

Ethnicity in American Literature Section 01

ENGL 169

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 07/24/2024

Contact Information

Email: allison.johnson@sjsu.edu

Course Information

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM, Sweeney Hall 413

Course Description and Requisites

Study of expressions of ethnic and racial identity in American literature, with close attention to strategies of representation and resistance. Selected texts primarily arise out of the lived experiences of people of color, including Native Americans, Black Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinx Americans.

GE Area: S

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

Every student will come to class prepared for a critical discussion. Every student will read all of the assigned readings, come to every class meeting, engage with the texts and participate in the discussion, offer interpretations, ask and answer questions, and be respectful to other students. Please email me if you are unable to attend. **There will be 6 quizzes on the reading throughout the semester. You should take them before class on Canvas. You cannot make them up.**

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

All course materials are on the course homepage on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) (<http://one.sjsu.edu>) to learn of any updates.

Required Watching and Posting

I will post all lecture videos to Canvas. Before class, watch the video lecture about the text(s) for that day and then post to the discussion board (you can ask a question about the lecture or the text(s), make an observation, or respond to another student). Quizzes will cover information from lecture videos and from the readings. **Just watching the lectures does not constitute participation in the course; you must come to in-person classes.**

Paper Regulations

Write your papers in double-spaced 12pt. Times New Roman font, and format them according to MLA guidelines. The OWL site produced by Purdue (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>) provides good examples of MLA citations. **Late papers will be marked down 1/3 letter grade per day (including weekends).**

Office Hours and Email Policies

I encourage you to meet with me during my virtual office hours to receive assistance on assignments and papers, and ask me questions. You can email me if you are unable to meet me during my designated hours.

Plagiarism Policy

If you plagiarize, you will receive an automatic 0 grade. Please make sure you cite your sources using proper MLA format! **If you use AI to write your paper, you will receive an automatic 0 grade.** You are not allowed to submit papers you have already submitted to other classes.

“San José State University defines cheating as the act of obtaining credit, attempting to obtain credit, or assisting others to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.”

“San José State University defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one’s own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements.”

For full definition, see <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website](#).

English Program Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System").

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent;
- B = above average;
- C = average;
- D = below average;
- F = failure.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.

2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.

Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/english (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english>)

Department email: english@sjsu.edu (<mailto:english@sjsu.edu>)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area S: Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S.

SJSU Studies courses -- Areas R, S, and V -- help students integrate knowledge between and among disciplines. In Area S courses, students study the interrelationships of individuals, racial groups, and cultural groups to understand and appreciate issues of diversity, inclusion, inequalities, and justice in the United States.

GE Area S Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area S course, students should be able to:

1. describe how identities are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality. Examples include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, disability status, age, generation, regional origin, national identity, language, and intersectionalities;
2. analyze historical, economic, political, or social processes that shape diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S. and reflect on one's own identities and positions within these structures;
3. evaluate social actions which have or have not led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S.; and
4. engage in constructive interactions about social issues in the U.S. within the framework of equality and inequalities.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 3000 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

Course Materials

All books are available at the SJSU bookstore.

Of One Blood

Author: Pauline Hopkins

Publisher: Washington Square Press

ISBN: 9780743467698

Ceremony

Author: Leslie Marmon Silko

Publisher: Penguin

ISBN: 9780143104919

Ms. Marvel: No Normal

Author: G. Willow Wilson

Publisher: Marvel

ISBN: 9780785190219

Library Liaison

Peggy Cabrera, email: peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (3 hours per unit per week) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. Because this is a 3-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments.

Personal Reflection Essay, 9/22

10% [GE ALO 2]

Midterm, 10/3

20% [GE ALOs 1-4]

Analytical Paper, 11/17

25% [GE ALOs 1-4]

Creative Project, 12/13

10% [GE ALOs 1-2]

Final Exam, 12/16

25% [GE ALOs 1-4]

Participation

10% [GE ALOs 1-4]

Discussion Posts

5% [GE ALOs 1-4]

