ENH 224 (8664): Multicultural U.S. Literature
Hybrid Course / On-campus meetings: T, Th 1:00-4:30 pm

Summer 2017
Syllabus

Instructor Information
Professor Maria Rice Bellamy, maria.bellamy@csi.cuny.edu
Office Hour: Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 pm and by appointment
Office Location and Phone: 2S-204 / (718) 982-3662

Course Description
This course will study two exciting, contemporary authors whose writings focus on the bi-cultural American experience. Edwidge Danticat and Junot Díaz have received numerous prestigious awards for their fictional and non-fictional renderings of the experiences of Haitian Americans and Dominican Americans. Issues we will examine in this course include immigration and acculturation, traumatic memory, hybridity, and cultural identity. We will also consider how the work of these two authors intersects to present a multi-faceted view of the history of Hispaniola (the island that the Dominican Republic and Haiti share) and its relations with the United States.

This is a HYBRID course. That means that we will meet on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Mondays and Wednesdays, students will complete reading and on-line writing assignments and prepare for group assignments. Please note that participation in online activities is required. For that reason you MUST have easy and consistent access to the internet throughout this course. Be prepared to incorporate group meetings into your schedule. Attendance for all on-campus meetings and completion of all off-campus assignments are equally important for success in this course.

Required Readings:
Edwidge Danticat, Krik? Krak!
The Dew Breaker
Junot Díaz, Drown
This is How You Lose Her

All books are available at the CSI Bookstore and online. Additional secondary readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Learning Goals
1. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with relevant textual forms.
2. Students will be able to relate texts to relevant social, critical, historical, political and/or cultural contexts.
3. Students will develop the interpretive skills and vocabulary to write critically about course materials.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria
Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows:
In-Class Activities include formal assignments performed in class (primarily quizzes), attendance, and participation in class discussion and informal group activities. Class attendance is Mandatory and critical to success in this course.

**Group Presentation**: Each student will be assigned to a group whose major task is to begin class discussion with a presentation on one of our readings (or a topic related to the reading). Presentations are intended to help your classmates better understand the reading and highlight important issues and themes.

**Online Writing Assignments**: There will be a short online writing assignment due on each of the days we do not meet on campus. Students will be asked to post to Blackboard a 1-page analytical response to a discussion question for each of our required readings and an excerpt from the rough draft of their essay. Students should then engage in online discussion of their classmates’ postings.

**Essay**: Each student will write a 5-6 page analytical essay. Your essay should:
- Be double-spaced and written in 12-point Times New Roman or similar font
- Have an interesting and original title
- Conform to MLA guidelines (See the MLA Style Guide for more information or consult the Purdue On-line Writing Lab at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/))
- Be carefully proofread! Essays are graded on mechanics as well as content

**Classroom Policies**
- Students are expected to arrive on-time for on-campus meetings and stay for the entire class period. There will be a 15-20 minute break midway through the class.
- Please turn off all cell phones before class. There should be no calling or texting during class.

**Other Policies**

**Student Accommodations**: Qualified students will be provided reasonable academic accommodations upon receipt of written verification of eligibility from the Center for Student Accessibility (1P-101). It is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with the CSA staff and to follow the procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to me.

**Plagiarism**: Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas in your work without properly quoting those words or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism includes the use of ANY AND ALL uncited texts as well as ideas from the internet, Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, or similar study guides (cited or uncited) and purchased papers. If you find yourself cutting and pasting from the internet into your paper, you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. Please ask me if you have any questions.
Course Schedule

T, June 6: Course introduction. View Danticat-Diaz interview

W, June 7: Read *Krik? Krak!* Complete online discussion forum assignment

Th, June 8: Complete *Krik? Krak!* Quiz. Group presentations

M, June 12: Read *The Dew Breaker.* Complete online discussion forum assignment

T, June 13: Complete *The Dew Breaker.* Quiz. Group presentation

W, June 14: Read *Drown.* Complete online discussion forum assignment

Th, June 15: Complete *Drown.* Quiz. Group presentations

M, June 19: Read *This is How You Lose Her.* Complete online discussion forum assignment

T, June 20: Complete *This is How You Lose Her.* Quiz. Group presentation

W, June 21: Write rough draft of essay. Post introductory paragraph in online discussion forum

Th, June 22: Writing Workshop. Peer review exercise

M, June 26: Final drafts of essays due, submitted on Blackboard

T, June 27: Final Class