

AML 2410: “Constructing Haiti, Constructing America”**Instructor: Randi Gill-Sadler****Office Hours: Turlington 4411 T 5, W 5 and By Appointment****Email: Randi.gli@ufl.edu**

Course Description: Through critically engaging speeches, travel narratives, ethnographies and novels, this course will explore how American writers have constructed and assigned meaning to Haiti and to what ends. The course will ask students to consider how defining Haiti and “Haitianess” in American literature allows American writers to define America and “Americanness” in the context of literary works about the Haitian Revolution, the U.S. Occupation of Haiti from 1915—1934, Haitian tourism and Voodoo. The course will include texts by William Seabrook, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes and Edwidge Danticat.

Students will learn and develop close reading and literary analysis skills in response papers. Students will have class time to outline, draft and workshop writing assignments individually and in writing groups. All writing assignments will lead to an annotated bibliography and a longer final paper.

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-program.aspx>.

This course can also provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/writing-requirement.aspx>.

Required Texts:

Danticat, Edwidge, *The Dew Breaker*

ISBN-13: 978-1400034291

Publisher: Vintage; Reprint edition

Dunham, Katherine *Island Possessed*

ISBN-13: 978-0226171135

Publisher: University of Chicago Press

Hurston, Zora Neale *Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica*

ISBN-13: 978-0061695131

Publisher: Harper Perennial Modern Classics

Seabrook, William *The Magic Island*

ISBN-13: 978-0486799629

Publisher: Dover Publications

All other texts will be made available to you via Canvas. ***Please bring hardcopies of each text to class on the day the texts are assigned. ***

Course Expectations

Communication

The best way to get in contact with me is via email. Please allow at least 24 hours for me to respond to any inquiries. You can also meet with me during office hours and by appointment.

Classroom Behavior

In-class participation and discussion are **REQUIRED** in this class. Thoughtful participation in class discussion and completion of **ALL** writing assignments are the best ways to ensure success in this class. Any disrespectful or disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from class.

Attendance

Consistent attendance is required. You are allowed three unexcused absences in this class.

After that, each unexcused absence will result in a ten point deduction from your grade. If you have more than six unexcused absences, you will fail this course. Excused absences will not be counted against you, but only university sponsored events such as athletics, band, theater and religious holidays and medical issues with documentation qualify and as excused absences. All excused absences **REQUIRE** documentation. In the event of any absence, it is **YOUR** responsibility to find out any notes, assignments or syllabus changes you missed. Please contact one of your fellow students to find out what you missed in class. Additionally, being more than ten minutes late without proper notification will result in an unexcused absence.

Schedule

Unit 1: A Tale of Three Revolutions

1/5- Overview of Course Syllabus, Policies and Guidelines

1/7- Constructing Haiti; Constructing America Lecture

1/9- *Egalité for All: Toussaint Louverture and the Haitian Revolution* Documentary

1/12- Declaration of Independence 1776

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen 1789

1/14- Haitian Constitution of 1801

1/16- Dash, “Through the Eyes of the Other: Stereotypes of the Nineteenth Century”

Haiti and the United States: National Stereotypes and the Literary Imagination

Reading Response 1 Due

1/18- **MLK HOLIDAY NO CLASS**

Unit 2: Frederick Douglass and The Mole St. Nicolas

1/20- Douglass, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, Written By Himself*

Ch. 11, 12

1/22- Douglass, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, Written By Himself*

Ch. 13

1/25- Introduction to Close Reading Workshop

1/27- Nwankwo, “More Haitian Than an American: Frederick Douglass and the Black World

Beyond the United States” *Black Cosmopolitanism: Racial Consciousness and*

Transnational Identity in the Nineteenth-Century Americas

1/29- Douglass, “Lecture on Haiti”

2/1- Close Reading In-Class Workshop

2/3- Close Reading Peer Review

Unit 3: The U.S. Occupation

2/5- Renda, “Introduction” *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S.*

Imperialism, 1915-1940

Close Reading Assignment Due

2/7- Frank R. Crumble Papers Visit, UF Smathers Library

2/8- Seabrook, *The Magic Island*

2/10- Seabrook, *The Magic Island*

2/12- Seabrook, *The Magic Island*

2/15- Seabrook, *The Magic Island*

2/17- Johnson, "Self-Determining Haiti"

2/19- Hughes, "White Shadows in a Black Land"

"The People Without Shoes"

Unit 4: Voodoo in Haiti

2/22- *I Walked With A Zombie* 1943

2/24- *I Walked With A Zombie* 1943

2/26- Voodoo Archive Research Day, UF Smathers Library

Reading Response 2 Due

2/27-3/5: **SPRING BREAK NO CLASS**

3/7- Hurston, *Tell My Horse*

3/9- Hurston, *Tell My Horse*

3/11- Hurston, *Tell My Horse*

3/14- Hurston, *Tell My Horse*

3/16- Dunham, *Island Possessed*

3/18- Dunham, *Island Possessed*

3/21- Dunham, *Island Possessed*

Reading Response 3 Due

3/23- Dunham, *Island Possessed*

Unit 5: Duvalier, Diaspora and Haitian Americans

3/25- Introduction to Annotated Bibliography Assignment

3/28- Quoting, Summarizing and Paraphrasing Workshop

3/30- In-class Annotated Bibliography Workshop

4/1- Peer Review for Annotated Bibliography

4/4- Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*

4/6- Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*

Annotated Bibliography Due

4/8- Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*

Introduction to the Final Paper Assignment

4/11- Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*

4/13- Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*

4/15- Conferences for Final Paper

4/18- Conferences for Final Paper

4/20- Peer Review for Final Paper

FINAL PAPER DUE APRIL 22, 2015

Grading Scale

A 930-1000	C	730-769
A- 900-929	c-	700-729
B+ 870-899	D+	670-699
B 830-869	D	630-669
B- 800-829	D-	600-629
C+ 770-799	E	0-599

Course Assignments

Reading Response Papers	300 Points (100 points each)
Reading Quizzes	100 Points (10 Points each)
Close Reading Assignment	150 Points

Annotated Bibliography	200Points
Final Paper	250Points

Total Points Available: 1,000 Points

General Education Learning Outcomes

The University Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning, which means AML 2410 course grades have two components:

To receive writing credit, students must pass this course with a **“C” or better** to satisfy the CLAS requirement for Composition (C) and **papers must meet minimum word requirements totaling 6000 words for students** to receive the 6,000-word University Writing Requirement (E6).

Course Policies

Statement of Student Disability Services: The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. For more information, please see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Academic Honesty: All students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows: Plagiarism: A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of a work of another. Plagiarism includes: (but is not limited to)

- a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
- b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

Please see: University of Florida Student Honor Code:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>

All acts of plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment. Every case is different, but plagiarism on an assignment could result in failure of the entire course. **All work must be your own!** Work from another class is not acceptable. Have integrity; be responsible, organized, and

honest about your work. Do not claim ignorance. Be sure to talk to the instructor about any questions you may have with regard to plagiarism, academic honesty and proper citation methods.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

Statement on harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see:

http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/faculty_staff/fees_resources_policies/sexual_harassment/