ideas from their informal responses into a formal piece, at least one of which must incorporate secondary criticism not already included in the syllabus.
- Complete one research paper project, which will include a proposal and annotated bibliography, a final paper (15-20 pages), an individual conference about your project, and a final presentation to be shared with the class.

Grading Methods

Assignment	Point Percentage
Participation	15
Responses	15
Short Papers	20
Research Project	30

	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F
Percentage	90-100%	86-89.9%	80-85.9%	76-79.9%	70-75.9%	66-69.9%	60-65.9%	Below 60%

Course & University Policies

Participation

Participation is a significant portion of the grade because class discussion is one of the ways that you will improve core skills in the class, including the ability to engage thoughtfully, analyze quickly, and develop your ideas in the context of other people's ideas. Attendance is required, but attendance alone is not sufficient to earn points for participation. Students should come to class prepared to contribute to the conversation with their own thoughts, interpretations, and questions, as well as responding to the ideas of other students.

Late Assignment Policy

I will accept papers that are submitted less than one day (24 hours) with a 10% penalty. I do not accept papers that are more than 24 hours late. If you anticipate difficulty making a deadline, it is your responsibility to contact me *before* the deadline has passed. If you do expect to need an extension, please email me letting me know and giving me a sense of when you think you would be able to submit the work. I won't be able to accept all requests, but I encourage you to ask for when it would be helpful. I do not give retroactive extensions.

Academic Integrity

Students have the right and responsibility to pursue their educational goals with academic integrity,

which is the hallmark of truth and honesty in an engaged university community. Please view the [Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures](#).

Civility Statement

The University is dedicated to a culture of civility among students, faculty, and staff. The university embraces and celebrates the many differences that exist among the members of a dynamic, intellectual and inclusive community, and strives to maintain an environment that respects differences and provides a sense of belonging and inclusion for everyone. If you have experienced discrimination, or know someone who has, you may seek help by contacting USI's Interim Affirmative Action Officer, Dameion Doss, at 812-464-1835 or at ddoss@usi.edu. Find more information in the [Student Rights and Responsibilities: Code of Student Behavior - PDF](#) and [Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination policy](#).

Class Withdrawal & Incomplete Policy

It is the student's responsibility to officially drop/withdraw from any courses before the deadline. The university does not withdraw students from any classes. Please refer to the [USI Academic Calendar](#) for specific dates. For more information, please visit [Registrar's Office Schedule Changes](#). Under special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. However, it is up to the course instructor to decide if an incomplete will be granted. Students receiving an incomplete grade will need to complete all course requirements by the agreed deadline to avoid an "F" grade.

Disability Accommodations

If you have a disability for which you may require academic accommodations for this class, please contact Disability Resources at 812-464-1961 or email Disability Communications at usi1disres@usi.edu as soon as possible. Students are approved for accommodations by Disability Resources should request their accommodation letter be emailed to them to forward to their online instructors. Due to the nature of online courses, some accommodations approved for on campus courses may not apply. Please discuss this with Disability Resources to clarify as needed. Students who receive an accommodation letter from Disability Resources are encouraged to discuss the provisions of those accommodations with their professors before or during the first week of the semester. If you will be in an internship, field, clinical, student teaching, or other off-campus setting this semester please note that approved academic accommodations may not apply. Please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible to discuss accommodations needed for access while in this setting. For more information, please visit the Disability Resources website at [USI Disability Resources](#).

Title IX, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence Policy

The University of Southern Indiana is committed to providing a safe learning, living and working environment free from discrimination. Sexual misconduct and incidents of interpersonal violence deeply interrupt the collegiate experience, and USI is dedicated to ensuring a campus that is free of these types of incidents in order to promote community well-being and student success. USI encourages individuals who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support.

Confidential resources are available on campus at [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) and the [University Health Center](#) (UHC). For a full list of resources, support opportunities, and reporting options, contact Beth Devonshire, the University Title IX Coordinator at beth.devonshire@usi.edu or Dameion Doss, Deputy Title IX Coordinator at 812-464-1835 or ddoss@usi.edu or stop by the Title IX office located in the Wright Administration Building, Forum Wing, Suite 171.

