

STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION
ENGLISH 290

SECTION I

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER: English 290

COURSE TITLE: Topics in Ethnic American Literature

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the fiction and poetry of American writers of several distinct cultural traditions. Each semester will focus on a topic through which literature from two or three traditions may be examined. Topics offered recently include "Adaptation to Conquest: Native- and Hispanic-American Literature" and "Ocean Passages: African- and Asian-American Literature."

LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK: 3

CREDITS PER COURSE: 3

PREREQUISITE: English 102 or consent of instructor

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. to introduce contemporary literature by American writers who identify with two or more cultural traditions,
2. to explore images employed by bicultural writers and to examine the light they shed on themes of American ethnicity,
3. to recognize elements of the cultural contexts from which the writings have emerged,
3. to assist students in pursuing independent reading of writers influenced by these distinct traditions.

SECTION II

A. Scope

Students read background selections from the historical traditions of the ethnic groups being studied each term. Most subsequent study focuses on works written within the last twenty years, concentrating on recent trends in the traditions under study, and on their contributions to contemporary American literature.

B. Required Work

Readings are assigned from texts and supplementary materials. Students are expected to maintain notes and study questions on the readings, and to participate in small group discussion and in-class writing tasks. Students write at least one paper, give an oral presentation, and take a final examination.

C. Attendance/Participation

Attendance is required at all classes in accordance with College policy and all students are expected to participate in class discussions.

D. Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction will vary with the instructor, but may include: lecture/discussion, small group tasks, peer critiquing, and guest presentations, along with conference hours.

E. Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on a variety of measures including study questions, in-class and out-of-class papers, examinations, and class participation.

F. Required Texts

Since the main focus is contemporary literature from a variable mix of ethnic traditions, the texts will change from year to year.