

Comparative Literature 7120  
Louisiana State University  
Autumn Term, 2001

Professor John Lowe  
240C Allen Hall  
388-3177; office hours:  
9:00-12 W and by appointment

**LITERATURE AND ETHNICITY**  
*A Pan-Pacific, Trans-Atlantic Approach*

*Schedule of Assignments*

AUGUST

M 27 Introduction: Guy de Maupassant, "The Necklace"; Kate Chopin, "The Storm" (on handouts)

W 29 Abraham Cahan, Yekl.

SEPTEMBER

M 3 *Labor Day Holiday*

W 5 Yekl

M 10 Abraham Cahan, The Imported Bridegroom

W 12 Sholem Aleichem, Adventures of Mottel, the Cantor's Son

M 17 Mottel

W 19 Jerre Mangione, Mount Allegro

M 24 Mount Allegro

W 26 Ignazio Silone, Bread and Wine

OCTOBER

M 1 Bread and Wine

By now students should have read excerpts from Werner Sollors, Beyond Ethnicity, and Fred Gardaphe, Italian Signs, American Streets (on handouts/reserve)

W 3 Wu-Chen, Monkey

M 8 Monkey

*First Paper is due by 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 12*

By now students should have read excerpts from Chinese-American literary criticism (on handouts/reserve)

W 10 Maxine Hong Kingston, Tripmaster Monkey

M 15 Tripmaster Monkey

W 17 Tripmaster Monkey

M 22 Gerald Vizenor, Griever: An American Monkey King in China

W 24 Griever

M 29 R. K. Narayan, The Guide

W 31 The Guide

NOVEMBER

M 5 Bharati Mukherjee, The Middleman and Other Stories

W 7 The Middleman

M 12 Sandra Cisneros, The House on Mango Street  
W 14 The House on Mango Street

By now students should have read excerpts from essays on contemporary South Asian literature and its diaspora (handouts/reserve).

M 19 Laura Esquivel, Like Water for Chocolate  
W 21 Like Water for Chocolate  
M 26 Wole Soyinka, Death and the King's Horseman  
W 28 Death and the King's Horseman; Femi Euba, The Eye of Gabriel

*Second Paper is due by 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 30*

DECEMBER

M 3 The Eye of Gabriel  
W 5 Course summary; discussion of criticism

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*Course requirements*

Students will write a paragraph suggesting discussion topics for each of the texts in the course; these will be presented in class on the first day each text is considered. Two papers are required; one will be a five page discussion of ethnicity in one of the Abraham Cahan short stories we are not reading for class. The second paper should be fifteen to twenty pages, will involve research, and must be comparative in nature, involving a text by an ethnic American writer and another from the home culture (i.e., European, Asian, African) of the writer in question. Class paragraphs will comprise 10% of the grade; the first paper 30%; the second paper 60%. Class participation will be considered in borderline cases.