

## LG 480 Senior Seminar: ALIENS AND OUTSIDERS

Tu, 3:30-6p.m.; HUMB 314

Fall 2015

*Instructor:* Dr. Eleanor ter Horst

*Office:* HUMB 324

*Office Hours:* MW 2:40-4:40, F 2:00-4:00

*Email:* eterhorst@southalabama.edu

*Office Phone:* 461-1527

*Instructor:* Dr. Christine Rinne Eaton

*Office:* HUMB 329

*Office Hours:* MWF 10:30am-12:30pm, Th 1-3pm

*Email:* crinne@southalabama.edu

*Office Phone:* 460-6746

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to broaden and enhance the study-abroad experience through the discussion of such topics as comparative cross-cultural behaviors and mind-sets, culture shock, stereotypes, and cultural metaphors. Along with discussions of literary texts and films, students will work on a research paper, and contact with the target culture will continue through conversation sections with native speakers. The course serves as the capstone to the major, covering approaches to the study of culture and research skills. Another aspect of LG 480 Senior Seminar is as an assessment of the students' degree of success during their tenure at USA. A comprehensive senior assessment exam will be administered as part of the course for the purpose of evaluating the major's achievements and gauging the success level therein. Finally, the course considers career opportunities for foreign language majors and prepares them for research in the humanities through a broad introduction to the topic.

This course is writing intensive and has been designated a "W" course by the University.

### **Course Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, students will have a good working knowledge of foreign-language print and internet sources, as well as more familiarity with research techniques and resources. They will be better prepared to interact more effectively with members of other cultures on both professional and personal levels, and will have practical knowledge of how to put their language skills and study-abroad experience to best use in the global marketplace.

### **Course Prerequisites:**

Completion of the study abroad requirement or the instructor's permission; EH102.

### **Required Texts:**

- Diaz, Junot. *Drown*. Riverhead Trade. ISBN: 978-1573226066.
- Erpenbeck, Jenny. *The Old Child and Other Stories*. Transl. Susan Bernofsky. New Directions. ISBN: 978-0-8112-1608-1.
- "The Guest" by Camus is available as a pdf file on Sakai.
- *28 Up – Born in the USSR*, part 1 and 2, are available on YouTube.

Students are responsible for having a print or an electronic copy of the texts in class during discussion, or notes from the film.

**Grading Scale:** 100-90: A; 89-80: B; 79-70: C; 69-60: D; 59-0: F

## EVALUATION:

- Class participation: 10%
- Conversation (12 meetings): 10%
- Written Assignments: (total of 18%)
  - Thank you letter to the USA Foundation: 2%
  - Study Abroad & Departmental Self-Assessments: 4%
  - Resume: 2%
  - 2 textual analyses: 10%
- Required meetings with departmental faculty members to discuss research topic: 6%
  - During weeks 2 to 3, 8/24-9/4, meet with instructor
  - During weeks 4 to 6, 9/7-9/25, meet with appropriate faculty member or librarian
  - During weeks 7 to 9, 9/28-10/16, meet with appropriate faculty member or librarian
- Research Paper: (total of 56%)
  - Prospectus: 8%
  - Bibliography with précis: 5%
  - Annotated outline: 5%
  - Oral presentation: 10%
  - Abstract in target language: 3%
  - Final Paper: 25%

## Attendance and Participation Policy:

Attendance and active participation are crucial to success in this course. Students will be graded on their participation in classroom activities. Students who are ill or otherwise unable to come to class should provide documentation as soon as possible to receive an excused absence and submit late work.

## Conversation with Native Partner:

Beginning the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>, small-group 45-minute conversation sessions in the target language with a native speaker will begin. They will take place at the end of class, beginning at 5:15p.m. Groups are free to use our classroom and the LRC. The native conversation partners will evaluate each student's participation and provide attendance records at the end of the term.

