

Other U.S. Literatures

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The main aim of this course is to provide students with an overview of the literary, artistic and cultural production of ethnic “minority groups” in the United States. For this purpose, we will look at the way the artistic production of these communities portrays themes such as life in America, the history of the group, social relationships, and other basic themes and concepts for the construction of their group identities. Students should develop critical understanding of these bodies of literature, as well as familiarity with the field of ethnic studies, upon which we will base many of our readings of the literary works. By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Identify and gain knowledge of the group of writers and representative works in the field of U.S. ethnic literatures, being able to contextualize the literary production with the social and cultural context in which it is developed.
- Develop a critical understanding of the proposed texts by means of using different sources, and express individual critical thoughts correctly in their written and oral production.
- Develop strategies for the written and oral defence of one’s critical ideas in the context of group work, using different bibliographical sources and relating them to the proposed literary works.
- Think critically about issues of ethnicity, race, nationalism, discrimination etc., in the personal and communal spheres, and understand the role of literature and arts for the construction and deconstruction of social and cultural stereotypes.

General topic outline

- Unit 1. Introduction: general concepts and ideas/The American Dream
- Unit 2. The Promised Land/ Getting to America
- Unit 3. Living (in) America/Fighting Stereotypes
- Unit 4. Other issues: Gender and Ethnicity

Compulsory readings

Unit 1/The American Dream

- Jefferson, Thomas. “The Declaration of Independence”.
- Extracts from the US Constitution
- King, Martin Luther. “I have a dream” speech
- Obama, Barack. “Presidential inaugural” speech, 2008

Unit 2/ Slavery and Dispossession/The Promised Land/Getting to America/

- Extract from “The Interesting life Narrative of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa the African”, 1789.
- Jacobs, Harriet, “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl”, Boston 1861.
- Weathly, Phillis, “On being brought from Africa to America,” 1773*
- Tapahonso, Lucy, “In 1864”.
- A selection of Angel Island poetry
- A Selection of the Japanese Internment Camps poetry
- Anzaldúa, Gloria, extracts from *Borderland/La Frontera*
- Tan, Amy, extract from *The Joy Luck Club*.

Unit 3 Living (in) America/Fighting Stereotypes

- Hurston, Zora, “How it feels to be colored me,” 1998
- Extract from Ellison, Ralph, *Invisible Man*, Prologue*

- Chávez, Cesar, “An Organizer’s Tale”**
- Gómez Peña, Guillermo, “Documented/Undocumented”**
- Serros, Michele, extract from How to be a Chicana Role Model
- Howe, Leanne, and Gordon, Roxy, “Indian Radio Days”
- Song, Cathy, “Chinatown”***

Unit 4. Gender and ethnicity

- Anzaldúa, Gloria, “Ghost Trap”
- Tafolla, Carmen, extract from *To Split a Human: Mitos, Machos y la mujer Chicana***
- Bonner, Marita, “On being Young-a Woman-and Colored”**
- Angelou, Maya, “Still I rise”**
- Walker, Alice, “On Stripping Bark from Myself”**
- Selection of texts on masculinity

*Gates, Henry Louis, ed. *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. WW Norton, 1997.

**Stavans, Ilan, ed. *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*. WW Norton, 2011.

***Baym, Nina, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. WW Norton, 1989.

<u>Further Readings</u>

(Even though many of these books may be considered obsolete, they offer a general overview of the bodies of literatures we will work with. On the other hand, they can all be found at the Campus Library or borrowed from the teacher).

- Afro-American Writers before the Harlem Renaissance. Detroit: Gale Research, 1986.
- *Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1987.
- Cheung, King-Kok. *Asian American Literature : An Annotated Bibliography*. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1988.
- Chin, Frank. *Aiiieeee! An Anthology of Asian American Writers*. New York: A Mentor Book, 1974.
- Hurtner, Gordon. *American Literature, American Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Lomelí, Francisco, ed. *Chicano Literature: A Reference Guide*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1985.
- Mintz, Steven, ed. 1995. *Native American Voices: a History and Anthology*. St. James, New York: Brandywine.
- Nelson, Emmanuel Sampath, ed. *The Greenwood Encyclopaedia of" Multiethnic American Literature*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2005.
- Roche Rico, Barbara and Mano, Sandra. *American Mosaic. Multicultural Readings in Contexts*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991.
- Villanueva, Tino. *Chicanos: Antología histórica y literaria*. México: Fondo de Cultura económica, 1980.
- Wiget, Andrew. *Native American Literature*. Boston: Tawyne, 1985.

Estimated Class Organization

OTHER U.S. LITERATURES	
Unit 1/The American Dream	
Week 1-2	
Week 1. Session 1	Introduction to Ethnic Studies
W1.S2	The Declaration of Independence/The US Constitution
W2.S1	I have a Dream/Barack Obama's Inaugural speech
W2.S2	General analysis of works and concepts
Unit 2/ Slavery and Dispossession/The Promised Land/Getting to America/	
Weeks 3-7	
W3.S1	The Middle Passage/ On African-Americans
W3.S2	The Interesting life Narrative of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa the African
W4.S1	Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
W4.S2	On being brought from Africa to America
W5.S1	Manifest Destiny / On Native Americans
W5.S2	In 1864
W6.S1	On Asian Americans/Interment Camp/Angel Island Poetry
W6.S2	Japanese Internment Camps poetry
W7.S1	The Joy Luck Club
W7.S2	<i>Borderland/La Frontera</i>
Unit 3 Living (in) America/Fighting Stereotypes	
Weeks 8-12	
W8.S1	Slavery/The Color Line
W8.S2	How it feels to be colored me
W9.S1	<i>Invisible Man</i>
W9.S2	On Chicanos/La Frontera
W10.S1	An Organizer's Tale
W10.S2	Documented/Undocumented
W11.S1	How to be a Chicana Role Model/ On Chicanos
W11.S2	Indian Radio Days
W12.S1	Chinatown
Unit 4. Gender and ethnicity	
Weeks 12-15	
W12.S2	Ghost Trap
W13.S1	<i>To Split a Human: Mitos, Machos y la mujer Chicana</i>
W13.S2	On being Young-a Woman-and Colored
W14.S1	Still I rise
W14.S2	On Stripping Back from Myself
	Selection of texts on Masculinity

