

## Literature 265: Asian American Literature

T Th 9:35 – 10:50 am • Section AA • 2-111

Spring 2006

### SYLLABUS

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**Office Hours:** MWF 10 – 11 am  
T Th 11 am – 12 pm

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION & PREREQUISITES

A survey of Asian American writing of the twentieth century will acquaint students with the distinct literary and aesthetic qualities and the personal and cultural concerns, such as relocation and dislocation, of writers deriving from two cultures. Authors may include Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Korean Americans, and Indian Americans. Material will be presented in a variety of genres.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 100 or 105 or equivalent.

**Transfer credit:** UC; CSU (C2).

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

In this course, we will use a variety of texts — poems, short stories, novels, and films — to examine the process of storytelling and the relevance of stories to our lives. Since this is an Asian American literature class, the stories we will read, discuss, and write about have at least one common element: their authors are concerned with the Asian American experience. Your concern, as a reader of a particular text, will be to examine what that text says, to decide what it means to you, to evaluate that message, and to communicate your evaluation to the rest of us.

My primary goal for this course is to provide you with strategies for thinking critically and expressing your thoughts effectively. My goal for you is that you make these strategies your own, so that by the end of the course you are able to:

- Write a response, question paper, reading journal, or essay which responds to or interacts with a text.
- Formulate a thesis based on your understanding and evaluation of the text.
- Support your thesis with relevant and well-focused arguments.
- Develop your ideas at the sentence, paragraph, and essay levels using references from the text as well as your personal insights.
- Proofread for and correct errors in usage, writing mechanics, and spelling.

Please note that this is not a lecture course: we will work together to *explore* ideas and *experiment* with different ways of expressing them. The success of the work we do together — our class discussions and work with partners or in small groups — will depend upon the effort each of us makes individually. Part of that effort is simply being prepared, having done the reading, thinking, and writing assigned. Another part of that effort, an essential part, is to be willing to investigate your opinions, to share them, and to respect the right of your classmates to express opinions that are different from your own.

#### TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- ***Bone*** by Fae Myenne Ng
- ***Interpreter of Maladies*** by Jhumpa Lahiri
- ***Rolling the R's*** by R. Zamora Linmark
- ***Literature 265 Course Reader and Workbook:*** Contains some of the readings, reference material, and homework exercises for this class. This will be available from the bookstore during the second or third week of instruction.

- **One folder with two pockets:** When you turn in each final draft of an essay, you will also need to turn in this folder, which will include your rough draft, peer review sheets, and any homework you have completed for that unit.
- **A Pocket Style Manual** by Diana Hacker

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**1. Essays (45%)**

Essays will usually be between four and six pages. All essays must be typed in black ink, double-spaced, on white 8.5" x 11" paper in a standard font — no exceptions. Margins should be 1" all around. I will provide a sample essay to show you the format conventions you should follow. When each essay is due, you will need to turn in a folder which includes **two clean copies** of the final draft, your peer review sheets, your rough draft, and any homework/worksheets we have done during that unit. **You must turn in all of your essays in order to pass this class.**

Essays will be graded as follows:	Essay #1 (Writing Sample)	<b>5%</b>
	Essays #2 and 3	<b>40%</b> (20% each)

Please consider every piece of writing you do for this class to be “public property.” Remember that you will often be expected to share your writing with others, so avoid writing about things that you may not be prepared to subject to public scrutiny, or things you feel so strongly about that you are unwilling to listen to perspectives other than your own. This does not mean that you are not entitled to an opinion but that you adopt positions responsibly, contemplating the possible effect on others.

**Proofreading:** This is a college-level course and requires careful proofreading. An essay with excessive proofreading errors on the first page will be returned ungraded for correction and will be counted as late. Feel free to mark up the final draft even after the essay is printed out; I'd rather get a marked-up final draft than a clean rough draft.

