

# WSUA 102E, First-Year GenEd Seminar: World Cultures in Popular Media (3 cr. hrs.), Fall 2018

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| **Instructor:** | Jennifer Musaji |
| **Department:** | Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures |
| **Email:** | jennifer\_beachy@yahoo.com;  jennifer.musaji@wichita.edu |
| **Preferred Method of Contact:** | E-mail |
| **Office Hours:** | 10:45-11:30 MW, by appointment  , |
| **Classroom; Days/Time:** | 218 Ahlberg Hall; 9:30-10:45 MW |

**Overview**

This General Education seminar is an integral part of your overall course of study at WSU. You will explore a broad topic from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. In this course you will become part of the community of academic learners whose responsibility is to ask questions, explore and exchange ideas, and become effective critical thinkers. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to engage with your fellow and sister WSU students and faculty by participating in activities to further connect you to Wichita State. This syllabus provides information specific to this course and also about important university policies. It is not a contract but represents an outline subject to minor changes: this General Education seminar for incoming freshmen, taught by a variety of faculty members and guest speakers, offers unique perspectives on the theme of global cultures in popular media. In keeping with the General Education Mission, successful completion of this seminar concludes phase one of your journey to:

1. Acquire knowledge in the arts, humanities, and social sciences;
2. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and independently;
3. Write and speak effectively;
4. Develop fundamentals of library research and information literacy;
5. Develop an appreciation for diversity.

# Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for knowing and following the Student Code of Conduct <http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch8_05.htm>and the Student Academic Honesty policy [http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch2\_17.htm.](http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch2_17.htm)

# Course Description

Examines ways in which various cultures are depicted in popular media and how stereotypical depictions may contrast with reality in areas such as East Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe.

# Definition of a Credit Hour

Success in this 3-credit-hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week, 1 of which is class time) for instruction and preparation / studying or course-related activities for a total of 135 hours.

*Go to:* <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=academicaffairs&p=/definitionandassignmentofcredithours/>

# Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Learners demonstrate knowledge of how world language study relates to other areas of the curriculum, namely history, art and film history, media research and philosophy, through classroom discussions following each assignment.

Through term papers due no later than the last day of class, students demonstrate their understanding of the position and function of languages in culture; of specific ways in which foreign cultures may differ from our own; and knowledge of the actual geography, history, art and social customs of countries represented in popular media.

On the final examination, students demonstrate their ability to compare and contrast various depictions of world cultures and their understanding of cultural differences, together with exact knowledge re the geography, history, art and social customs of regions presented in the course.

# All assigned homework should be done before class in order to prepare for class activities.

# Required Texts, Suggested Additional Readings, and Other Materials:

**Luther, Cahtherine A., Ringer Lebre, Carolyn and Naeemah Clark. *Diversity in U.S. Mass Media, 2nd Edition*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.**

\*Note: Please be sure to purchase the *second* edition of the book and not the first. Media changes quickly, and the information in the two books is not the same. This is the first semester using this book, so there are no used copies in the bookstore.

**Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2014.**

# Class Protocol

Attendance and participation are necessary to keep up with the workload and to achieve satisfactory progress. In case of absence, **students are responsible for obtaining any missed assignments** from the instructor or a classmate. Mobile devices should be silent during class sessions.

# Grading Scale

This seminar uses a +/- grading scale to calculate and assign final grades consistent with the following chart. As other classes may assign grades differently, be sure to understand the grading scales in all of your classes.

| Points/percentages | Letter grade | Grade Points | Interpretation |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 93+ | A | 4.00 | *The A range denotes excellent performance.* |
| 90-92 | A- | 3.70 |  |
| 88-89 | B+ | 3.30 |  |
| 83-87 | B | 3.00 | *The B range denotes good performance.* |
| 80-82 | B- | 2.70 |  |
| 78-79 | C+ | 2.30 |  |
| 73-77 | C | 2.00 | *The C range denotes satisfactory performance.* |
| 70-72 | C- | 1.70 |  |
| 68-69 | D+ | 1.30 |  |
| 63-67 | D | 1.00 | *The D range denotes unsatisfactory performance.* |
| 60-62 | D- | 0.70 |  |
| 59 and below | F | 0.00 | *F denotes failing performance.* |

# Important Academic Dates

# *For fall semester 2018, classes begin August 20, and end December 6. The last date*

# *to drop a class and receive a “W” (withdrawn) instead of an “F” (failed) is October 30. There are no classes on December 7 for study day. The final exam period is from December 8 to December 13.*

# Disabilities

If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work, I encourage you to contact the Office of Disability Services (DS).

