



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

ENG404 Literature and Identities: Multiethnic American Literature

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

TT 12:30-1:45pm

David Talbot Hall 302

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Hyo Kyung Woo, Assistant Professor

Office Location: David Talbot Hall 209

Office Hours: TT 10:00-12:00pm, 3:00-4:00pm (or by appointment)

University Email Address: hyokyung.woo@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours during weekdays, 48 hours during weekends

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s)

Required

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*, Vintage, 1987, rpt. 2004 [ISBN: 1400033411]

Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao*, Riverhead Books, 2008. [ISBN: 1594483299]

Recommended

MLA Handbook, 9th edition, 2021. [ISBN: 1603293515], **available via Waters library database**

MLA Guide to Undergraduate Research in Literature, 2nd edition, 2023. [ISBN: 1603296298], **1st edition is available via Waters library database**

M. A. R. Habib, *Literary Studies: A Norton Guide*, Rutgers UP, 2020. [ISBN: 978-0393937954]

*Bring the book (or e-book) to every class. Students without their books may be marked absent.

*Other supplementary readings are available at D2L in PDF format.

Technology Required: MyLeo Online Learning Management System (D2L)

Software Required: Microsoft Word, University Email, PowerPoint

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how literature shapes and reflects personal and collective identities, focusing on one or more different aspects of identity (e.g., gender, race, sexuality, age, dis/ability, nationality, intersectionality). Covering a variety of genres across time periods and geographic regions, this course examines how these texts navigate, challenge, and redefine notions of identity. Students will investigate how literature serves as a powerful tool for self-expression, cultural representation, and social change.

Prerequisites: ENG 1302 Min Grade C.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will analyze how literary texts across genres, time periods, and regions represent, construct, and complicate notions of identity such as gender, race, sexuality, dis/ability, nationality, and intersectionality.
2. Students will evaluate how literature functions as a tool for self-expression, cultural representation, and social change, identifying the ways texts challenge or reinforce dominant narratives of identity.
3. Students will compare diverse literary traditions and contexts to understand how historical, cultural, and political conditions shape the formation and negotiation of personal and collective identities.
4. Students will develop and communicate well-supported arguments in written and oral forms that engage critically with literary representations of identity, demonstrating both textual analysis and theoretical awareness.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes and objectives of this course and instructional units/modules. By the end of this course, the class will read and discuss literature as well as secondary materials in a manner befitting a specialist in the discipline of English. You are expected to do all readings for class by the date indicated on this (see "Course Outline/Calendar" below). The readings are the foundation of our class meetings; we cannot discuss and understand the ideas and theories

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unless you have completed the required readings. On occasion there will be videos for you to watch on YouTube. You must have internet access to view them.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- 1) Attend every class meeting.
- 2) Read every assigned reading.
- 3) Complete every assignment/exam on time.
- 4) Communicate with your professor if you are in doubt.

STUDENT CONTACT STATEMENT

Announcements: General tool for course communication; I will post short messages or reminders related to due dates or changes in the assignments.

Email: Please only use the official ETAMU Leo Email to communicate with me and your classmates. I will send general emails with information related to the course, date changes, assignments modifications, etc. or with information that relates to our content. I will send individual emails as needed. I will respond to emails in 24 hs. during the work week and on the next business day on weekends and holidays.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale and total points:

- A = 90%-100% (900-1000 points)
- B = 80%-89% (800-899 points)
- C = 70%-79% (700-799 points)
- D = 60%-69% (600-699 points)
- F = 59% or Below (0-599 points)

ASSESSMENTS

- Attendance & In-Class Activities 10% (100 points)
- Weekly Reading Response 10% (100 points)
- Weekly Quiz 10% (100 points)
- Class Reading Presentation 5% (50 points)
- Close Reading Midterm Essay 25% (250 points)
- Final Project Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography 15% (100 points)
- Final Project Research Conference Presentation 5% (50 points)
- Final Project Research Literary Essay 25% (250 points)

100% (1000 points)

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Attendance and Participation 10% (100 points)

Everyone is in this class to learn and will therefore come to class fully prepared to discuss the material in a meaningful way. For that reason, everyone now has 100 points for attendance and in-class activities. You can lose up to 4 points per class if you (a) don't show, (b) leave early without permission, (c) do not participate or complete in-class activities by deadline, or (d) treat a fellow class member or the instructor in an unprofessional and disrespectful manner. If you are late for class, you will lose 2 points more than 5 minute-grace period to 20 minutes, and 3 points after 20 minutes. (Also see ETAMUC Attendance policy below).

Weekly Reading Response 10% (100 points)

Students will write a 150–200-word weekly reading response about the assigned reading for each week. The response should include at least one discussion question about the text(s). Due by Sunday midnight (Sunday leading into Monday). Points will be deducted if the post is too short or does not write about the assigned text. Complete/Incomplete assignment. No feedback will be given for this assignment unless necessary.