**Late Essays:** All essays are due **at the beginning of class** on the assigned date — any time after that time is considered late. You may turn in only one excused essay late in the semester, and “late” means by the next class meeting — for instance, if an essay was due on Tuesday, you can turn it in late on Thursday. Use the “late essay” coupon attached to the end of this syllabus. When papers come in late, I will still grade them, but may not be able to provide any written feedback on the essay itself. If you turn your essay in any later, you will be penalized one full letter grade for each class meeting that it is late; otherwise, your essay will be graded “pass/fail,” at the instructor’s discretion.

**Plagiarism:** At all colleges, plagiarism is unacceptable. Plagiarism refers to passing off another person’s ideas or words as your own, from copying someone else’s words or ideas without citing that source to having people write or excessively edit your essays for you. According to the Skyline College “Student Handbook,” plagiarism is:

- Incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts of another person’s writing, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as your own work.
- Representing another’s artistic/scholarly works (such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, or sculptures) as your own.
- Submitting a paper purchased from a research or term paper service.

Any assignment that has been plagiarized will receive an “NC” (no credit) and we will meet to discuss your status in the course. You may also be required to meet with the Dean of Language Arts for disciplinary action.

**2. Reading Journals, Homework and Quizzes (20%)**

Reading journals are 1- to 2-page reflections on the readings and activities we will be covering throughout the semester. These must be thoughtfully written and carefully proofread responses that demonstrate your understanding of the assigned topic. All reading journals must be at least 300 words and typed in black ink, double-spaced, on white 8.5" x 11" paper in a standard 12-point font with 1" margins all around.

Homework consists of worksheets, freewrites, question papers, and any other assignments. We will go over homework in class the day after it is assigned; I expect everyone to have completed the homework before coming to class. Late homework will only be accepted by the next class period and carries a point penalty. **NOT TURNING IN HOMEWORK EARNS YOU NEGATIVE POINTS.**

**Submitting Assignments by E-mail:** I will only accept homework electronically if you are absent on the day that the work is due or if we have made previous arrangements; otherwise, your work will be considered late. Keep in mind, however, that if you e-mail me your homework, you do so at your own risk and I cannot guarantee that I will receive it on time. Please send your work in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or in rich text format (.rtf) as an attachment. **NOTE:** I do not accept essay assignments via e-mail.

**Quizzes and In-Class Work:** You may not make up a missed quiz or in-class activities; you lose points entirely.

### **3. Midterm Exam (10%)**

The midterm exam will consist of “Expert Group Presentations” for each of the full-length works we will be covering over the semester. More information will be provided in class.

### **4. Final Exam (15%)**

The final exam will consist of individual or group presentations and is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23 from 8:10 – 10:40 am. *The final is required to pass the course.* Please do not take the course if you cannot take the final at the scheduled time; no finals will be given early.

### **5. Attendance/Participation (10%)**

It is crucial that you come to each class prepared and ready to participate. I will take roll at every class meeting. If you cannot make a particular class, call me to let me know. You will also need to call a classmate and be sure to get the homework assignment and any materials from him or her. You are responsible for all homework whether you’ve been in class or not. Missing more than three class meetings will affect your grade, and missing more than six class meetings is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade for attendance, participation, and homework. While you are in the classroom, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers, Walkmans, iPods, etc. before class begins. It is disrespectful to me and to your classmates.

#### **\* IMPORTANT NOTE \***

To keep your spot in this class, you must attend all class meetings during the first two weeks. If you are absent without notifying me during this time, you will be dropped from the class.

I expect all of us to get started on time and not be interrupted by late arrivals which invariably produce distracting paper shuffling and repeated directions/conversation. We will use the entire class period — from 9:35 to 10:50 am. Three “late arrivals” (defined either as coming in after I take roll or more than 10 minutes into the class) will be considered an absence; early departures carry the same consequences. Both will count toward the maximum of six absences permitted.