The office is located in Grace Wilkie Annex, room 150, (316) 978-3309 (voice/tty) (316-854-3032 videophone). DS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what academic accommodations are necessary and appropriate for you. All information and documentation of your disability is confidential and will not be released by DS without your written permission.

# Counseling & Testing

The WSU Counseling & Testing Center provides professional counseling services to students, faculty and staff; administers tests and offers test preparation workshops; and presents programs on topics promoting personal and professional growth. Services are low cost and confidential. They are located in room 320 of Grace Wilkie Hall, and their phone number is (316) 978-3440. The Counseling & Testing Center is open on all days that the University is officially open. If you have a mental health emergency during the times that the Counseling & Testing Center is not open, please call COMCARE Crisis Services at (316) 660-7500.

# Diversity and Inclusion

Wichita State University is committed to being an inclusive campus that reflects the evolving diversity of society. To further this goal, WSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, political affiliation, status as a veteran, genetic information or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Executive Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0138; telephone (316) 978-3186.

# Intellectual Property

Wichita State University students are subject to Board of Regents and University policies (see <http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch9_10.htm>) regarding intellectual property rights. Any questions regarding these rights and any disputes that arise under these policies will be resolved by the President of the University, or the President’s designee, and such decision will constitute the final decision.

# Shocker Alert System

Get the emergency information you need instantly and effortlessly! With the Shocker Alert System, we will contact you by email the moment there is an emergency or weather alert that affects the campus. Sign up at [www.wichita.edu/alert.](http://www.wichita.edu/alert)

# Student Health Services

WSU’s Student Health clinic is located in 209 Ahlberg Hall. Hours are 8:00am to 7:00pm (8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Fridays), though the clinic may be closed occasionally on Wednesdays from noon to 1:30pm. The telephone number is (316) 978-3620. In addition to outpatient and preventive care (including immunizations, a prescription service, and testing/counseling for sexually transmitted infections), Student Health can handle minor injuries. All services are confidential. For more information, see [www.wichita.edu/studenthealth.](http://www.wichita.edu/studenthealth)

# Tentative Schedule for 16-week class

| **Date** | **Information** |
| --- | --- |
| 8/20 | Go over syllabus  Class introduction |
| 8/22 | Discussion of sources  Media and Journalism  Go over final project and homework assignment |
| 8/27 | Chapters 1 & 2  Introduction to media and diversity |
| 8/29 | Chapter 3  Lecture over Native Americans  Media—*The* *Lone Ranger*  **First written assignment due** |
| 9/3 | **No class—Labor Day** |
| 9/5 | *Smoke Signals*  Online Discussion Question |
| 9/10 | Discussion topic 1—The Redskins |
| 9/12 | Go over written assignments  How to outline  MLA style |
| 9/17 | Chapter 4  Lecture over Africa  Media—*Blood Diamond* |
| 9/19 | Africa Speaker Q&A |
| 9/24 | Library Day |
| 9/26 | Chapter 5  Lecture over Mexico  Media—*And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself* |
| 10/1 | Mexico Speaker Q&A |
| 10/3 | Chapter 7  Lecture over China  Media—*The Karate Kid* |
| 10/8 | Lecture over Japan  Media—*Ghost in the Shell* |
| 10/10 | Discussion topic 2—Blackface/Yellowfaceand whitewashing Islam Speaker Q&A |
| 10/15 | **No class—Fall Break** |
| 10/17 | Asia Speaker Q&A  **Online Midterm Exam Due** |
| 10/22 | Chapter 6  Lecture over the Middle East  Media—*Reel Bad Arabs* (online documentary) |
| 10/24 | Middle East Speaker Q&A  **Paper Outline Due** |
| 10/29 | Islam Speaker Q&A |
| 10/31 | Discussion topic 3—Black Lives Matter  **Papers due** |
| 11/5 | Russia  Media—*Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit* |
| 11/7 | Chapter 9  Discussion topic 4—Women in media, the Bechdel test and Gamer Gate  **Groups for presentations due** |
| 11/12 | Discussion of *Just Mercy* |
| 11/14 | Poverty in the media discussion and activity |
| 11/19 | In-class preparation day for presentations  **Book Report and Outline Due** |
| 11/21 | **No class—Thanksgiving Break** |
| 11/26 | Presentations |
| 11/28 | Presentations |
| 12/3 | Presentations  **Final Projects Due** |
| 12/5 | The influence of the internet and social media |
| 12/10 | Final Exam Period—Return final projects |

