

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage: Spring 2020
Discipline: English
Course Number and Title: E 142 Reading Without Borders (Section 1)
Division: Lower
Faculty Name: Candace Calsoyas, Ph.D
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Although the modern concept of “global” suggests a sort of unity (one planet in one universe), given the state of world affairs, there is widespread division and disunity among and between cultures and countries. This course will bridge and create understanding through examination of literature which crosses cultural borders. After all what are borders but artificial, humanly-imposed designations? As such, the readings in this course will both transcend and reflect cultural boundaries. Additionally, the material and focus will expand concepts of cultural distinctions and authors’ perspectives as reflected in their writings. By examining and discussing a sampling of literature from various cultures and countries we will visit on the SAS voyage, we will better understand the universality of literature. We will also gain perspective on individual and national identities. Overall, the texts will demand a reevaluation of history and will encourage us to measure our impressions compared to others. The reading will include authors from the various countries we visit, such as Indian writer Arundhati Roy, South African writer J.M. Coetzee, and Japanese writer Haruki Murakami

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Think critically about reading
- Observe and reflect on cultural similarities and difference
- Situate ourselves in other cultures and reflect on the universals of living on this planet
- Multi-perspective views of place
- Become more critical and discerning readers of literature through textual analysis, class discussion and individual and group presentations

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: J.M. Coetzee

TITLE: *Waiting for the Barbarians*
PUBLISHER: Penguin
ISBN: 978-0-14-311692-9
DATE/EDITION: 2010

AUTHOR: Davis, Wade
TITLE: *The Wayfinders*
ISBN: 978-0-88784-766-0
PUBLISHER: House of Anansi Press Inc.
DATE/EDITION: 2009

AUTHOR: Lalami, Laila
TITLE: *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*
ISBN: 1-565-12-493-6
PUBLISHER: Algonquin Chapel Hill, NC
DATE/EDITION: 2005

AUTHOR: Murakami, Haruki
TITLE: *After the Quake*
ISBN: 0-375-41390-1
PUBLISHER: Shinchosa Books
DATE/EDITION: 2000

AUTHOR: Nguyen, Viet
TITLE: *Nothing Ever Dies*
ISBN: 9 780674660342
PUBLISHER: Harvard University Press
DATE/EDITION: 2016

AUTHOR: Roy, Arundhati
TITLE: *The God of Small Things*
ISBN: 0-06-097749-3
PUBLISHER: IndiaInk India
DATE/EDITION: 1997

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 4

A1—January 6: Introduction

A2—January 8: Reading: Wade Davis, *The Wayfarer: Why Ancient wisdom Matters in the Modern World* pages 35-115

A3—January 10: Continue discussion

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA — January 12

Reflection & Study Day — January 13 (No Class)

A4—January 14: Port Reflection and workshops (One page in class)

International Date Line Crossing — January 16 (Lost Day)

A5—January 17: Selected stories from *After the Quake*

Study Day — January 19 (No Class)

A6—January 20: *After the Quake* Discussion of reading

A7—January 22: *After the Quake* Discussion of reading

Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

A8—January 29: Port Reflection and workshops (One page in class) Reading TBD

Shanghai, China — January 31 – February 5

A9—February 6: Port Reflection and workshops (One page in class)

Assignment #1: Write a two-page paper discussing and analyzing some cultural, political, and colonial interests in *Nothing Ever Dies*. Focus your discussion specifically on one of Nguyen's chapters.

A10—February 8: Discussion: *Nothing Ever Dies*

Ho Chi Minh City — February 10-15

A11—February 16: Continue discussion: *Nothing Ever Dies*
DUE TWO-PAGE PAPER ON *NOTHING EVER DIES*

Community Programming — February 17 (No Class)

Port Klang/Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia — February 19-24

A12—February 25: Port Reflection and workshops (One page in class)
Discussion: *The God of Small Things*

A13—February 27: Continue discussion: *The God of Small Things*

Cochin, India — February 29 – March 5 (Field Class: February 29)

A14—March 6: Port Reflection and workshops (One page in class)

Assignment #2: Write a two-page essay discussing cultural and colonial interests: conflicts, discords, intersections in *Waiting for the Barbarians*

