ENG 2383: U.S. Multiethnic Literatures of the U.S.: Artistry of Dissent
Instructor: Roberta Hurtado

Class Time and Location: TR 2:00 – 3:15 p.m., MB 0.208
Office Location, Hours, and Email: MB 2.308; TR 11-12 and upon request; roberta.hurtado@utsa.edu

Course Description
In this course, we will critically engage the literary production of different ethnic groups within the U.S. throughout the twentieth century for cultural, historical, legal, social, and political representations of resistance, or what Martín Espada describes as an “artistry of dissent.” We will explore how ethnic identity is defined within these texts, and other spheres of identity that influence subject formation such as gender, race, socio-economics, and sexual orientation. As a class, we will attempt to master discourses pertinent to studying “multiethnic” literature, specifically, and literature as a whole. We will ask questions such as: how is “ethnicity” defined in these texts? What is the role of literature in describing the different subject positions these authors and/or literatures represent? How do these texts define the role of “ethnic bodies” and psyches within socio-political contexts? To assist in answering these questions, students are responsible for one research project on a chosen author from the course reading list. Students will also write one mid-term paper on a topic of their choice. In addition, a unique, original full length final paper that grapples with the concepts we have discussed over the course of the semester will be due as the semester closes. This course requires students to have fulfilled CORE CURRICULUM requirements in rhetoric prior to enrollment, and is reading and writing intensive.

Course Objectives
✓ Master discourses pertinent to studying U.S. multiethnic literature
✓ Critically engage representations of racialization in conjunction with other elements of intersectionality
✓ Explore the scholarly and creative writings by “multiethnic” authors to discern themes, motifs, and trends in this field

Reading List
• Alexie, Sherman. Ten Little Indians. ISBN: 978-0802141170
• Espada, Martín. Alabanza. ISBN: 0-393-32621-7
• Ellison, Ralph. The Invisible Man. ISBN: 0-679-73276-4
• Fukaya, Michiyo Anne. The Fire is Burning It Is In Me. ISBN: 978-0934678780
• Tafolla, Carmen. Sonnets and Salsa. ISBN: 0-916727-10-6 please note that this text is not available through the UTSA bookstore. Copies are available online or can be scanned via faculty copies
Grades and Assignments

- Class Participation 100 points (20% of final grade)
- Author Research Project 50 points (10% of final grade)
- Online Responses 100 points (20% of final grade)
- Midterm Paper (3-5 pages) 125 points (25% of final grade)
- Final Paper (5-8 pages) 125 points (25% of final grade)

500 points = 100%

Letter Grade | Point Ranges
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A+ | 470 – 500
A | 430 - 469
A- | 400 - 429
B+ | 370 - 399
B | 330 - 369
B- | 300 - 329
C+ | 270 - 299
C | 230 - 269
C- | 200 - 229
D+ | 170 - 199
D | 130 - 169
D- | 100 - 129
F | 0 - 99

*Grades will not be given over the phone or internet. Extra Credit Assignments will be made available.

Attendance: Participation is key to a successful course. As such, students are permitted 2 unexcused absences. Additional absences will result in a lowering of their final grade by one third of a letter grade per absence. Tardiness, or habitual lateness (arriving more than 5 minutes after class), is strongly discouraged. Six late arrivals will be counted as one absence. Arrival more than ten minutes after class can result in not being allowed access to class. Arrival more than 15 minutes after class will result in an absence for the day. If you do arrive within the allowed five minutes, please choose the nearest open seat to the door.

Classroom Policies: Our classroom should be a zone free from racist, sexist, homophobic, and other forms of derogatory language and conduct. We should all aim to create a space where students feel comfortable to speak and participate. As well as following the Student Code of Conduct, outlined in the UTSA Course Catalog, we are all expected to treat one another with respect and courtesy. In this light, cell phones should be turned off prior to entering class—only students who request special allowances due to pressing circumstances will be allowed to have cell phones out and on, but they must be set to vibrate mode. Students are also required to come to class prepared and ready to learn. You are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to class and have all hand-in assignments ready for submission. Late work is not accepted. Guests are only permitted in class if pre-approved by the faculty.

Professionalism in the Classroom: The Provost’s statement on "Civility in the Classroom" states that “students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To assure all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.” While diversity of opinion is encouraged in this class, we must also seek to engage one another respectfully and professionally. In this light, all members of class should refrain from disruptive behaviors such as persistent ringing of cell phones or beepers, inappropriate challenges to the professor’s authority, excessive tardiness or leaving class early, making offensive remarks, missing deadlines, prolonged chatting, reading newspapers during class, sleeping, talking out of turn, dominating discussion, shuffling backpacks and notebooks, and overt inattentiveness are discouraged (all examples listed in the Provost’s statement on "Civility in the Classroom").
Electronic Technology in the Classroom: Cell phone use is not permitted in class. If you need to use your cell phone, please leave the classroom to do so. If you have extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor and you will be allowed to have your phone set to vibrate but must leave the classroom to take the call/texting is distracting and therefore discouraged in these special circumstances. Laptops are permitted only for in-class use such as taking notes. Web-surfing, checking emails and facebook, and instant messaging are not permitted in class. If you plan to use a laptop in classroom, please notify the instructor of record and make your computer screen easily visible to the instructor during class.

Plagiarism: According to Section 203.6 of the UTSA Code of Conduct Handbook, "Scholastic dishonesty is any form of cheating or plagiarism that violates the Student Code of Conduct. Scholastic Dishonesty or academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion without faculty consent, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act." Any instance of plagiarism that is found will result in an immediate "F" for the assignment, potentially a failing grade for the course, and judicial action. If you are concerned at any point in the semester that you might be broaching one of these areas, please speak to me prior to handing in your work so that we can determine how to remedy the situation.