Grading and Assignments

Grades will be assigned based on the following areas:

| **Category** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- |
| Participation and Homework | 15% |
| Classwork and Journals | 15% |
| Book Report | 20% |
| Projects and Papers | 25% |
| Midterm and Final Project | 25% |

**General Expectations:**

This course will require you to watch several movies outside of class. You are expected to keep up with these assignments and watch them by the date assigned on the syllabus. There are two copies (minimum) of each movie available in the library to watch. You may also choose to watch the movies on Amazon or Netflix or other platforms if you so choose. You also may wish to arrange with fellow classmates to watch the movies together. Do not wait until the last day to watch the movie as if the movies are checked out, you may be unable to get a copy.

There will also be several guest speakers coming to the class to speak. It is requested that you do not use any type of electronic devices when the speakers are present.

**Participation and Homework:**

Attendance for any class is very important, but this class in particular will focus on discussion and lectures, including those by guest speakers, that cannot be easily made up outside of class. As such, it is important to attend every day. If you are absent, **you will lose participation points for that day**. Active participation is also required. If you attend class but do not participate in discussions, you will lose points.

Homework—there will be weekly homework assignments posted on Blackboard. Some of these will be online homework assignments from the textbook over the chapters covered. Others will be online discussions over media. Homework must be finished prior to the due date. **Late homework will not be accepted.** If you have a problem with Blackboard, you must notify the professor prior to the assignment’s due date in order to make up the assignment.

**Classwork and Journals:**

Discussion days—There will be four discussion days throughout the course. Students will sign up on the first day for a topic for which they will be discussion leaders. Students will be responsible for doing research on the topic outside of class, leading the class discussion by teaching about the topic and providing discussion questions, and will turn in an annotated bibliography (MLA style) citing the sources they found while researching.

Volunteer Journal—As part of this class, we will be doing volunteer work with VolunteerICT. This will allow you to find a volunteering opportunity somewhere in our community that fits with your interests and skills. You will do one volunteer day and bring back the volunteering form as proof of your volunteer work.

Event Journals—you will be asked to attend two cultural events during this class (professor will provide a list of options). After each, you will write a 1-page journal entry that will be handed in within a week of the event.

Movie Quizzes—The day that each movie is due, we will have a brief, 5-question quiz at the beginning of class. This quiz will not take more than five minutes to take, and will be over very basic information about the movies that we will be discussing that day. **There are no make ups for these quizzes**. There will be one optional quiz at the end of the semester that you can choose to take to replace your lowest grade.

**Projects and Papers:**

Project—You will do a small group project that consists of choosing a movie or television show, and then looking at it from the perspective of a person living in a foreign country who has no knowledge of American culture. You will analyze the portrayal of America and American life, and show how it might influence an outsider’s perspective of our country. Presentations will be given in the last two weeks of class.

Papers—There will be two papers, one at the beginning and one near the end of the class. The first paper will serve as something of a pretest to show what areas we need to work on as a class. It will be due the second week of the course. The second paper will be written over a media of your choosing that shows a positive representation of another culture.

**Book Report:**

You will write a book report over the book *Just Mercy*. A detailed assignment and rubric will be handed out in class. Any online reading assignments over chapters will be included in this section of your grade.

**Midterm Exam and Final Project:**

Exams—The midterm exam will be an online exam available on Blackboard. As this is essentially a take-home test, the exam must be completed by the due date and **late exams will not be accepted**. If you have issues with Blackboard, you must alert the professor *prior* to the due date.

Final Project—This semester instead of a final exam, we will have a final project. It will consist of analysis of several news media articles throughout the semester. This project will need to be turned in prior to the final week of the semester and will be returned during the final class period. As this is the final assignment, **late projects will not be accepted**.