

Diasporas, Multiculturalism, and Literary Representation

Instructors: Melinda Dabis (Mondays), Ildikó Limpár (limparildiko@gmail.com) (Tuesdays)

The course consists of 2 x 90 min classes weekly (Monday 4-5:30 pm and Tuesday 12.30-2:00 pm), with two instructors. You have to attend and meet the requirements of both parts in order to complete the course (failing one part of the course automatically means failing the entire course). The absences are counted separately though, you cannot miss more than 2 Mondays and 2 Tuesdays (together they account for ca. 30% of the course). At the end of the term, one research project (paper + presentation) is required and it will be evaluated jointly by the instructors.

The Monday classes are dedicated to discussing **Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*** and will focus on the themes of immigration experience, generational conflicts rooted in cultural conflicts, the gendered experience of being a minority, cultural hybridity, the East versus the West, and Orientalism. For each discussion class, you are asked to read two chapters (= short stories) of the novel.

Week 1: February 11 Introduction

Week 2: February 18

Jing-mei Woo: "The Joy Luck Club"

An-mei Hsu: "Scar"

Week 3: February 25

Lindo Jong: "The Red Candle"

Ying-ying St. Clair: "The Moon Lady"

Week 4: March 3

Lena St. Clair: "The Voice from the Wall"

Waverly Jong: "Rules of the Game";

Week 5: March 10

Jing-mei Woo: "Two Kinds"

Rose Hsu Jordan: "Half and Half"

Week 6: March 17

Rose Hsu Jordan: "Without Wood"

Jing-Mei Woo: "Best Quality"

Week 7: March 24

An-mei Hsu: "Magpies"

Ying-ying St. Clair: "Waiting Between the Trees"

Week 8: March 31

Lena St. Clair: "Rice Husband";

Waverly Jong: "Four Directions"

Week 9: April 7: *Spring break*

Week 10: April 14 : *Spring break*

Week 11: April 21

Lindo Jong: "Double Face"

Jing-mei Woo: "A Pair of Tickets"

Week 12: April 27: student projects

Week 13: May 5: *Class not held*

Week 14: May 12: Evaluation

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Active participation in class.
- Reading the pieces to be discussed and bringing a copy of the prepared texts and your notes to class. Prepare 2 speaking points/questions in connection with the readings.
- Handing in all the required written assignments in time. The written assignments are as follows:
 1. **week to week preparations:** From each story, choose 2 sentences that your speaking points / questions are related. Email your choices to limparildi@gmail.com until 8 pm Monday in each case, that is, the day before the class takes place. You may skip this task twice.
 2. **4 short reflections:** On two occasions, write a short (1-page-long; double line spacing, 12 point Times New Roman letters) reflection, using as a starting point one of your selected sentences. For these reflections, there is no need to use secondary literature, but if you do use any, make sure you reference them as needed. On two other occasions, write a similarly short text reflecting on how any ideas coming from the suggested critical literature you read are relevant to the story. (You need to use two separate scholarly sources for the two reflections.)
 3. **1 oral presentation:** details are to be found in Professor Dabis's syllabus
 4. **1 endterm paper:** details are to be found in Professor Dabis's syllabus

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON ACCESSING TEXTS:

I will create a closed Facebook group so as I may effectively share the reading material. You may also use this group for sharing information and discussing ideas relating to the seminar, as well as uploading reading materials. In order to join the Facebook group, you need to mark me as friend on FB. After I have let you in the group, you may “unfriend” me in case you don't really want to meet me on FB otherwise.

ON THE FAIR USE OF SOURCES:

You can use others' ideas or words in form of literal quotes or paraphrases, but you must indicate the source of quotes, paraphrased passages, and all sorts of factual information in all cases. The failure of keeping a correct record of borrowed material, either due to ignorance or to deliberate theft of ideas, is plagiarism. Papers showing evident signs of plagiarism will fail, and thus the student fails the entire course. Make sure you use your sources fairly even in your shorter assignments.