

Department of English & Writing Studies
Special Topics: Asian North American Literature
English 3911G (001)
Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Thy Phu
Office hours: Tuesday, 2:30-4:30pm; please email to book an appointment time.

Teaching Assistant: Kastoori Barua
Office hours: Thursdays, 12:30 pm-1:30 pm

Course Location: University College 2105

Course Date/Time: Tuesday 11:30 am-1:20 pm,
Thursday 11:30 am-12:20 pm

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of [English 1020E](#) or [English 1022E](#) or [English 1024E](#) or [English 1035E](#) or [English 1036E](#) or both [English 1027F/G](#) and [English 1028F/G](#), or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course explores Asian diasporic literature in Canada and the U.S., paying particular attention to the cultural work that they do in forming community and protesting injustice. Our close reading of novels, graphic narrative, and short stories will draw on the insights of formative critics in the interdisciplinary field of Asian North American studies, focusing on key issues including: model minority discourse, cultural nationalism, heterogeneity, hybridity, multiplicity, transnationalism, settler colonialism, and racialization. Pairing texts with theoretical and analytic frameworks in this manner provides a means of exploring formal experimentations, examining engagement with themes of race, gender, and sexuality, and situating literature within social and historical contexts.

Course goals and outcomes:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Identify and explain key concepts in the field of Asian North American literary studies;
- Understand the practical application of these concepts for literary interpretation;
- Situate literary texts within historical contexts;
- Work collaboratively;
- Practice oral presentation skills;
- Develop skills in informational literacy;
- Research and synthesize secondary sources and draw on this material to develop a sustained and well-reasoned analytical essay.

Please note that this syllabus is only a draft. The instructor reserves the right to revise as needed.

This course provides an open and positive space for the critical and civil exchange of ideas. Some readings and other content in this course will include topics that some students may find difficult and/or traumatizing. The instructor will aim to forewarn students about potentially disturbing content. All students are asked to help to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity. Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/graduate/index.html>.

Course Materials

Required books:

(available at the campus bookstore and online)

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*
Marjorie Liu, *Monstress, Vol. 1*
Madeleine Thien, *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*
Monique Truong, *The Book of Salt*
Ocean Vuong, *On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous*

Critical Readings:

Excerpts from theoretical books and articles will be available on OWL. Students are responsible for completing all readings as required in preparation for classes.

Cheng, Anne Anlin. "Ornamentalism: A Feminist Theory for the Yellow Woman." *Critical Inquiry* 44 (2018): 415-446.
Cho, Lily. "The Turn to Diaspora." *Topia* 17 (2007).
Eng, David L., with Judith Butler and Jose Esteban Munoz, "What's Queer about Queer Studies Now?" *Social Text* 23. 3-4 (2005).
Day, Iyko. "Introduction." In *Alien Capital*
Goellnicht, Donald C. "A Long Labour: The Protracted Birth of Asian Canadian Literature." *Essays on Canadian Writing* 72 (2000): 1-41.
Lowe, Lisa. "Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity: Marking Asian American Differences." *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 1.1 (1991): 24-44.
Paik, A Naomi. "Internment Remains: The 1988 Civil Liberties Act and Racism Re-Formed," in *Rightlessness: Testimony and Redress in U.S. Prison Camps since World War II* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), pp. 21-56.
Phu, Thy. "Introduction: Clapsed Hands and Clenched Fists," in *Picturing Model Citizens: Civility in Asian*
Said, Edward. "Exile."

Methods of Evaluation

Attendance and participation	10%	(ongoing)
In-class essay (1000 words)	10%	(Feb. 14)
Group Presentation	10%	(various)
Critical Reflection (1000 words)	10%	(various)
Final essay proposal (300 words) + annotated bibliography	5%	(Feb. 25)
Mandatory one-on-one consultation	5%	(various)
Essay draft + peer editing of essay draft	5%	(Mar. 24)
Oral progress report on capstone project	5%	(Mar. 17)
Capstone project seminar	5%	(Mar. 31)
Capstone class project	15%	(Mar. 31)
Capstone project individual reflection (500 words)	5%	(March 31)
Final essay (2000 words)	15%	(Apr. 2)

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Additional Information

Formatting and submitting assignments

Please submit assignments, with the exception of peer evaluation forms, through the relevant OWL Assignment folder. Unless otherwise noted, include a title, your name, page numbers, a standard font (Times New Roman or Garamond), and double space your papers. I prefer that you type out assignments/papers using MS Word or Pages. Use MLA style guideline:

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA8th.pdf>

Late penalty

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be subject to a 3% per day penalty, including weekends.

Hard deadlines

All assignments must be submitted within two weeks of the deadline during the term. The final essay must be submitted by April 8. Anything submitted after these hard deadlines will not be accepted unless accommodation has been approved.

Accommodation

Self-reported absences

Students may report up to 2 absences (in a given September-April academic period) of no more than 48 hours for which they are seeking academic consideration (eg., alternative arrangements for missed tests). Self-reporting may not be used for consideration for work worth more than 30% or for final exams or mid-terms scheduled during the exam period. Students report the absences through an online portal. When students log into the portal, they are given information about the policy around self-reporting an absence: that they may only self-report two absences, that they are responsible for contacting their instructor within the designated timeframe, that they may not self-report an absence from a final exam, and so forth.

In cases of absences expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), students are directed to follow the other avenues for academic consideration: by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to an academic counsellor.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Grade appeal

Students are asked to wait 48 hours after receiving marks if they wish to appeal their assessment. They must do so within three weeks.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.