



EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

ENG 503.01W—Power, Identity, and Representation

Spaces in Multiethnic American Literature

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

Web-Based Course

Class Meetings on Thursday 5:00 pm-7:00 pm (Optional)

<https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697> Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Hyo Kyung Woo, Assistant Professor

Office Location: David Talbot Hall 209

Office Hours: TT 10:00-12:00 am, 2:00-4:00 pm (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

Charles Yu, *Interior Chinatown: A Novel*, 2020. [ISBN: 978-0307907202]

Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*, 2000. [ISBN: 0374527075]

Juan Felipe Herrera, *Everyday We Get More Illegal*, 2020. [ISBN: 0872868281]

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, 1937. [ISBN: 0061120065]

*Bring the book to every class. Students without their books may be marked absent.

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

*E-book and different editions are acceptable.

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 is a study of emergent or historically marginalized literatures that considers the relationship between important social categories such as class, race, nationality or sexuality and imaginative works that represent these categories in a range of historical, cultural, and national contexts. The course may focus on contemporary or historical literatures from any world culture, and the primary focus will be on considering the limits of modernity, group identity, and national consciousness as objects of literary and cultural analysis. May be repeated for credit when the emphasis changes.

This graduate seminar explores how space and place are constructed, constrained, and liberated within American multiethnic literature. Moving beyond the idea of space as a passive backdrop, we will engage with critical human geography, ethnic/racial spatiality, Indigenous decolonial mapping, and borderland theory. By analyzing novels, poetry, and essays through these theoretical lenses, we will investigate the spatial imaginary, environmentalism, carceral enclosures, and the radical ways marginalized authors re-map the American landscape.

The course aims to assist graduate students to train critical reading and writing skills by planning and developing final seminar papers aiming at publication in a peer-reviewed journal or any form of creative work that serves their professional career.

Course Objectives:

- Students will further develop their ability to compose research project abstracts.
- Students will demonstrate their engagement with the scholarly community.
- Students will practice their ability to teach a lesson in a graduate-level course.

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 syllabus (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 (below 599 points)

ASSESSMENTS

Weekly Reading Response	20% (200 points)
Weekly Zoom Attendance or Participation Response	20% (200 points)
Class Reading Presentation: Primary Text	10% (100 points)
Class Reading Presentation: Theory Article	10% (100 points)
Final Project Proposal	10% (100 points)
Final Project (Literary Analysis Essay, Teaching Project, Creative Piece)	30% (200 points)
	100% (1000 points)

Weekly Attendance Or Participation Response 20% (200 points)

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Everyone in this class is required to contribute to class discussion either synchronously and asynchronously while being fully prepared to discuss the weekly reading materials. It is also challenging to organize a hybrid, relatively large-size class in terms of class discussion; thus, I need your full cooperation.

*Students must comply with the module that they are enrolled in during the semester. If you need any change or adjustment, please consult with the instructor for permission.

- 01W (synchronous online): Show up in Zoom class on Thursday every week.
- 01W (asynchronous online): Watch recordings of class discussions and presentations, and upload 200-word participation response every week no later than Saturday. It should include two specific moments of the Zoom class or presentation recordings. Since this is used for your attendance/participation points, no feedback will be given for this response assignment unless necessary.

Weekly Reading Response 20% (200 points)

Students will write a 200-word weekly reading response about the assigned texts for each week. It 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, late, or does not write about the assigned text(s). Complete/Incomplete assignment. No feedback will be given for this assignment unless necessary.

Course Reading Presentation (1): Primary Text 10% (100 points)

Students will sign up for one week to present a primary text for 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A discussion. The presenter(s) will read the assigned text thoroughly and choose 2-3 important passages. The presentation should include one or two discussion questions after briefly explaining the social and cultural context as well as the author's biography. Submit your presentation slides to D2L no later than Sunday night, (and presentation recording if you are an asynchronous student).

Course Reading Presentation (2): Secondary Article 10% (100 points)

Students will sign up for one week to present secondary/theory readings for 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A discussion. The presenter(s) will read the assigned text thoroughly and summarize important concepts and terms from the assigned theory texts with one or two discussion questions. Submit your presentation slides to D2L no later than Sunday night, (and presentation recording if you are an asynchronous student).

Final Project Proposal and Discussant Comments 10% (100 points)

Students will make a proposal for their potential final project. Each student will be assigned to comment on one proposal for his or her feedback.

Final Project 30% (300 points)

Students will compose an analytical literary essay on one or two primary texts we read in class, creative literary piece, or syllabus/assignment design project for K-12 classroom. Ideally, the

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final project should be developed into a conference paper, a manuscript for a peer-reviewed journal, a chapter in thesis/dissertation, or anything that can serve their professional career.

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 without critical caution), 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. Therefore, each unexcused absence after two will result in the lowering of your final grade by a third of a grade. Excused absences, such as those for documented illness, family tragedy, religious observance, or travel for inter-collegiate athletics, will not alter your grade. Also, use of a cell phone during class without permission will result in an unexcused absence (that means texting). Three unexcused absences will automatically result in failure for 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 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.