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

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When	Topic	Notes
Week 1 08/22/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Introduction to Course	
Week 2 08/27/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Bloodlines	Elias Johnson, selection from <i>Legends, Traditions and Laws, of the Iroquois, or Six Nations and History of the Tuscarora Indians</i>
Week 2 08/29/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Bloodlines	Sarah Winnemucca (Thocmetony), from <i>Life Among the Piutes</i>
Week 3 09/03/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Bloodlines	Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bonnin), from <i>American Indian Stories</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Week 3 09/05/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Bloodlines	Anzia Yzierska, "America and I"
Week 4 09/10/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Bloodlines	Pauline Hopkins, <i>Of One Blood</i> , chp. 1- chp. 10
Week 4 09/12/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Bloodlines	Pauline Hopkins, <i>Of One Blood</i> , finish book
Week 5 09/17/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Early African-American Writers	Jupiter Hammon, "An Evening Thought: Salvation by Christ, with Penetential Cries," "An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatley" Phillis Wheatley, "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth," "On Virtue," "To S.M., a Young African Painter, on Seeing His Works," "To His Excellency General Washington," "On the Death of J.C. an Infant," "Thoughts on the Work of Providence"
Week 5 09/19/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Abolitionism	David Walker, from <i>Appeal</i> Lydia Maria Child, from <i>An Appeal in Favor of That Class of Americans Called Africans</i>
Assignment Week 5, 9/22	Personal Reflection Essay	Submit via Canvas by 11:59.
Week 6 09/24/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Slavery and After	Frances E. W. Harper, "The Slave Mother," "Ethiopia," "Bury Me in a Free Land," "Bible Defense of Slavery," "Songs for the People," "Learning to Read," "Aunt Chloe's Politics," "The Deliverance"
Week 6 09/26/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Slavery and After	Kate Chopin, "Desirée's Baby," "Old Aunt Peggy," "A Matter of Prejudice," "Nég Créol"
Week 7 10/01/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Midterm Review	

When	Topic	Notes
Week 7 10/03/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Midterm	
Week 8 10/08/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Charles Chesnutt	Charles Chesnutt, From <i>The Wife of His Youth and Other Stories of the Color Line</i> : "The Wife of His Youth," "Her Virginia Mammy," "The Sheriff's Children"
Week 8 10/10/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Charles Chesnutt	Charles Chesnutt, From <i>The Conjure Woman</i> : "The Goophered Grapevine," "Po' Sandy," "Sis' Becky's Pickaninny"
Week 9 10/15/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Color Line	Booker T. Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Address" W.E.B. Du Bois, from <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i>
Week 9 10/17/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Color Line	Zora Neale Hurston, "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" Alaine Locke, "New Negro" Jean Toomer, "Blood-Burning Moon"
Week 10 10/22/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Color Line	Langston Hughes, "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain," "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," "Cross," "Mulatto," "Negro," "I, Too," "Harlem," "The Weary Blues," "Let America Be America Again," "Theme for English B"
Week 10 10/24/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Color Line	Gwendolyn B. Bennett, "Heritage," "Advice," "To a Dark Girl" Claude McKay, "America," "If We Must Die," "The Lynching," "Harlem Shadows" Countee Cullen, "Threnody for a Black Girl," "Incident," "From the Dark Tower"
Week 11 10/29/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Timelines	Leslie Marmon Silko, <i>Ceremony</i> , read half
Week 11 10/31/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Timelines	Leslie Marmon Silko, <i>Ceremony</i> , finish

When	Topic	Notes
Week 12 11/05/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Borderlines	Edith Maud Eaton (Sui Sin Far), "Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of an Eurasian," "In the Land of the Free," "Mrs. Spring Fragrance"
Week 12 11/07/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Borderlines	Gloria Anzaldúa, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue"
Week 13 11/12/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Borderlines	Josephina Niggli, from <i>Mexican Village</i>
Week 13 11/14/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Borderlines	María Cristina Mena, "John of God, the Water-Carrier," "The Education of Popo"
Week 14 11/19/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Borderlines	Sandra Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek"
Week 14 11/21/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Borderlines	Helena María Viramontes, "The Cariboo Café"
Assignment Week 14, 11/24	Analytical Essay due	Submit via Canvas by 11:59 p.m.
Week 15 11/26/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Borderlines	Carlos Bulosan, "I Want the Wide American Earth" Soleil David, Three Poems Athena Mariano Tan, "I was the first Lady Doctor" Jill Damatac, "Dirty Kitchen"
Week 15 11/28/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Thanksgiving	No class

When	Topic	Notes
Week 16 12/03/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beyond Borders	G. Willow Wilson, <i>Ms. Marvel: No Normal</i>
Week 16 12/05/2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Final Exam Review	
Assignment	Creative Project, 12/13	Submit via Canvas by 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 12/16/2024 12:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Final Exam	