

Introduction to Multiethnic Literatures
(English 218, Section 002C)

Professor: Mijeong L. Park Class #: 33974 Days/Times: MWF 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Classroom: Polk 21	Email: lopezpam@uwosh.edu Office: Radford Hall 230 Office Hours: MW 3:00-4:30 PM OR by appointment Office Phone: (920) 424-0918
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Course Description

This course will survey a series of African American, Asian American, Latin American, and Native American literary works by focusing on the concepts and the narratives of family, home, and nation.

The United States as a “Promised Land” is frequently visualized in the image of a happy family (particularly a nuclear family), a kind that we can see in the hit TV series, *Little House on the Prairie* (1974-1983), or the MGM musical, *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944). The pictures of these idealized families are deeply engraved in the politics of assimilation and exclusion, and characterize racial, gender, sexual, and class profiles required for full membership of the United States.

By examining (de)-formation of many different families in the literatures of racially and ethnically marginalized groups, the class aims to grasp critical perspectives in the building of the United States as a nation-state. In addition, the class will discuss whether and how the selected writings challenge the mainstream creed on families and homes, and reinvent them as a unit and a place for positive production of multiethnic and multicultural democracy.

The course requires active class participation, close reading of the required texts, three essays (4-6 pages), and final exam. Pop quizzes will be given occasionally to test reading assignments.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance & Class Participation (15%, 30 points)
Three Essays (60 %, 120 points) : 40 points each (40 X 3)
Final Exam (25%, 50 points)
Pop Quizzes : Extra points

Total: 200 points plus (A: 200-180, B 179-160, C: 159-140, D: 139-120, F: 119-0)

Attendance & Class Participation (15%, 30 points):

- **Attendance:** Only 3 (three) absences are permitted without a penalty. After three absences, I will deduct 4 attendance & participation points for each additional absence. If a student is absent from the class more than 10 (ten) times, she/he will automatically fail the class.
- **Tardiness:** Be on time to avoid disrupting the flow of the class.

- **Participation:** It is crucial to participate in-class discussion actively and speak up.

Three Essays (40 points each, 60% in total): 4-6 page essays on the required texts. A series of questions/topics (related to the texts and class discussions) will be given several weeks before the due date for each paper. A student is required to choose one or two questions/topics for each of her/his three papers. See the course schedule for the due dates. Hard copies of all three essays must be submitted in class.

Final Exam (50 points, 25%): It aims to review and sum up the entire required readings and discussion during the semester. A study guide will be given before the final exam.

Pop Quizzes (Extra points): A series of quizzes will be given without notice to see if each student finishes close reading of the required texts on time for class discussion. Students can gain extra points from pop quizzes.

- All essays must be typed (12 pt font, double spaced and 1 (one) inch margin at each side of letter-sized paper).
- All essays must have separate work-cited pages. Consult *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Paper* for the proper format.
- Student laptops are not allowed to use in class unless a student has an inevitable reason such as physical disability in handwriting.
- Academic dishonesty (particularly plagiarism) is strictly forbidden in this class and University of Wisconsin System. For more information, visit <http://www.uwosh.edu/dean/studentdisciplinecode.html>.
- I reserve the right to modify the course schedule and make other assignments as necessary in order to best serve the collective need of the class.

Reading List

(For further information of each reading, refer to the attached bibliography.)

Required Textbooks (available at the campus bookstore):

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Harriet Jacobs (Norton, 1861, 2001).

Tracks, Louise Erdrich (Harper Perennial, 1988).

The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros (Vintage, 1984).

Typical American, Gish Jen (A Plume Book, 1991).

A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry (Vintage, 1958, 1994).

Required Short Stories/Articles/Chapters (electronically available at the library course reserve webpage OR will be handed out by the professor):

“The Door,” Bienvenido N. Santos, from *Scent of Apples: A Collection of Stories* (U of Washing P, 1979).

“From *Changing American Families*,” Judy Root Aulette, from *Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing* 7th ed. (Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2007).

- “Models of American Ethnic Relations: A Historical Perspective,” George M. Fredrickson, from *Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing* 7th ed. (Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2007).
- “It’s All in the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation,” Patricia Hill Collins, from *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* vol. 13, no. 3 (Summer 1998).
- “Aguantando,” Junot Díaz, from *Drown* (Riverhead Books, 1996).
- “Negocios,” Junot Díaz, from *Drown* (Riverhead Books, 1996).
- “Homeplace: A Site of Resistance,” bell hooks, from *Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics* (South End, 1990).

Recommended Books (available at the campus bookstore or the library course reserve desk):

- Scent of Apples: A Collection of Stories*, Bienvenido N. Santos (U of Washington P, 1979).
- Drown*, Junot Díaz (Riverhead Books, 1996).
- Unsettling America*, Eds. Maria Mazziotti Gillan and Jennifer Gillan (Penguin, 1994).
- Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*, Helena Grice, Candida Hepworth, Maria Lauret, and Martin Padget (Manchester UP, 2001).
- Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics*, bell hooks (South End, 1990).