### **Peer Review Days**

On peer review days, you and two of your peers will get together and read each other’s essays and comment on them. These workshops are here to help you, by providing feedback from your readers and allowing you to reread and rethink about your work. You will need to **bring three copies of your draft to class** on these days. Your essay must be a “good-faith draft”: it should be at least two pages long and shows careful thought and planning even though it may be unfinished. You may miss one peer review day without penalty; use the “missed peer review day” coupon at the end of the syllabus. If you do not attend a workshop for a given paper, your final grade for that paper will drop by one grade.

### **Class Discussion/Readings**

Many times in class discussion, it becomes fairly obvious who has done the reading and who has not, who is willing to speak their minds and who chooses to disengage; get your words out there. Convince me that you are prepared for class, have thought about these ideas, and are ready to participate.

**Extra Credit:** Options will be offered throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion.

**Special Accommodations:** In coordination with the DSPS office, reasonable accommodation will be provided for eligible students with disabilities. If you do not yet have an accommodation letter, please contact the DSPS office at (650) 738-4280.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to <b>ADD</b>	Monday, January 30
Last day to <b>DROP</b> without appearing on record	Friday, February 10
Last day to <b>WITHDRAW</b> ("W")	Friday, April 21

### HOLIDAYS

Declared Recess	Friday, February 17 – Monday, February 20
Spring Recess	Monday, April 10 – Friday, April 14

### GRADING POLICY

This course is graded A-B-C-D-F with no plus or minus grades. You may choose to take the class Credit/No Credit, but you will need to sign up for this option with me. Grades are assigned as follows:

A or Credit:	90-100% average on tests and assignments
B or Credit:	80-89% average on tests and assignments
C or Credit:	70-79% average on tests and assignments
D or No Credit:	60-69% average on tests and assignments
F or No Credit:	below 60% average on tests and assignments
W (Withdrawal):	a requested grade which can be assigned only if requested before <u>April 21, 2006</u> . Use college withdrawal procedures.

Note that the "W" is a requested grade. A "W" will not be assigned unless you follow the official college WITHDRAWAL procedures. If you wish to drop this class, you must initiate the process using the WebSMART system. Students will not be automatically dropped for missing class. If you simply disappear from class without going through the withdrawal process, you will receive whatever letter grade you deserve at the end of the semester, most likely an "F."

Essays are graded A-B-C-NP (Not Passing). Unsubmitted or late work will earn a NC (No Credit) grade. **You must turn in all of your essays in order to pass this class.**

This course is graded A-B-C-D-F with no plus or minus grades. You may choose to take the class Credit/No Credit, but you will need to sign up for this option with me by the fifth week of the semester.

### FINAL NOTES

- Always make and keep a copy of your essay for your records before you turn it in.
- Save all essays, reading journals, quizzes, and homework until the end of the semester.
- Exchange phone numbers/e-mail addresses with at least two of your classmates so that you can contact them for assignments if you are absent.
- Always see me any time you have questions or concerns.
- Come to class prepared, but come to class even if you aren't.
- Finally, although writing is, mechanically speaking, an isolated activity, it is conceptually and emotionally an attempt to enter into discussion with others. My hope is that you will find this class energizing and helpful to you as writers. I look forward to working with you!

*Please note that the above schedules and procedures in the course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.*

**MISSED PEER REVIEW DAY COUPON**

*Attach this form to your final draft when you turn it in.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Paper Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Missed Peer Review Day: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reminder:** You may miss only **ONE** peer review day without penalty.

**LATE ESSAY COUPON**

*Attach this form to your late essay.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Paper Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_



**Reminder:** You may submit only **ONE** late essay during the semester. A late paper must be turned in by the next class meeting after the due date. (For instance, if a paper was due on Tuesday, you have until Thursday.)

*Please sign and return to class by Tuesday, January 24, 2006.*

**SYLLABUS CONTRACT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the course syllabus for Literature 265 AA  
**Print full name**

for the Spring 2006 term. I understand that by signing this contract I am agreeing to abide by all the rules and requirements described in this syllabus and that my failure to comply can result in my failing this course. If I have any questions concerning the requirements, I will first consult my course syllabus and then contact the instructor for further assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**