Weekly Quiz 10% (100 points)

Students will take a short quiz about the assigned readings each week. Quizzes cannot be made up unless students have a valid document for excused absences, and it is your responsibility to request a make-up quiz from an instructor.

Class Reading Presentation 5% (50 points)

Students will present one author and text they like to study further for 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A discussion. The presenter will read the assigned text thoroughly and choose 2-3 important passages from the assigned primary text with one or two discussion questions after briefly explaining the social and cultural context as well as the author's biography.

Close-Reading Midterm Essay 20% (200 points) 1500 words

Students will write a close reading essay about one passage chosen among several passages the instructor provided. The essay should demonstrate the student's ability to critically analyze and interpret the literary piece in depth. Students must use MLA style. Feedback will be given to each student.

Final Project Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography 15% (100 points)

Students will compile a research proposal (150-200 words) and annotated bibliography (600 words), including three secondary sources, to prepare for the final literary essay. Students must use MLA style. Feedback will be given to each student.

Final Project Conference Presentation 5% (50 points)

Students will present their final project in class for 5 minutes followed by a Q&A session. Students are required to ask at least two questions to their peer presentations per session. Students who do not present should ask at least one question to their peer presentations.

Final Project Literary Essay (2000 words) 25% (250 points)

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After mini-conference presentation, students will compose an analytical literary essay on one of the primary texts we read in class by using a theoretical approach we studied in class. Students must use MLA style and at least two secondary sources to bolster your argument. Feedback will be given only upon request.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Academic Honesty Policy

East Texas A&M University and the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments (using AI), collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (East Texas A&M University Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and may result in failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is important for your success in this class. Excused absences, such as those for documented illness, family tragedy, religious observance, or travel for inter-collegiate athletics, will not alter your grade with a proper verification document. Also, use of a cell phone during class without permission will result in an unexcused absence. Six unexcused absences will automatically result in failure of the course.

Assignment Policy

Student work must be completed and submitted when it is due. Students who know in advance they will miss class when an assignment is due must contact the instructor as soon as possible in advance of class to arrange for submission of the assignment. Deadline extensions and other allowances can often be provided before they are required.

Administrative Withdrawal

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Students Sources

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University

Halladay Building, Room 203

Phone (903) 886-5145.

www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

*Black: Reading and Class Activity

*Blue: Student Work

*Red: School Schedule

<i>Week 1: Introduction</i>			
	Tuesday (8/26)	Thursday (8/28)	Sunday (8/31)
In Class	Intro to the Course In-Class Activity: How to Email a Professor Welcome Survey (Please bring your laptop.)	In-Class Writing: Can the Subaltern Speak? (500 words)	
Readings & Assignments	Upload your profile pictures to D2L, so I can remember you! Start to read Toni Morrison's <i>Beloved</i> this week.	Read Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" <u>(8/28) Last Day to Add</u>	Reading Response 1: Edward Said, "Reading the Margins" Jhumpa Lahiri, "Interpreter of Maladies"

Unit 1 Playing with History: The Politics of Literature and Identities

<i>Week 2: Mapping the Field & Jhumpa Lahiri</i>			
	Tuesday (9/2)	Thursday (9/4)	Sunday (9/7)
In Class	Quiz 1: Said and Lahiri Readings Intro to the Course (2) Presentation Sign-up Lecture	Presentation: Jhumpa Lahiri, "Interpreter of Maladies"	

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Readings & Assignments	Edward Said, "Reading the Margins" Jhumpa Lahiri, "Interpreter of Maladies" Continue to read <i>Beloved</i> this week.		Reading Response 2: Octavia Butler, "Bloodchild," & Nisi Shawl, "Why Men Get Pregnant?"
Week 3: Octavia Butler: Afro-Futurism and Sci-fi			
	Tuesday (9/9)	Thursday (9/11)	Sunday (9/14)
In Class	Quiz 2: Butler & Shawl Readings Lecture Midterm Close Essay Prompt will be shared. <u>(9/10) Fall Consensus Day</u>	Presentation: Octavia Butler, "Bloodchild" Writing Workshop: Close-Reading Exercise	
Readings & Assignments	Octavia Butler, "Bloodchild," & Nisi Shawl, "Why Men Get Pregnant?" Continue to read <i>Beloved</i> this week.		Reading Response 3: Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp.1-100 in Part 1)
Week 4: Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (1)			
	Tuesday (9/16)	Thursday (9/18)	Sunday (9/21)
In Class	Quiz 3: Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 1-100) Lecture	Presentation: Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 51-100) Writing Workshop: MLA Style Guide and Reference	
Readings & Assignments	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 1-100 in Part 1)		Reading Response 4: Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 101-200 in Part 1)
Week 5: Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (2)			

