

Instructor: Dr. Julie Barak
Office Hours: 8:00-8:50 MWF
1:00-1:50 MWF
11:00-11:50 T

Office: LHH 452
Phone: 248-1072
Email: jbarak@mesastate.edu
Home Page: <http://home.mesastate.edu/~jbarak/>

Course Goals:

1. To read widely in the period
2. To work cooperatively in building a response to the literature personally, theoretically and comparatively
3. To become comfortable with the idea of theory and the work of applying it to texts

Course Methods:

Since we are living in this age, growing up and old(er) with this literature, it's especially important that we explore how it works on us and through us as we respond to what's going on in the world. Since many of us are making literature and/or the teaching of it our life's work, it's essential that we become familiar and comfortable with what theory is and how to use it. Since none of us has the pleasure of living in isolation, we need to consider how to share and respond to each other's interpretations and uses of literature. These factors have influenced my decision to make student response the focal point of our classroom time. We will work in pairs to build and share responses to the literature. In order to ensure responsible participation and engagement in discussion, short reading quizzes will begin each class. Because writing well is essential to our most of our professional choices, we'll share, workshop and revise four essays or presentations that feature our research.

Required Texts:

Bonnycastle, Stephen. *In Search of Authority*, 3rd Edition.
Lauter, Paul. *Heath Anthology of American Literature*, Volume E.
One novel from the list below.

Course Work and Course Grades:

1. Participation in Small Group Work in Theory Discussions. 100 Points. (Grade will be based on daily group sharing and folder notes.)
2. Three presentations about writers from the period based on the following parameters:
 - a. Personal response or connection (5 minutes)
 - b. Application of theory using terms and principles from Bonnycastle (10 minutes)
 - c. Summary of and response to published criticism (5 Minutes)
 - d. Provoke/lead class discussion of the work (15 minutes)

Pairs of students – assigned randomly – will choose one author or set of authors from The “American Century”: From Victory to Vietnam and two authors or sets of authors from New World Disorder: Recent Literature as the subjects for their presentations. Sign-up sheets will be available during the second week of class. This will give you time to look over the lists and make your selections based on personal interest and expertise. (100 points each, pairs graded together unless there are mitigating circumstances requiring individual evaluation.)

3. Individual written reports summarizing your work for the presentation. These should be divided, clearly, into the four sections above. Sections 1, 2 and 4 should be a minimum of 750 words each. Section 1 should be a narrative. Section 2 should clearly and carefully explain which theory from Bonnycastle you're working with, refer to specific ideas, terms, stages, etc., and connect them to specific characters, events, settings, etc. in the text. Section 3 should be an annotated bibliography, in MLA style, of the sources you consulted as you searched for published criticism. Section 4 should include the questions you will raise in class discussion and the reasons for asking those questions. (100 points each, graded individually.)

4. Reading quizzes. (200 points – average of daily grades.)
5. A written report and very short oral presentation on one novel from the list of novelists below. Oral reports are very short – 4-5 minutes – and include a brief summary and response. Written reports should include a brief summary; they should develop more fully, however, a theoretical and/or critical interpretation of the text employing Bonneycastle. (100 points)

Policies and Procedures:

1. **Academic Honesty:** Refer to the Student Handbook for college policies on Academic Honesty. You are cautioned a) against using, word for word, without acknowledgment, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, etc. from the printed or manuscript material of others; b) against using with only slight changes the materials of others; and c) against using the general plan, the main headings, or a rewritten form of someone else's material. These cautions apply to the work of other students as well as to the published work of professional writers. (Department of English, Purdue University) Violations will be handled according to the guidelines suggested in the Student Handbook.
2. **Students w/ Disabilities:** In coordination with Educational Access Services, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please meet with the instructor the first week of class to make arrangements. Educational Access Services can be contacted at 248-1856, or in person in Houston Hall, Room 100.
3. **Tutorial Learning Center = TLC:** The TLC is a FREE academic service for all MSC students. Tutors are available on a walk-in basis for many courses. Needing to ask a quick question? Seeking homework clarification? Looking for feedback on a paper? Reviewing for a test? Come to Houston Hall 110 on Mondays through Thursdays from 8AM-7PM and Fridays from 8AM-5PM to meet with one of our peer tutors. Please call 970-248-1392 with any questions.

Reading Lists

The “American Century”: From Victory to Vietnam

1. Ann Petry and Ralph Ellison
2. Theodore Roethke
3. Eudora Welty and Flannery O'Connor
4. Tennessee Williams
5. Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell
6. Bienvenido Santos/Carlos Bulosan
7. Robert Hayden/Gwendolyn Brooks
8. Bernard Malamud/Saul Bellow
9. Arthur Miller
10. Hisaye Yamamoto/John Okada
11. James Baldwin/Paule Marshall
12. A Sheaf of Poetry and Prose from the Beat Movement
13. Frank O'Hara/John Ashberry
14. Edward Albee
15. Adrienne Rich
16. A Sheaf of Vietnam Conflict Poetry and Prose
17. Malcolm X/Martin Luther King Jr./Brown v. Board of Education/Loving v. Virginia

New World Disorder: Recent Literature

1. Rolando Hinojosa-Smith/Toni Morrison
2. John Barth/Donald Barthelme
3. Ann Sexton/Sylvia Plath

4. John Updike/Philip Roth
5. N. Scott Momaday/Joy Harjo/Wendy Rose/Leslie Marmon Silko
6. Audre Lorde/Ernest J. Gaines
7. Amiri Baraka/Sonia Sanchez
8. Tomas Rivera/Rudolfo Anaya
9. Lucille Clifton/June Jordan
10. Thomas Pynchon/Raymond Carver
11. Lawson Fusao Inada/Michael S. Harper
12. A Sheaf of Prison Literature
13. James Welch/Simon Ortiz
14. Bharati Mukherjee/Bobby Ann Mason
15. Maxine Hong Kingston/Gish Jen
16. Gloria Anzaldua/Helena Maria Viramontes/Sandra Cisneros/Lorna Dee Cervantes/Pat Mora
17. Lee Smith/Dorothy Allison/Alice Walker
18. Nature and Spirituality – Ecocriticism
19. Art Spiegelman/Lynda Barry/Alison Bechdel/Chris Ware/Joe Sacco
20. Jamaica Kincaid/Jessica Hagedorn/Edwidge Danticat/Minh Duc Nguyen
21. Pedro Pietri/Victor Hernandez Cruz/Tato Laviera/Judith Ortiz Cofer/Rane Arroyo/Auror Levinx Morales/Sandra Maria Esteves and Luz Maria Umpierre
22. Paula Vogel
23. Karen Tei Yamashita/Garrett Kaoru Hongo
24. Louise Erdrich/Sherman Alexie

Novelists – 1945-1970

Ann Petry, Eudora Welty, Tillie Olsen, Bernard Malamud, Ralph Ellison, Saul Bellow, James Baldwin, Flannery O'Connor, Paule Marshall, Tim O'Brien, Norman Mailer

Novelists – 1970-Present

Toni Morrison, John Updike, Philip Roth, N. Scott Momaday, Thomas Pynchon, Joyce Carol Oates, James Welch, Bharati Mukherjee, John Edgar Wideman, Alice Walker, Leslie Marmon Silko, Jamaica Kincaid, Jessica Hagedorn, Dorothy Allison, Louise Erdrich, Helena Maria Viramontes, Gish Jen, David Foster Wallace, Sherman Alexie, Jhumpa Lahiri, Don DeLillo, Edwidge Danticat