MASTER SYLLABUS

ENGL 215 – MULTICULTURALISM IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

CIP Code: 230101

Created by: Nadine N. Jennings, Ph.D.
Updated by: Melissa E. Lee, Ph.D.
A. **TITLE:** Multiculturalism in American Literature

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** ENGL 215

C. **CREDIT HOURS:**
3 Credit Hours
3 Lecture Hours: 3 per week

Course Length: 15 weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **GER CATEGORY:** GER 7 (Humanities)

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

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course, students examine the multicultural nature of present-day U.S. society as reflected in fiction and nonfiction texts published in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Texts are selected with the aim of highlighting the diversity of American life and raising students’ awareness of the existence of cultural traditions that exist alongside those of the dominant American “mainstream” or overculture. Topics include but are not limited to race/ethnicity, gender identity and expression, social class, sexuality, nationality/immigrant status, religion, and family structure.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

   a. Pre-requisite(s): None
   c. Pre- or co-requisite(s): None

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>PSLO</th>
<th>GER</th>
<th>ISLO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Define key terms of literary study</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>1 [W]</td>
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<td>b. Identify literary elements within texts studied</td>
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<td>1 [W]</td>
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<td>c. Describe political, cultural, and social contexts from which specific pieces of twentieth and twenty-first century American multicultural literature have emerged</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4 [IK]</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Analyze selections of literature and/or art from various genres of fiction and nonfiction</td>
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<td>2 [IA]</td>
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<td>e. Argue for specific interpretations of course materials</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2 [CA]</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. Distinguish and explain cultural perspectives and themes portrayed by authors of texts studied</td>
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<td>4 [IK]</td>
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### Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISLO #</th>
<th>ISLO &amp; Subsets</th>
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</table>
| 1      | Communication Skills  
Oral [O], Written [W] |
| 2      | Critical Thinking  
Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS] |
| 3      | Foundational Skills  
Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR] |
| 4      | Social Responsibility  
Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T] |
| 5      | Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills |

### J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:  
**Yes**  
- Research

### K. TEXTS:

**Sample texts:**


L. REFERENCES:

M. EQUIPMENT: Technology enhanced classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:
- Regular homework assignments (reading and writing)
- Quizzes
- Participation
- Midterm
- Final
- Paper(s)

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Theoretical Framework
   A. 20th and 21st century American literature overview
   B. “Canonical” and “non-canonical” as socially constructed categories
   C. The concept of multiculturalism in American literature
   D. Intersectionality

II. Diversity in 20th and 21st century American literature
   A. Identity categories
   B. Political, cultural, and social contexts
   C. Cultural perspectives and themes

III. Genres
   A. Short Story
   B. Poetry
   C. Novel
   D. Play
   E. Film
   F. Graphic Novel

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None