## Written Assignments:

- Thank you letter to the USA Foundation; due 8/25/15  
Write a hand-written note of thanks and appreciation to Ms. Maxey Roberts, USA Foundation Director and to the Board of Directors of the USA Foundation, as the departmental study abroad grant you received was from funds given to the department by the Foundation. Your letter will not be graded, but please show it to us, so that we know you have done it. The address is: P. O. Box 3148; Mobile, Alabama; 36652-3148
- Study Abroad Self-Assessment; due 9/8/15  
Write a typed essay evaluating your experience in your foreign study, roughly 1400 words. Consider the following questions: Did you meet the linguistic/cultural goals you had set for yourself? If so, how? If not, why not? What were the greatest obstacles you faced? What did this experience teach you about the culture you visited? About yourself?
- Self-Assessment of your experience in the FLL Department; due 9/8/15  
Write a typed essay examining your progress with foreign language learning, roughly 1400 words. These questions are a starting point: Why did you choose to study the language(s) you are studying? How difficult was it to learn as much as you have learned thus far? How has knowing a second or

third foreign language changed your world view? What do you expect to do with your foreign language acquisition? In what ways have you been disappointed with the experience of foreign language study? Are there any aspects of foreign language study whereby your own achievements exceeded your expectations?

- Resume; due 9/29/15  
After Career Services talks to our class, students will write a resume, which will include studying abroad experiences and language skills.
- Textual Analyses; due 10/6/15 and 11/3/15  
Students will write two papers comparing the texts we discuss, each around 800 words. Possible topics will be provided via Sakai. If students would like to write about another topic, it must be approved before the due date.

### Research Paper:

- Prospectus; due 9/29/15  
A prospectus outlines your project, providing some background, discussing the relevance of the research, and proposes key questions you will consider. It should contain the following components:
  - Working Title – Propose an interesting, succinct title
  - Statement of your research question or issue – What are you going to investigate? What questions do you hope to address?
  - Topic Background - A presentation of the context and rationale for the project focus. This section should be supported by appropriate citations from the primary literature and situate your research within it. How are you going to contribute?
  - Methods or Approach - How will you investigate and test the hypothesis or achieve the objectives? Which texts (in a broad sense – this can include film, advertisements, political posters, graphic novels, etc.) will you use? How?
- Bibliography; due 10/20/15  
Students will submit a bibliography with at least eight potential sources, four in the target language. Three sources will have a paragraph summary (précis) of their relevance. Students who do not pass the assignment will be required to meet with Ms. Shepard and the instructor, and have the opportunity to resubmit the assignment for a revised grade.
- Paper Outline; due 10/27/15  
Students will submit an outline of the entire paper in a format that makes sense (could be bullet points or full paragraphs); it should be at least four pages long.
- Oral Presentation with Visual Component (11/10, 17, and 19)  
Using PowerPoint, Prezi, or other visual media, students will give a 10-minute presentation about their research project, including (possible) conclusions, though you need not have finished the final paper by this date; there will be five minutes for questions and discussion. Presentations will take place on November 10, 17, and 19 (please note this is a **Thursday**) in the Library Auditorium. Students are required to attend all three days, unless you have spoken to the instructor ahead of time. Consider inviting family members and friends to your own presentation, as well as favorite professors.
- Abstract; due 12/7/15  
Students will write an abstract of their paper in the target language, which will be submitted with the final paper and assessed by departmental faculty members.
- Final paper; due 12/7/15  
The final paper should be about 5000 words (not including notes or works cited), in either English or the target language, citing sources using MLA, Chicago, or APA style. At least four of the ten cited

sources must be in the target language, and both print and electronic sources should be included. We are glad to meet with students who would like to discuss rough drafts; please make an appointment with us to do so. The paper must be submitted via Sakai by Monday, December 7, at 9 a.m.

### **Recognition of the Best Paper and Best Presentations:**

The faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will select the top Senior Seminar paper and will present the award to the student at the Annual FLL Awards Ceremony in April. The departmental faculty will also select the best presentations. The results will be announced on the last day of class and the students' names and presentation topics will be posted on the FLL website.

