

English 4790
Spring, 2019
Department of English
University of Georgia

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Office Hours: 1-3MW

CircumCaribbean Literature
Schedule of Assignments

(Selections included in the course booklet are marked CB)

The Course Booklet is available at Bel Jean Copy-Print Center on Broad Street

This course will examine the fascinating literature (including novels, plays, stories, and poems) that has been generated by writers of the wider Caribbean basin, including the islands, but also the shores of Mexico, Central America, Latin America, and the coastal U.S. South. Employing diasporan and transnational approaches, we will consider historical novels, magical realism, immigrant literature, plantation narratives, and in particular, writing that focuses on the conundrums of race, sexuality, and colonialism. While we shall read books originally written in Spanish and French, all texts will be in English.

January

10 Th George Washington Cable, "Jean Ah-Poquelin" (on handout)
15 Tu Kate Chopin, "Desirée's Baby"; "At the 'Cadian Ball"; "The Storm" (CB); Constance Fenimore Woolson, "The South Devil" (CB);
17 Th Alejo Carpentier, The Kingdom of This World*
22 Tu The Kingdom of This World
24 Th The Kingdom of this World; Victor Séjour, "The Mulatto" (CB)
29 Tu Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, The Yearling*
31 Th The Yearling

February

5 Tu The Yearling; Lafcadio Hearn, Chita (On line - look for "full text")
7 Th Ernest Gaines, A Lesson Before Dying*
12 Tu A Lesson Before Dying
14 Th A Lesson Before Dying; Zora Neale Hurston, "The Gilded Six-Bits" (CB)
19 Tu Gabriel García Márquez, "A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings"; "Big Mama's Funeral" (online)

Paper One is due at the start of class today

21 Th Edwidge Danticat, "Children of the Sea" (CB); Judith Ortiz Cofer, "Corazon's Café" (CB)
26 Tu Claude McKay, Banana Bottom*
28 Th Banana Bottom

March

5 Tu Banana Bottom; Anna Menendez, "In Cuba I Was a German Shepherd" (CB)
7 Th Poetry of Nicolás Guillen and Brenda Marie Osbey (CB); Nilo Cruz, Anna in the Tropics*
Spring Break
19 Tu Nilo Cruz, Anna in the Tropics

21 Th *Midterm examination*
26 Tu Madison Smartt Bell, All Souls' Rising*
28 Th All Souls' Rising
April
2 Tu All Souls' Rising
4 Th Poetry of Natasha Tretheway (CB)
Paper Two is due at the start of class today
9 Tu Cristina Garcia, Monkey Hunting*
11 Th Monkey Hunting
16 Tu Jacques Roumain, Masters of the Dew*
18 Th Masters of the Dew
23 Junot Diaz, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
25 The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 7th, 12 - 2 p.m.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

First Essay: 20%

Second Essay: 20%

Quizzes: 10%

Class Participation: 10%

Exams: The midterm and final exams will consist of a series of short answer and essay questions asking you to demonstrate your knowledge of the texts, your analytical capacity, and your ability to make connections from one author to another (all essay questions will involve comparison and contrast of texts).

Essays: Each student will write two 5 page essays that demonstrate an ability to analyze texts and to make connections between texts. You should at all costs avoid simply summarizing the plots of the works under discussion. Rather, a successful essay will be organized around a strong *thesis*—a central argument about theme, character, ideology, and so on - that you support through close analysis of your primary text(s). The second paper will involve research. Full details about these exercises will be provided in the “Course Information” document.

Quizzes: In order to help you keep up with the reading and review for exams, we will have short reading quizzes on the first day we consider a longer text. These dates are marked on the syllabus with an asterisk (*). Quizzes will typically consist of 4 questions worth 25 points each. If you are absent for a scheduled quiz, you will receive a grade of zero; these assignments cannot be made up.

OTHER INFORMATION

A Note on Class Discussion: As noted, 10% of your grade will be based on my evaluation of your participation in our discussions. While I will often lecture for a portion of the class, especially as we begin a new text, the bulk of our class time will involve our discussions of the

works. The livelier and more insightful these conversations, the more we'll all learn about the works we consider, and the better prepared you will be to generate original ideas and make interesting connections among the texts—crucial skills for the exams and for the final essay.

Plagiarism: "Plagiarism' is defined as the unacknowledged inclusion of someone else's words, structure, ideas, or data. When a student submits work as his/her own that includes the words, structure, ideas, or data of others, the source of this information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific references, and, if verbatim statements are included, through quotation marks as well. Failure to identify any source (including interviews, surveys, etc.), published in any medium (including on the internet) or unpublished, from which words, structure, ideas, or data have been taken, constitutes plagiarism." I remind you that UGA requires instructors to report all academic misconduct violations; if I detect plagiarism, I do not have the option of letting students off with a warning or lowering their grade on a particular assignment.

Late Papers and Missed Exams: Late papers will not be accepted. Students must be present on the day of the midterm and final exams in order to be able to take those tests, and completion of each of these exercises is a required component for passing the course. Students requesting exam rescheduling for illness, family emergency, or other similar reasons must provide documentation from their college counselor.

Attendance: Students will be allowed 4 absences. Note: that's not four "free cuts" plus any number of absences for illness, family emergency, or university events. That's four, total. The student's final grade will be affected by excessive absences, as they have an impact on class participation assessment. You should, however, strive to be here for *all* classes if you expect to garner a top grade in this class.

Laptop Computers

Students may use laptops to take notes; however, students who check email, play computer games, and so on during class, will be required to leave laptops at home.

Electronic Gadgets

When you come to class, turn off your cell phone, your pager, your two-way messenger, and whatever other gadgets you keep on your person. (*Note:* "Off" does **not** mean "vibrate" or "silent." It means "off.") If your phone rings during class, the instructor will answer it for you and engage the caller in a very public and, in all likelihood, embarrassing conversation. *No texting during class!*

Services and Resources

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodation, please see a staff member in the Office of Disability Services so that such accommodations can be considered. Students who receive accommodation letters should meet with me to discuss the provisions made as soon as possible.

Campus Carry Regulations

For information about House Bill 280, commonly known as the "campus carry" legislation, which became effective July 1, 2017, please refer to information and guidance provided by the University System of Georgia at <http://www.usg.edu/hb280>. Students are free to contact the UGA Police Department concerning the enforcement of HB280.