Technical Support

Help Desk Support

Since your professors are not trained as technology experts, they will not be able to assist you with your technical needs. If you have any issues with Blackboard, Zoom, Panopto, VoiceThread, or any other technology, please contact the [Help Desk](#) at 812-465-1080 or send an email to it@usi.edu. To learn more about the USI helpdesk, please visit [USI IT Help Desk](#)

Additional Training Documentation

- [Blackboard](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Panopto](#)
- **VoiceThread**
 - [USI Online Learning VoiceThread Tutorials](#)
 - [VoiceThread How To](#)

Privacy Policies & Accessibility Statements

For detailed information about the privacy policies and accessibility statements of the course technologies, please visit [USI Online Learning Support Services](#)

Academic Support Services

Academic Skills

[Academic Skills- Tutoring](#)

This office offers tutoring and learning assistance to help you develop skills to succeed in your academic life. To contact them, please call 812-464-1743 or go to the website above to find the latest tutoring schedule. In addition to tutoring in math and other content areas in Academic Skills, please note that the Writers' Room (ED 1102) provides writing assistance in person and online. To use this service, please contact their office by calling 812-461-5359 or visit their website at [USI Writers' Room](#)

How to Cite Sources (APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, etc.)

[Rice Library Libguides for Citing Sources](#)

Research Guides

Research assistance, subject guides, and useful resources compiled by your friendly librarians. [USI Lib Guides](#)

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center is open every Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm CST. You'll find the Counseling Center in the Orr Center, Room 1051; their phone number is 812-464-1867 [USI Counseling Center](#)

Disability and ADA Support

[Disability and ADA Support](#)

Student Grievances

[Student Grievances and Complaints Information](#)

Additional Student Resources

The university provides a comprehensive range of support services and activities for students. Please refer to [Student Support Services](#) for detailed information regarding academic advising, registration, financial aid, student affairs, counseling, career services, etc.

Financial Aid Office

Information about current or future financial aid (including the implications of withdrawal from courses) can be obtained from the University Financial Aid Office. The office open is every Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm CST; phone 812-464-1767, or email them at finaid@usi.edu

Student Basic Needs

Students who have difficulty affording food on a regular basis or lack a safe place to live and believe this may affect their class performance are encouraged to contact the [Dean of Students Office](#) and view a [list of resources](#).

University Health Center

The University Health Center is a full-service clinic offering medical services and health-related information to students, faculty, and staff. It located in the lower level of the Health Professions Center and is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm CST. Click on this link to learn more about the [Health Services](#) offered at USI, or to make an appointment, please call 812-465-1250.

The schedule is a guide to the course and is subject to change with reasonable advanced notice as course needs arise.

Course Schedule

Week 1

January 10

Terms and Methods

Antebellum (1800-1865)

Week 2

January 17

Lisa Lowe, Introduction to *The Intimacies of Four Continents* [BB]

Handsome Lake, "How America was Discovered" [BB]

Watch Lecture 1 [BB]

Week 3

January 24

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* [BB]

Week 4

January 31

John Rollins Ridge, *The Life and Adventures of Joaquín Murrieta* [BB]

Paper 1 due Friday, 4th 11:59 pm

Postbellum (1865-1945)

Week 5

February 7

José Martí, assorted writings [BB]

Laura Lomas, “El negro es tan capaz como el blanco”: José Martí, ‘Pachin’ Marín, Lucy Parsons, and the Politics of Late-Nineteenth-Century Latinidad” [BB]

Watch Lecture 2 [BB]

Week 6

February 14

Nella Larsen, *Quicksand* and *Passing*

Week 7

February 21

Sui Sin Far, *Mrs. Spring Fragrance* [BB]

Lori Jirousek, “Spectacle Ethnography” [BB]

Week 8

February 28

Zitkala-Ša, *American Indian Stories* [BB]

Philip Deloria, “Four Thousand Invitations” [BB]

Paper 2 due Friday, March 4th 11:59 pm

Civil Rights (1945-2000)

Week 9

March 7

Spring Break, no classes

Week 10

March 14

Miné Okubo, *Citizen 13660*

“Statement of Miné Okubo before the Congressional Committee on Wartime Relocation and Internment”

Week 11

March 21

Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek*

Gloria Anzaldúa, from *Borderlands/La Frontera* [BB]

Watch Lecture 3 [BB]

Week 12

March 28

Audre Lorde, *Zami*

Research Proposal and Bibliography due Friday, April 1st, 11:59 pm

Contemporary (2000-)

Week 13

April 4

Tommy Orange, *There, There*

Jodi Byrd, Introduction, *Transit of Empire* [BB]

Individual meetings

Week 14

April 18

Brandon Taylor, *Real Life*

Individual meetings

Week 15

April 25

Watch *Minari*

Viya Prashad, Introduction, *The Karma of Brown Folk* [BB]

Final Papers due Wednesday, April 27. Final research colloquium according to finals period.