

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of English**

**English 222: Literature and Cultural Studies
Fall 2019
TR: 12:30-1:45 – Fisk 339**

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| Instructor | Dr. Sirène Harb |
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| Office | Fisk Hall 223 |
| AUB Extension | 4125 |
| Office Hours | T 11-12, R 11-11:30, and by appointment |

ENGL 222 Literature and Cultural Studies

(3 credits, prerequisite: ENGL 203 or higher, based on placement.)

General Course Description (University Catalogue)

A course that examines works of literature in relation to emergent trends in cultural studies. Approach will vary from term to term, but might include Marxism and cultural materialism, biopolitics and disability, animal studies and posthumanism (may be repeated for credit for a maximum of 6 credits).

Course Description

This course links American literature with ethnic studies, with particular emphasis on the social and political role of culture. Students will read literary texts and criticism to examine the role of race and gender in mediating the American experience. Some of the questions we will address include: How are ethnic subjects “othered” by US culture? What are some forms of resistance to marginalization and othering projected in ethnic writing? We will explore these questions by focusing on cultural, social and historical issues which are of particular significance to different ethnic groups. These issues include Slavery (African American Literature), Storytelling (Native American Literature), cultural translation (Arab American Literature) and Borderlands (Mexican American Literature).

Course Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify basic literary terms
2. Contrast approaches to the study of ethnicity in American literature
3. Analyze primary works of American literature using methodologies that are grounded in the humanities

4. Compare/contrast the characteristics of major works of ethnic literature
5. Explain the connections between literature and ethnic studies
6. Demonstrate critical thinking skills by developing effective arguments
7. Examine diverse intellectual and literary traditions and their impact on the formation of human values and cultures

Resources Available to Students

Two of the required texts are available at the AUB bookstore (*Beloved* and *The Way to Rainy Mountain*). The remaining texts will be uploaded on Moodle. You must read all the assigned texts and bring them to class for discussion.

Required Texts:

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Frederick Douglass

Beloved, Toni Morrison

Selection from *Borderlands/La Frontera*, Gloria Anzaldúa

Selection from *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*, Sandra Cisneros

The Way to Rainy Mountain, N. Scott Momaday

Selection from *Storyteller*, Leslie Marmon Silko

Selected Poems, Suheir Hammad

“The Spiced Chicken Queen of Mickaweaquah, Iowa,” Mohja Kahf

“How We Are Bound,” Patricia Sarrafian Ward

Grading Criteria

Grading Criteria: Grading will be based on these fixed criteria (non-curved)

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| Attendance and Class Participation (including reading quizzes and activities) | 15% |
| Exam 1 | 25% |
| Exam 2 | 30% |
| Course Paper | 30% |
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Schedule

| Week | Assignments |
|------|---|
| 1 | 29/8 Course Introduction |
| 2 | 3/9 Ethnic Literatures of the United States 5/9 Storytelling and the Native American Tradition <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> (1/2) |
| 3 | 10/9 <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> (2/2) |

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| | 12/9 <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> and Selection from <i>Storyteller</i> |
| 4 | 17/9 Selection from <i>Storyteller</i> 19/9 Library Session: Using Electronic Databases– Jafet Lib., Antoun Ghattas Karam Electronic Classroom) |
| 5 | 24/9 Borders and Crossings in Mexican American Literature Selection from <i>Borderlands</i> 26/9 EXAM 1 |
| 6 | 1/10 Selections from <i>Woman Hollering Creek</i> 3/10 Selections from <i>Woman Hollering Creek</i> |
| 7 | 8/10 Cultural Translation in Arab American Literature “How We Are Bound” 10/10 “The Spiced Chicken Queen of Mickaweaquah, Iowa” |
| 8 | 15/10 “The Spiced Chicken Queen of Mickaweaquah, Iowa” 17/10 Selected Poems, Suheir Hammad |
| 9 | 22/10 Selected Poems, Suheir Hammad 24/10 Slavery in African American Literature <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (Chapters I to IX) |
| 10 | 29/10 Ethnic Encounters 31/10 Exam 2 |
| 11 | 5/11 <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (Chapters X to end) 7/11 <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> |
| 12 | 12/11 <i>Beloved</i> 14/11 <i>Beloved</i> |
| 13 | 19/11 <i>Beloved</i> 21/11 Documentary viewing and discussion |
| 14 | 26/11 Documentary viewing and discussion 28/11 Course Paper Due |
| 15 | 3/12 Concluding Session |

Course Policy

Attendance, preparation, and class participation are a primary requirement.

1. You are expected to attend all classes and bring the assigned reading to class.
2. Reading assignments are to be completed before the class meeting for which they are assigned.
3. You should be prepared to discuss the required texts and participate constructively.
4. Written and all other assignments should be handed in on or before the due dates indicated in the course outline.
5. If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor prior to the class meeting. Absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

In normal circumstances, absences can be excused only for medical reasons, documented by a note from an AUB doctor. If you miss more than one-fifth of the class sessions of the first ten weeks, you will be required to withdraw from the course.

Academic integrity and honesty are central components of a student's education. Ethical conduct maintained in an academic context will be taken eventually into a student's professional career. Anything less than total commitment to honesty undermines the efforts of the entire academic community. Both students and faculty are responsible for ensuring the academic integrity of the University (*AUB Student Handbook*).

University Policies

Academic Integrity: Please refer to AUB Student Code of Conduct:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/pnp/generaluniversitypolicies/Documents/StudentCodeConduct/StudentCodeConduct.pdf> , in particular section 1.1, which concerns academic misconduct including cheating, plagiarism, in-class disruption, and dishonesty. Please be aware that misconduct is vigorously prosecuted and that AUB has a zero tolerance policy. Course policy is that credible evidence of cheating will result in course failure.

AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you are encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Office: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314.

Non-Discrimination AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at www.aub.edu.lb/titleix . To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Ms. Mitra Tauk at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or titleix@aub.edu.lb . An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at www.aub.ethicspoint.com