

## **COURSE OUTLINE** **Ethnic and Minority Literature**

### **Course Description**

LT 235. Ethnic and Minority Literature. 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: EG 101 with a C or better. This course will enable the student to read and evaluate literature written by African-, Asian-, Chicano/Latino-, and Native-Americans, and come to understand how their respective cultures influenced their literary works.

### **Course Relevance**

Reading American ethnic and minority literature cultivates increased knowledge and understanding of literature as well as knowledge and understanding of diversity in the United States. Because ethnic and minority literature speaks to the complexity of human experience, it contributes to the development of interpretive and interpersonal skills.

### **Required Materials**

Alexie, S., (2007). *Flight*. New York: Black Cat/Grove Atlantic.

Anaya, R., (1972) *Bless me, utlima*. New York: Warner Books.

Kingston, M., (1976) *The woman warrior*. New York: Vintage/Random House.

Morrison, T., (2004). *Beloved*. New York: Vintage/Random House.

### **Learning Outcomes**

The intention is for the student to be able to:

1. Comprehend and appreciate elements and genres of literature.
2. Comprehend and appreciate cultural influences.
3. Evaluate a literary work within literary and cultural contexts.

### **Learning PACT Skills that will be developed and documented in this course**

Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill area(s):

#### **Analytical Thinking Skills**

1. Critical thinking
  - Through individual written and oral responses and group discussion, the student will make informed analyses and evaluations of the merits of written work.

### **Major Summative Assessment Task(s)**

These learning outcome(s) and the Learning PACT skill(s) will be demonstrated by:

1. Completing and orally presenting a comprehensive written project that responds to questions of analysis and evaluation about selected culturally influenced literary works.

## **Course Content**

- I. Skills or Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
  - A. Read with comprehension and critical understanding
  - B. Write reader responses in 3-paragraph and 5-paragraph formats
  - C. Develop essays with appropriate rhetorical strategies
  - D. Respond with creative synthesis in the completion of a final project
- II. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
  - A. Cultural diversity
  - B. Merits of ethnic and minority literature
- III. Issues – Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
  - A. The destructive nature of racism, ethnocentrism, and discrimination
  - B. The literary themes which address unresolved issues among Americans
- IV. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
  - A. Understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of minority and ethnic groups and their literature

## **Learning Units**

- I. Latino/Chicano literature
  - A. Elements of cultural identity
  - B. Elements of theme
  - C. Elements of characterization
- II. African-American literature
  - A. Elements of cultural identity
  - B. Elements of style
  - C. Elements of setting
  - D. Elements of voice
  - E. Elements of diction
  - F. Elements of irony
  - G. Elements of symbol
  - H. Elements of tone
- III. Native-American literature
  - A. Elements of cultural identity
  - B. Elements of allegory
  - C. Elements of assonance
  - D. Elements of denotation/connotation
  - E. Elements of meter
  - F. Elements of rhyme
- IV. Asian-American literature
  - A. Elements of culture
  - B. Role of women as characterized in literature
  - C. Elements of symbol
  - D. Elements of image

**Learning Activities**

Learning activities will be assigned to assist the student in achieving the intended learning outcomes. Activities will include, but not be limited to, lecture, class discussions, quizzes, research assignments, exams, handouts, films, guest speakers, field trips, and study guides.

**Grade Determination**

Formative evaluation will include quizzes, participation in round-table discussion, as well as written responses to critical reviews and discussion questions. Summative evaluation will include an essay and student project/presentation. Additional evaluation may be used at the discretion of the instructor.