### **Un-graded Evaluation:**

During our last class on December 1, students will complete the Senior Assessment Exam. It is unique for each language and is used for the purposes of evaluating departmental majors.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Late work**

If a student has an excused absence, late work will be accepted without penalty. If the absence is not excused, all assignments except the final research paper will receive a 20% penalty (i.e., docked two letter grades). For the research paper, the final grade will be reduced one letter grade for each 24-hour period it is late.

### **Sakai**

Course material is available through Sakai, USA's course manager. Students log in at <<https://ecampus.southalabama.edu/xsl-portal>>, and are responsible for checking it regularly for announcements and submitting assignments.

### **Academic Disruption Policy**

Students are expected to be cordial, courteous, and respectful of faculty members and fellow students. See *The Lowdown* for the University of South Alabama's policy.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from the Office of Student Disability Services (460-7212; 320 Alumni Circle, Educational Services Building, Suite 19).

### **Academic Honesty**

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures Academic Honesty Policy and the University's will be strictly enforced in this class.

**The research paper must be original research, and cannot be material used in another course. If you have completed a thesis in another department or through the Honors program, and would like to continue with that topic in this course, please speak to the instructor immediately about how to do so.**

### **Turnitin.com**

The University of South Alabama is committed to the fundamental value of academic honesty. The student handbook, *The Lowdown*, defines plagiarism as one form of academic misconduct which is "subject to investigation and disciplinary action through appropriate university procedures."

As one resource for helping you avoid plagiarism, your written work in this class may be submitted to Turnitin.com for an evaluation of the originality of your ideas and proper use and attribution of sources. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in a restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism in such documents. As part of this process, all assignments will be submitted electronically through the Assignments tool in Sakai. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may be subject to some form of originality review. A paper not submitted according to procedures and format set by the teacher may be penalized or may not be accepted at all. Any paper plagiarized in whole or part will be penalized to the fullest extent allowable under University policy.

**Waiver**

Changes in the syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances may occur. Students will be notified of any modifications in advance via Sakai.

**CALENDAR**

Students are required to check Sakai regularly for homework assignments, as they may change from what is listed below, which merely serves as a guide.

8/18	Course introduction; fill out library form; how to pick a topic <i>HW:</i> send study abroad pictures; write thank you letter (due 8/25); brainstorm about possible research topics
8/25	FLL welcome back reception in the Student Center, with short study abroad presentations from 480 students <i>HW:</i> write self-assessments; refine research topic
9/1	Reverse culture shock; refining your research topic <i>HW:</i> write self-assessments (due 9/8); refine research topic
9/8	Meet in the library for research instruction with Ms. Shepard <i>HW:</i> watch <i>28 Up</i> , parts 1 and 2
9/15	Dr. Gossett, <i>28 Up – Born in the USSR</i> <i>HW:</i> work on prospectus (due 9/29)
9/22	Career Services presentation by Ms. Hendley at 3:30p.m. Writing thesis statements/outlining strategies/evaluating sources <i>HW:</i> write resume and prospectus (due 9/29); read “The Guest”
9/29	Dr. Marin, “The Guest” <i>HW:</i> write textual analysis 1 (due 10/6); read <i>Drown</i> selections
10/6	Dr. Brown, <i>Drown</i> <i>HW:</i> read Erpenbeck selections

10/13	Erpenbeck selections In-class thesis revision <i>HW: write annotated bibliography (due 10/20)</i>
10/20	Writing strategies/integrating secondary sources/citing primary sources <i>HW: annotated outline (due 10/27)</i>
10/27	How to write an abstract <i>HW: annotated outline; write textual analysis 2 (due 11/3)</i>
11/3	presentation strategies; how to organize an essay <i>HW: prepare presentation</i>
11/10, 11/17, <b>11/19 (Th)</b>	presentations in the library auditorium <i>HW: finish paper, including abstract</i>
11/24	individual meetings to discuss drafts no conversation this week due to Thanksgiving <i>HW: finish paper, including abstract</i>
12/1	senior assessment exam in class; last conversation meeting

**Papers are due by 9a.m. on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, via Sakai.**