Recommended Articles/Chapters (electronically available at library course reserve webpage):

- “Dollar a Day, Dime a Dance: The Forgotten Filipinos,” Ronald Takaki from *Strangers from a Different Shore* (Back Bay, 1998).
- “Gender and Nation,” Mrinalini Sinha, from *Women’s History in Global Perspective* Vol.1 (U of Illinois P, 2004).
- “The Cold War Origins of the Model Minority,” Robert G. Lee, from *Orientalism: Asian Americans in Popular Culture* (Temple UP, 1999).

Course Schedule

We ek	Date	Topic	Required Readings (each reading must be done by the first date it is assigned for class discussion)	Due etc.
1	9/09	Overview	Reviewing the course syllabus and getting to know the class.	
2	9/11	Bachelors in the Promised Land	▪ Santos, "The Door," <i>Scent of Apples</i> (pp 86-97).	
	9/14	Historical Overview of American Families and Ethnic Relations	▪ George M. Fredrickson, "Models of American Ethnic Relations: A Historical Perspective," <i>Rereading America</i> , 7 th ed. (pp 561-574).	
	9/16		▪ Judy Root Aulette, "From <i>Changing American Families</i> ," <i>Rereading America</i> , 7 th ed. (pp 61-80).	
	9/18			
3	9/21	Slavery and Families	▪ Harriet Jacobs, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> .	
	9/23			
	9/25			
4	9/28			
	9/30			
	10/02			
5	10/05	Family Reservation	▪ Louis Erdrich, <i>Tracks</i> .	
	10/07			
	10/09			
6	10/12			1 st Essay (10/12)
	10/14			
	10/16			
7	10/19	The Politics of Family in a Multiethnic Nation	▪ Patricia Hill Collins, "It's All In the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation" <i>Hypatia</i> vol.13, no.3 (pp 62-82).	
8	10/21	Girlhood in a Barrio	▪ Sandra Cisneros, <i>The House on Mango Street</i> .	
	10/23			
	10/26			
	10/28			
	10/30			
9	11/02	When and Where a Dominican Republic Family Enters	▪ Junot Díaz, "Aguantando," <i>Drown</i> (69-88).	
	11/04			
	11/06			
10	11/09		▪ Junot Díaz, "Negocios," <i>Drown</i> (163-208).	2 nd Essay (11/09)
11	11/11	A Model Minority Family	▪ Gish Jen, <i>Typical American</i> .	
	11/13			
	11/16			
	11/18			
	11/20			
12	11/23			

	11/25	No Class (Thanksgiving)			
	11/27				
13	11/30	Reclaiming Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lorraine Hansberry, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>. 		
	12/02				
	12/04				
14	12/07				3 rd Essay (12/07)
	12/09				
	12/11				
15	12/14	Reinventing Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ bell hooks, "Homeplace: A Site of Resistance," <i>Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics</i> (pp 41-49). 		
	12/16	Make-Up			
	12/18	Final Exam			

Bibliography of the Course Readings

Aulette, Judy Root. "From *Changing American Families*." *Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing*. 7th ed. Eds. Gary Columbo, Robert Cullen and Bonnie Lisle. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. 61-80.

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. 1984. New York: Vintage, 2009.

Díaz, Junot. *Drown*. New York: Riverhead Books, 1996.

Erdrich, Louise. *Tracks*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1988.

Fredrickson, George M. "Models of American Ethnic Relations: A Historical Perspective." *Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing*. 7th ed. Eds. Gary Columbo, Robert Cullen and Bonnie Lisle. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. 561-74.

Gillian, Maria Mazziotti and Jennifer Gillian. eds. *Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry*. New York: Penguin, 1994.

Grice, Helena et al. *Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*. Manchester, UK: Manchester UP, 2001.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. 1958. New York: Vintage, 1994.

hooks, bell. *Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics*. Boston: South End, 1990.

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. 1861. Eds. Nellie Y. McKay and

Frances Smith Foster. New York: Norton, 2001.

Jen, Gish. *Typical American*. New York: Plume, 1991.

Lee, Robert G. "The Cold War Origins of the Model Minority." *Orientalism: Asian*

Americans in Popular Culture. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1999. 145-179.

Santos, Bienvenido N. *Scent of Apples: A Collection of Stories*. Seattle: U of

Washington P, 1979.

Sinha, Mrinalini. "Gender and Nation." *Women's History in Global Perspective*. Vol. 1.

Ed. Bonnie G. Smith. Urbana: U of Illinois P, 2004. 229-74.

Takaki, Ronald. "Dollar a Day, Dime a Dance." *Strangers from a Different Shore:*

History of Asian Americans. Boston: Back Bay, 1998. 315-354.