Community Programming — March 7 (No Class)

A15—March 9: Discuss: *Culture and Imperialism*

Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11

DUE: FIELD CLASS ASSIGNMENT- Section 2-Two Pages

A16—March 12: Continue discussion: *Culture and Imperialism*

A17—March 14: Discussion: *Waiting for the Barbarians*

A18—March 16: Continue discussion: *Waiting for the Barbarians*

Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23

A19—March 24:

DUE: TWO-PAGE ESSAY ON WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS

Exchange in workshops

Study Day — March 26 (No Class)

A20—March 27: Movie: TBD

A21—March 29: DUE TURN IN ONE PAGE PORT REFLECTION ON South Africa

Tema, Ghana — March 30-31

Takoradi, Ghana — April 1-3

A22—April 5: Port Reflection and workshops

DUE TURN IN ONE PAGE PORT REFLECTION ON EITHER PORT

A23—April 7: Discussion: *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*

A24—April 9: Continue discussion: *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*

Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-14

Study Day — April 15 (No Class)

A25—April 16: In class final essay

Arrive Amsterdam, The Netherlands — April 20

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea® field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

The field class for this course is on **Tuesday, 11 February 2020** in **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Title: Crossing Borders: Invasion and War

Objectives:

1. To examine the American/Vietnam war in terms of the museum presentation
2. Establish and relate the ideas of *Nothing Ever Dies* to your experience
3. Consolidate critical thinking in a two-page report focusing on an idea in *Nothing Ever Dies* which relates to your experience at the war museum

Description: Travel to War Museum: War is the ultimate crossing of borders and in our reading *Nothing Ever Dies*, the author examines the role of memories in war which are created by, not only the military/industrial complex, but media including movies. We will compare and contrast notions of the American/Viet Nam war in terms of our understanding, and views found in the reading. We will then examine how the experience at the museum alters and reforms cultural and individual ideas of history. Turn in two-page paper March 11.

Port reflection one-page: Observe and note distinctive cultural aspects specific to the place. Think about architecture, geography, language, dress, religions, food. What makes the place unique? Engage with people, ask questions and take a few pictures. Jot down responses. Additionally, note cross-cultural similarities and commonalities (Starbucks ugh!) Write a one-page reflection after each port to share in workshops. Two will be turned in for a grade.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Assignments:

- **Two papers 30%** and in class final essay
- **Two One-page port reflections 10%**
Port reflection one-page: Observe and note distinctive cultural aspects specific to the place. Think about architecture, geography, language, dress, religions, food. What

makes the place unique? Engage with people, ask questions and take a few pictures. Jot down responses. Additionally, note cross-cultural similarities and commonalities (Starbucks ough!) Write a one-page reflection after each port to share in workshops. Two will be turned in for a grade.

- **Student led discussions:** 15 minutes introducing and leading discussion on reading (in pairs)10%
Student presentations: Sign up to introduce the reading. At the beginning of each class, students will introduce the reading for 15 minutes; suggestions are to talk about something interesting about the author and also choose a quote or section of the text and discuss why it is important to the overall themes of the course.
- Field Class Assignment: Trip and two-page paper 20%
- Attendance and discussion 20%
- Two pop quizzes 10 %

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea® coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea® in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea® classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea® provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from students' home institutions verifying the accommodations received on their home campuses (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage. More details can be found within the Course Registration Packet, as posted to the [Courses and Field Classes page](#) no later than one month prior to registration.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea® courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: Said, Edward
TITLE: *Culture and Imperialism*
ISBN: 679-75054
PUBLISHER: Knopf
DATE/EDITION: 1994

FILMS

The Scent of the Green Papaya directed by Tran Anh Hung 1993

Red Sorghum (Hong gao Liang) directed by Zhang Yimou 1988

Woman of the Dunes directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara

Human Flow directed by Ai Weiwei, 2017

ELECTONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Calsoyas, Candace
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: *A Song for Each Other*
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Catamaran
VOLUME: Volume 3 Issue 1
DATE: Spring 2015
PAGES:

ADDIITONAL RESOURCES

None