

**Gender in Literature and Film: Women of Color Writers**  
**GENG 395**  
**Spring 2010**  
**CRN 93326**

**Course Time:** April 16 (7:00 PM-10:00 PM & April 17 (9:00 AM-5:00 PM)

**Location:** Lose Hall 115

**Instructor:** Dr. Loren Redwood

**Contact Information:** Dr. Loren Redwood (Loso 213) 962-3238; lredwood@eou.edu

**Course Description**

This course explores the writings of women of color and the complex politics of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and other categories of power in the lives of women of color in the U.S. context. Through the use of fiction, films, and academic works the course will explore issues of identity, representation, socio-economic policy and political rights as they impact women of color in the U.S. including African American, Latina/Chicana, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native American.

**Learning Outcomes/Means of Assessment**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate a clearer grasp of the significance of categories of race, gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and culture in the lives of women of color historically and in contemporary society. This will be assessed through the use of reading and engaging in a written analysis of the assigned texts in the course.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the intersectional dimensions of these categories, and their impact on defining identity, representation, policy, and culture in the United States through in-class analysis of assigned course texts.
- Understand women of color's diverse critiques and strategies of resistance to oppressive forces. This will be assessed through discussion and analysis of texts as well as written assignments that require a critical analysis.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills by engaging in a analysis of frameworks for understanding and articulating complex social issues. This will be assessed through class discussion and the final reflective essay assigned in the course.

**Required Texts**

*My Year of Meats* Ruth Ozeki  
*Woman Hollering Creek* Sandra Cisneros  
A few selected essays relating to these novels

**Required Films**

*Beloved*  
*Rabbit Proof Fence*

**Course Requirements**

**1. Attendance and Participation in seminar discussion: (10% of course grade—50 points)**

Attendance is required at all meetings of the weekend course. Lateness or missing some part of the weekend will result in loss of attendance points. Active participation in seminar discussion is expected. Coming well-prepared with pre-assignments completed will assist you in this.

**2. Pre-reading/viewing and Reading Response papers: (45% of course grade – 225 points)**

You will be required to read all assigned materials and view two films prior to the scheduled class meeting. In order to prepare for class discussion, you will be expected to prepare a short

reading response of each reading/film viewing assignment. Detailed directions for the reading response assignments and other course resources will be available through the Blackboard program upon registration.

**3. Final Paper: (45% of course grade: 225 points).** The final paper for the course will be a reflective essay in which you will be asked to reexamine the learning outcomes for the course and how the reading, films, and class discussion met the course goals. This assignment asks that you reflect on what you have learned from the course how it has enriched your understanding of the topic.

### **Extra Credit Option:**

You may receive up to 25 points extra credit by performing an additional research task. This assignment consists of selecting one of the topics covered in the course and making a connection with a current local, regional, national, or international issue. Research and select a news article that addresses this issue and bring it to class for discussion. Submit a copy of the article along with a 1 page paper in which you provide a summary and discussion of the article and how it connects to the topic of the week.

**Grading will be on a straight percentage and a plus/minus basis**

### **Commitment to Scholarship**

In keeping with the Carnegie rule for academic expectations, students should devote a minimum of two hours per hour of class to outside reading and preparation for class. Since this is a two-credit course, the total expected time to devote to this course would be 60 hours. Since we meet for 11 hours together in person, you should expect to devote approximately 49 hours to reading and writing in preparation for the weekend-college meeting, and to the individual project you will complete following our session.

### **University Policies:**

**Disability Accommodation:** Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the EOU Disability Services Coordinator, Pat Arnson. All accommodations MUST be approved through the Disability Services Center. You may contact Pat Arnson at: Phone (541) 962-3081 or E-mail [parnson@eou.edu](mailto:parnson@eou.edu) The Disability Services Office is located in the Learning Center (Loso Hall Room 234). Please discuss your need for such services with the instructor during the first week of class.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** Plagiarism or cheating of any kind on any assignment or exam will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possibly the entire course. In all instances, you must do your own work. Please review the EOU Student Handbook regarding Academic Dishonesty Policies for more information.

There is a difference between plagiarism and collaboration. Plagiarism is the act of using another person's words or work without giving them credit for it. On the other hand, collaboration, for purposes of this class, is the act of discussing ideas with classmates, debating issues, examining readings from the class together so that each of you arrives at your own independent thought. Collaboration in this class is encouraged. If you are at any time unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please ask for clarity from the instructor. Better safe than sorry!

**Course Schedule: The specific agenda for the weekend will be available when we meet on Friday at 7:00 PM in Loso Hall 115. Please bring the novels, your response papers, and any other materials you have read in preparation for discussing these works.**