

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
AGASSIZ CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities
Course Number: ENG 365
Course Title: Ethnic Literature in America
Number of Credits: 3
Prerequisites: Any 200-level literature course

A. Catalog Description of Course:

An analysis of the literature of selected minority groups. The course will focus on the literature of African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, and Jews. It will cover the cultural and historical heritage expressed through the literature as the vision of the minority experience in America and the more universal nature of the human condition.

B. Goals:

- * To introduce students to the literature of and about American minority groups: Afro and Native Americans, Jews and Hispanics.
- * To increase student awareness of the important contributions these diverse ethnic groups have made to the field of American literature.

C. Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- * Trace the cultural/historical heritage of minorities mainstream American literature.
- * View the literature of and about minorities in a holistic manner as a dynamic part of the American literary experience.

* Critique the literature of minorities in light of their cultural heritage.

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D. Outline of Course Content:

I. Historical Background of Ethnic America

II. America's Cultural Melting Pot: What it means to be a minority in American arts and letters.

III. Study of works of representative minorities:

- a. Afro-Americans
- b. Native Americans
- c. Hispanics
- d. Jewish

IV. Ethnic Authors and American literary criticism

V. Future Projections: Minority or Mainstream?

E. Suggested Texts:

Ossie: Autobiography of a Black Man - Caryl Ledner

Black Slave Narratives

Go Tell it on the Mountain - James Baldwin

Ishi, Last of His Tribe - Theodora Klocker

Ramona - Helen Hunt Jackson

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou

Chicano - Richard Vasquez

The Pawnbroker - Edward Lewis Wallant

The Seance - Isaac Bashevis Singer

This is only an example of a possible text list. Other possibilities chosen by the instructor should reflect the diverse ethnic works of these minorities.

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction:

lecture, lecture/discussion, dramatization, cooperative learning, guest lectures, workshops, debate, films, videos, reflective as well as inductive and deductive techniques

G. Instructor References:

Arata, Esther. Black American Playwrights: 1800-Present. New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1976.

Baker, H.A. Black Literature in America. New York: McGraw, 1971.

Begsby, D. ed. The Black American Writer. Florida: Everett Edwards, 1972.

Bontemps, A. & Hughes, L. Negro Folklore. New York: Dodd & Mead, 1958.

Davis, Thadious, M. Harris, Trudier, eds. Afro-American Fiction Writers After 1955. Michigan: Gale Research, 1985.

_____. Afro-American Poets Since 1955. Michigan: Gale Research, 1985.

Deodeue, Frank. Black American Poetry Since 1944. New Jersey: Chatham Books, 1971.

Freidman, Frances. The Black American Experience. New York: Weybright and Tally, 1969.

Gates, Henry. Black Literature and Literary Theory. Methuen, 1984.

Hamilton, Virginia. The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales. New York: Random House, 1985.

Hill, Herbert. ed. Anger and Beyond: The Negro Writer in the U.S. New York: Harper & Row, 1966.

Ostendouf, Berndt. Black Literature in White America. B & N Imports, 1982.

Rush, Theresa. Black American Writers: Past & Present. New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1975.

Smith, Barbara. Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology. New York: Kitchen Table-

Women of Color Press, 1983.

Native American

Astrov, Margot. American Indian Prose and Poetry. New York: John Day and Company, 1972.

Howard, Helen A. American Indian Poetry. Twyane Press, 1979.

Jarbina, Meryn, S. Native American Heritage. Boston: Little-Brown, 1976.

Lankford, George. Native American Legends. The Southeast August House, 1987.

Levitas, Gloria. American Indian Prose and Poetry. New York: Putnam, 1974.

Marx, Herbert. The American Indian: A Rising Ethnic Force. New York: Wilson, 1973.

Wiget, Andrew. Native American Literature. New York: G.K. Hall, 1985.

Jewish

Mersand, Joseph. Traditions in American Literature: A Study of Jewish Characters and Authors. New York: Modern Chapbooks, 1939.

Philipson, David. The Jew in English Fiction. Haskell, 1977.

Rothenberg, Jerome. Big Jewish Book: Poems and Other Visions of the Jews From Tribal Times to the Present. Anchor Press, 1978.

Sontag, Jacob, ed. Jewish Writing Today. Bibliographical Distributors, 1974.

Steinmschneider, Moritz. Jewish Literature from the 8th to 18th Century. New York: Hermon Press, 1970.

Hispanic

Barbato, J. "Latino Writer's in the American Market" Publisher's Weekly. 238: 17-18. F
1 '91.

DeZapata, Celia, C. ed. Short Stories by Latin American Women: The Magic and the
Real. Arte Publico, 1990.

Englekuk, John E. et. al. Outline History of Spanish American Literature. 4th edition.
Irvington, 1981.

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Luby, Barry J. & Funke, Wayne H. eds. Mythology of Contemporary Latin American
Literature: 1960-1984. Farliegh-Dickinson, 1986.

Mancini, Pat. M. ed. Contemporary Latin American Short Stories. Fawcett, 1979.