Disabilities
Students who require special accommodations for in-class work must register with Disability Services. Please visit www.utsa.edu/disabilities for more information.

Description of Assignments:

Class Participation: In order to create lively and unique class discussions, all students are expected to assist in creating a positive environment conducive to learning. Your input is valuable to every discussion, and we should all plan to speak at least once per class. However, negative behavior and/or derogatory comments will negatively impact your grade. Please review "Classroom Policies" and "Notes on Professionalism" for further information on behavior/commentary guidelines. In addition, quizzes might be given at any point in the semester. These quizzes are your chance to show your knowledge of the texts, the characters, motifs, scenes, and knowledge of important passages.

Online Responses: By 10AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all students are required to submit a 100-150 word response on Blackboard about the readings for that day. You might choose to discuss a theme, motif, or character you find interesting. You might also wish to provide a close reading of a passage/scene/line/etc. You are also permitted to creatively engage one of the texts to discuss something you find interesting. You are required to use quotes from the assigned reading selection in your response, but these quotes cannot substitute for your own response.

Author Research Project: In this assignment, you will choose one author whose work we will be reading this semester and, by the first day in which we begin to explore their writing, hand in a report on their biographical/bibliographical information. This assignment should include a printed outline of their life, their life work, and any important details such as education, family, etc. that is pertinent to understanding their work and how it reflects an "artistry of dissent." A bibliography is required for this assignment.

Midterm Paper: In this 3-5 page paper, you have the opportunity to explore any aspect of any text we have read in class up to and including the text we read on the day the paper is due. The paper must be written in MLA format, including 1 inch margins all around, size 12 Times New Roman font, and no extra spacing between paragraphs. Your paper must be stapled. A handout will be provided. Due October 11

Final Paper: In this 5-8 page paper, you will reflect on the issues we have discussed and grappled with this semester utilizing your online responses. You will identify key themes that you notice in your responses that carry over, develop, or alter throughout the semester in regards to your own understanding of what "ethnicity" means, what U.S. ethnic literature represents, and/or what is the artistry of dissent created by the writers we have explored this semester. You may reflect on what you see as trends in your learning of material or concepts that you have come to know. The paper must be written in MLA format, and is Due December 13, 2012 by 1pm
Schedule
08/30– Welcome to Class! Overview of course, Poetry, Critical Literacy, and Engaged Readers

09/04 – Espada, Martin: Alabanza Section 1
09/06 – Alabanza Section II: “Trumpets.,” “La Tormenta,” “The Right Hand.,” “The Moon Shatters…”
09/11 – Alabanza Section IV; “Who Burns.,” “City of Coughing.,” Section V; “Imagine.,” Offerings.,” and
          “When the Leather is a Whip”
09/13 – Tafolla, Carment: Sonnets and Salsa Pages 1-50

09/18 – Sonnets and Salsa Pages 50-109
09/20 – Yezierska, Anzia: Bread Givers Pages 1-88

09/25 – Bread Givers Pages 88-151
09/27 – Bread Givers Pages 155-234

10/02 – Bread Givers Pages 234- Finish
10/04 – Emerson, Ralph: Invisible Man Chapter Prologue-2

10/09 – Invisible Man Chapter 3-6
10/11 – Invisible Man Chapters 7-10  MIDTERM PAPER DUE

10/16 – Invisible Man Chapters 11-13
10/18 – Invisible Man Chapters 14-17

10/23 – Invisible Man Chapters 18-21
10/25 – Invisible Man Chapters 22-Finish

10/30 – Alexie, Sherman: Ten Little Indians Chapters 1 and 2
11/01 – Ten Little Indians Chapters 3 and 4

11/06 – Ten Little Indians Chapters 5 and 6
11/08 – Ten Little Indians Chapters 7 and 8

11/13 – Ten Little Indians Chapters 9 and 10
11/15 – CLASS REFLECTION and WRITING DAY

11/20 – CLASS REFLECTION and WRITING DAY
11/22 – NO CLASS- NATIONAL HOLIDAY

11/27 – Fukaya, Michiyo: The Fire is Burning It is in Me Pages 1-52
11/29 – The Fire is Burning Pages 53-104

12/04 – The Fire is Burning Pages 105-163
12/06 – The Fire is Burning Pages 163-Finish

FINAL EXAM: Thursday 13-Dec 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM Final Paper Due
*this syllabus is subject to change
The Roadrunner Creed

The University of Texas at San Antonio is a community of scholars, where integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, respect, collaboration, and innovation are fostered.

As a Roadrunner, I will:

➢ Uphold the highest standards of academic and personal integrity by practicing and expecting fair and ethical conduct;
➢ Respect and accept individual differences, recognizing the inherent dignity of each person;
➢ Contribute to campus life and the larger community through my active engagement; and
➢ Support the fearless exploration of dreams and ideas in the advancement of ingenuity, creativity, and discovery.

Guided by these principles now and forever, I am a Roadrunner!

The University of Texas at San Antonio Academic Honor Code

A. Preamble
The University of Texas at San Antonio community of past, present and future students, faculty, staff, and administrators share a commitment to integrity and the ethical pursuit of knowledge. We honor the traditions of our university by conducting ourselves with a steadfast duty to honor, courage, and virtue in all matters both public and private. By choosing integrity and responsibility, we promote personal growth, success, and lifelong learning for the advancement of ourselves, our university, and our community.

B. Honor Pledge
In support of the ideals of integrity, the students of the University of Texas at San Antonio pledge:

“As a UTSA Roadrunner I live with honor and integrity.”

C. Shared responsibility
The University of Texas at San Antonio community shares the responsibility and commitment to integrity and the ethical pursuit of knowledge and adheres to the UTSA Honor Code.

*cover image: http://www.utep.edu/border/mur.html

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