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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>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance 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>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.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

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environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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

- * Sunday: 200-word Reading Response Due
- * Sunday: Presentation Recording or Slides Due (in the week you are assigned)
- * Thursday: 5:00pm-7:00pm **Optional Zoom Class**
<https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697> Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697
- * Saturday: 200-word Asynchronous Participation Essay Due (only for asynchronous students)

Black: Reading and in-class activities

Blue: Student Work

	Weekly Topics, Reading, and Assignments
Week 1	Introduction
Reading	None
Zoom Class (8/20)	Introduction to Course *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for asynchronous students. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697
Assignment (8/21)	Complete the Welcome Survey and Presentation Sign-up sheet at D2L
Week 2	Mapping the Field: The Foundations of Race, Place, and Space
Reading	Henri Lefebvre, introduction in <i>The Production of Space</i> , 1974 James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (1957) (Uploaded to D2L under Week 2 Folder)
Assignment (8/23)	Reading Response 1: Lefebvre & Baldwin
Zoom Class (8/27)	Lecture and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697
Assignment (8/29)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 3	Urban Spaces and Housing Segregation
Reading	Lorraine Hansberry, "A Raisin in the Sun" Matthew Desmond, chapter 3 in <i>Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City</i> (2016) George Lipsitz, "The Racialization of Space and the Spatialization of Race"

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Assignment (8/30)	Reading Response 2: Hansberry & Desmond
Zoom Class (9/3)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2: Presentation 3:
Assignment (9/5)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 4	Trajectories of the South: Migration
Reading	Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> , chap. 1-10. Secondary article: TBA
Assignment (9/6)	Reading Response 3: Hurston (1)
Zoom Class (9/10)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2:
Assignment (9/12)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 5	Theorizing Spatiality and the Color Line
Reading	Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> , chap. 11-20. Secondary article: TBA
Assignment (9/13)	Reading Response 4: Hurston (2)
Zoom Class (9/17)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2:
Assignment (9/19)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)

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Week 6	Citizenship and Space
Reading	Juan Felipe Herrera, <i>Everyday We Get More Illegal</i> (2020) Secondary article: TBA
Assignment (9/20)	Reading Response 5: Herrera
Zoom Class (9/24)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2:
Assignment (9/26)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 7	Contested Territory: Ethnic Enclaves in the U.S.
Reading	Charles Yu, <i>Interior Chinatown: A Novel</i> , Act 1-3 Secondary article: TBA
Assignment (9/27)	Reading Response 6: Yu (1)
Zoom Class (10/1)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2:
Assignment (10/3)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 8	Fall Break
Zoom Class (10/8)	No Class
Week 9	"New" Ethnic Enclaves
Reading	Charles Yu, <i>Interior Chinatown: A Novel</i> , Act 4-7. Secondary article: TBA
Assignment (10/11)	Reading Response 7: Yu (2)

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Zoom Class (10/15)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2:
Assignment (10/17)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 10	Small Spaces: Island and Tourism
Reading	Jamaican Kincaid, <i>A Small Place</i> (2000) Ian Strachan, <i>Paradise and Plantation: Tourism and Culture in the Anglophone Caribbean</i> (2002)
Assignment (10/18)	Reading Response 8: Kincaid
Zoom Class (10/22)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2:
Assignment (10/23)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 11	Big Spaces: Texas as Frontier and Border
Reading	Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Frontier in American History" (1893) Stephen Crane, "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky" (1898) Gloria Anzaldúa, excerpt from <i>Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza</i> (1987)
Assignment (10/25)	Reading Response 9: Turner, Crane, & Anzaldúa
Zoom Class (10/29)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2: Presentation 3:

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Assignment (10/30)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 12	Speculative Geographies and Futurism
Reading	Nnedi Okorafor, "Spider the Artist" Vandana Singh, "Indra's Web" Rob Nixon, Introduction in <i>Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor</i> Achille Mbembe, "Necropolitics"
Assignment (11/1)	Reading Response 10: Okorafor, Singh, Nixon, & Mbembe
Zoom Class (11/5)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697 Presentation 1: Presentation 2: Presentation 3: Presentation 4:
Assignment (11/6)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 13	Student Conference and Writing Week
Zoom Class	No Class. *Asynchronous students will set up a 10-minute individual meeting with the instructor to discuss their progress and final project.
Assignment (11/15)	Final Project Proposal Due
Week 14	Proposal Workshop & Conclusion
Assignment (11/16)	Discussant List will be distributed with proposals via email and to D2L. Read them and be prepared to comment on the proposal you are assigned.
Zoom Class (11/19)	Proposal Workshop https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/91615070697 Meeting ID: 916 1507 0697
Assignment (11/20)	All discussant responses should upload their comments to D2L (1 page).
Week 15	Thanksgiving Break
Class	No Class

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Week 16	Writing Week (No Zoom Class, Extended Office Hour and Drop-in Session)
12/6 (Sun)	Submit your final project to D2L. It should be 2000 words, in addition to an abstract, 3-5 keywords, a reference page, and a paragraph of your future plan explaining a potential conference/journal you want to submit your work to.
12/13 (Sun)	Final grade will be posted at D2L, with email notification. Students will have 24 hours to submit any inquiries or complaints before the official grade is due.
12/21 (Mon)	Final grade will be submitted to the ETAMU system, and no change can be made at this stage.

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