COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 215—MULTICULTURALISM IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Prepared By: Nadine N. Jennings, PhD
Updated By: Melissa Elliott Lee
A. **TITLE:** Multiculturalism in American Literature

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** ENGL 215

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Determined by Semester

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Both

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** 3 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course examines multiculturalism in the United States as reflected in its literature of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Works will be selected to highlight the diversity of American life including, but not limited to, race/ethnicity, gender, social class, sexual orientation, nationality/immigrant status, religion, and family structure. Students should increase their understanding of the multicultural nature of American society and the existence of cultural traditions and practices that exist independently of those of the dominant American “mainstream” or overculture.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
   a. Pre-requisite(s): ENGL 101 (Expository Writing) or ENGL 102 (Oral and Written Expression)
   b. Co-requisite(s): None.

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**
   By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

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<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Define common elements of literary study and demonstrate ability to identify and analyze those elements within works studied;</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking</td>
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<td>b. Describe the cultural, political, and social contexts that have inspired multicultural literature in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries;</td>
<td>2. Crit. Thinking</td>
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<td>c. Explain, compare and contrast cultural perspectives and themes portrayed by authors studied;</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking</td>
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<td>d. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of at least one of the humanities in addition to those encompassed by other knowledge areas required by the General Education program.</td>
<td>2. Crit. Thinking</td>
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K. **TEXTS:** (Representative texts; texts chosen by instructor)


L. **REFERENCES:** (Representative references; references chosen by instructor)


M. **EQUIPMENT:** Technology enhanced-classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Papers
- Participation

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. Theoretical Framework
   A. 20th and 21st Century American Literature Overview
   B. “Canonical” and “Non-canonical” as Constructs
   C. The Concept of Multiculturalism in American Literature
      a. Forms of diversity: racial/ethnic, immigration status, gender, sexuality, class, religion, family structure
   D. Intersectionality
   E. Perverse Presentism

II. Diversity in 20th and 21st Century American Literature
   A. Communities
      a. Early 20th Century Immigrant Literature
      b. African American Literature
      c. Native American Literature
      d. Japanese American Literature
      e. Caribbean American Literature
      f. Chicano Literature
      g. Queer Literature
   B. Contexts (Cultural, Political, Social)
   C. Cultural Perspectives and Themes

III. Genres of 20th and 21st Century Multicultural American Literature
   A. Novel
   B. Memoir (Creative Nonfiction)
   C. Short Story
   D. Poetry
   E. Drama

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:** None.