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	Tuesday (9/23)	Thursday (9/25)	Sunday (9/28)
In Class	Quiz 4: Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 101-200 in Part I) Lecture	Presentation: Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 150-200 in Part I) Writing Workshop: What Is Literary Research? (1)	
Readings & Assignments	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 101-200 in Part I)		Reading Response 5: Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 201-300 in Part II)
Week 6: Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (3)			
	Tuesday (9/30)	Thursday (10/2)	Sunday (10/5)
In Class	Quiz 5: Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 201-300 in Part II) Lecture	Presentation: Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 250-300 in Part II) Writing Workshop: What Is Literary Research? (2): Applying Theory	
Readings & Assignments	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (pp. 201-300 in Part II)		Reading Response 6: Pacific Islands Poets
Week 7: <i>Songs of the Ocean: Pacific Islands</i>			
	Tuesday (10/7)	Thursday (10/9)	Sunday (10/12)
In Class	Quiz 6: Pacific Islands Poets Lecture	Presentation: Pacific Islands Poets Writing Workshop: What Is Literary Research? (3): Engaging with Existing Voices	
Readings & Assignments	Pacific Islands Poets Start to read Junot Díaz's <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> this week.		Midterm Close-Reading Essay Due

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			Last day to accept late submissions between Week 1 and Week 7
Week 8: Midterm & Student Progress Meeting			
	Tuesday (10/14)	Thursday (10/16)	Sunday (10/19)
In Class	Student Meeting: Discussing your progress	Student Meeting: Discussing your progress	(10/20) Midterm Grade Due
Readings & Assignments	Continue to read Junot Díaz's <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> this week.		Reading Response 7: Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 1-165, chapters 1-3)

Unit 2 Text in Motion: Border-Crossing Stories

Week 9: Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>			
	Tuesday (10/21)	Thursday (10/23)	Sunday (10/26)
In Class	Quiz 7: Junot Díaz, <i>Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 1-165, chapters 1-3): double points Lecture Mini-Conference and Final Essay Prompts will be released.	Presentation: Díaz, <i>Oscar Wao</i> , chapter 3. Writing Workshop: What Is an Abstract and What Makes a Good Abstract?	
Readings & Assignments	Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 1-165, chapters 1-3)		Reading Response 8: Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 166-261, chapter 4-5)
Week 10: Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (2)			
	Tuesday (10/28)	Thursday (10/30)	Sunday (11/2)

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In Class	Quiz 8: Díaz, <i>Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 166-261, chapter 4-5) Lecture	Presentation: Díaz, <i>Oscar Wao</i> , chapter 5 Writing Workshop: What Is an Annotated Bibliography and What Makes a Good Annotated Bibliography?	(10/30) Last Day to Drop
Readings & Assignments	Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 166-261, chapter 4-5)		Reading Response 9: Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 262-335, chapter 6-8)
Week 11: Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (3)			
	Tuesday (11/4)	Thursday (11/6)	Sunday (11/9)
In Class	Quiz 9: Díaz, <i>Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 262-335, chapter 6-8) Lecture Final Project Abstract and Annotated Bibliography Prompt will be released.	Writing Day: No-Class (Instructor will participate in an international conference.)	
Readings & Assignments	Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (pp. 262-335, chapter 6-8)		Final Project Abstract and Annotated Bibliography Due
Week 12: <i>Kpop Demon Hunters</i>			
	Tuesday (11/11)	Thursday (11/13)	Sunday (11/16)
In Class	In-Class Viewing: <i>Kpop Demon Hunters</i>	Writing Workshop: Peer Review for Abstract and Annotated Bibliography	Course Feedback link is available.
Readings & Assignments			Conference Presentation Slides Due

Unit 3 Conducting a Final Project

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Week 13: Mini-Conference			
	Tuesday (11/18)	Thursday (11/20)	Sunday (11/23)
In Class	Mini-Conference (1) Course Feedback	Mini-Conference (2)	
Readings & Assignments			Last day to accept late submissions between Week 9 and Week 13
Week 14: Thanksgiving Week			
	Tuesday (11/25)	Thursday (11/27)	Sunday (11/30)
In Class	Extended Classroom Office Hours (Optional Attendance)	No Class (School Closed)	
Readings & Assignments	Start to write final essay.		
Week 15 Wrap-up: Conclusion			
	Tuesday (12/2)	Thursday (12/4)	Sunday (12/7)
In Class	Writing Workshop: Checklist	Last Class	Final Grade will be posted at D2L. Students will have 24 hours to submit any inquiries or complaints before the official final grade is due. <u>(12/15) Final Grade Due</u>
Readings & Assignments	Final Essay Due		

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