Course description

Since the Civil Rights Movement, US culture and literature have shown a great interest and sensitivity to issues related to race, ethnicity, diaspora, and gender that are encompassed in the construction of the meaning of personal and collective memory. This seminar focuses on the politics of remembrance, individuality/identity, self-consciousness, and painful experiences of the past as immigrants and people of color examine their nostalgia, homeland heritage, and American participation. The readings selected for the seminar are written by four major ethnic groups: African American, Asian American, Chicano/a, & Latino/a American. This seminar will help you analyze and critique these texts from various critical and theoretical lenses in order to gain a better understanding of intersectionality, agency, the notion of engaged participation in the transformative nature of cultural production, individual and collective subjectivity, conceptions of hybrid and transnational identity, and immigrant memory. The contributions of CW students to class discussion will definitely help everyone appreciate the art of storytelling, narratology, and aesthetic elements of non-fiction writing.

11 Required Textbooks

African American
Richard Wright, Black Boy
James Baldwin, Go Tell It on the Mountain
Zora Neale Hurston, Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography
Edwidge Danticat, Brother, I Am Dying

Latino/a + Chinano/a
Richard Rodriguez, Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez
Esmeralda Santiago, When I Was Puerto Rican
Piri Thomas, Down These Mean Streets
Raquael Cepeda, Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina

Asian American
Le Ly Hayslip, When Heaven and Earth Changed Places
Carlos Bulosan, America Is in the Heart
M. Elaine Mar, Paper Daughter, A Memoir

E-mail correspondence

Use your UM e-mail account for electronic correspondence with the instructor. You may expect my response within 48 hours (except weekends and holidays).

Attendance and Tardiness

1. Tardiness of between 5 and 10 minutes will be noted: each such tardiness after the first two will be counted as an unexcused absence; tardiness of 20 minutes or longer will be treated as an unexcused absence.
2. If you have to leave class early due to personal problems, inform me before class starts.
3. Since we meet only once each week, I expect you to attend all class meetings.
Assignments

THREE ESSAYS: Specific instructions to be announced.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: For each class meeting, you will bring to class 3-4 discussion questions.

Grades

Grades will be assigned as percentage scores (0-1000) throughout the term. Ultimately, your final grade will be converted to the university’s letter grade system using this scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>940-1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>900-930</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>870-899</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>840-860</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>800-830</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>640 or below</td>
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Essay # 1 (4-5 pages / close reading) -------------------------------------------- 150 points
Essay # 2 (7 pages / argumentative) ---------------------------------------------250 points
Essay # 3 (14-15 pages / major research paper) -----------------------------------500 points
Discussion questions----------------------------------------------------------------100 points

TOTAL: 1,000 points

Policies on written assignments and in-class tests

1. Late papers will be penalized with a 10% deduction for each day after the due date, including weekend days. If extenuating circumstances prevent you from turning in a paper on time, please talk to me BEFORE the paper is due. I am not likely to make allowances after the deadline has come and gone.
2. All papers are to be typed in 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced. Please follow the MLA guidelines for formatting, citations, and documentations.
3. For each formal essay, you will have one week to enter all of my corrections and turn in the revised version. Failing to do this will result in a zero on the assignment.
4. Do not ask me to proofread your essays electronically (via email). If you need help with your papers, please schedule an appointment, or just come during my office hours.
5. Make-up assignments are for excused absences only.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, you should first consult with me. You will have 7 days, from the time the grade is assigned/posted, to set up an appointment with me to discuss the grade. After 7 days, all grades are final.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations for coursework. To request accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible in the semester. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at http://www.umt.edu/dss/ or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).

Academic Integrity

Refer to http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php for information about academic misconduct. If you are found guilty of academic misconduct, legal action will be taken. It is your responsibility as a student to understand the Student Conduct Code described in the link above.
**Schedule of Readings** (subject to change)

**Week 1: Jan. 25-31**  
Introduction + Syllabus

**Week 2: Feb. 1-7**  
*Hunger of Memory*

**Week 3: Feb. 8-14**  
*When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*

**Week 4: Feb. 15-21**  
*When I Was Puerto Rican*

**Week 5: Feb. 22-28**  
*Black Boy*

**Week 6: Feb. 29-Mar. 6**  
*Brother, I Am Dying*

**Week 7: Mar. 7-13**  
Reading(s) TBA + *Essay # 2 due* (Friday, 5:00 PM, my office)

**Week 8: Mar. 14-20**  
*America Is in the Heart*

**Week 9: Mar. 21-27**  
*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

**Week 10: Mar. 28-Apr. 3**  
*Down These Mean Streets*

**Week 11: Apr. 4-10**  
****SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS

**Week 12: Apr. 11-17**  
*Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*

**Week 13: Apr. 18-24**  
*Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina*

**Week 14: Apr. 25-May 1**  
*Paper Daughter, A Memoir + Essay # 3 due* (Friday, 5:00 PM, my office)

**Week 15: May 2-8**  
Thurs, May 05: last day of class / TBA