

**LG 480: SENIOR SEMINAR – CAPSTONE COURSE**  
**Fall 2012**

*Instructor:* Dr. Isabel Z. Brown

*Email:* [ibrown@southalabama.edu](mailto:ibrown@southalabama.edu)

*Office:* HUMB 322

*Office Phone:* 461-145

*Office Hours:* MW F 11:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. , TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & by appointment

**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, cultural stereotypes, and cultural metaphors. Along with short lectures and discussion periods, classes will consist of student presentations and continued contact with the target culture 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 gauge 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.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, students will have a good working knowledge of foreign-language print and internet sources and library research techniques. 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 departmental study abroad requirement; EH102.

**Required Texts:**

- Diaz, Junot. *Drown*. Riverhead Trade. ISBN: 978-1573226066.
- Hensel, Jana. *After the Wall*. Public Affairs. ISBN: 978-1586485597.
- Other texts, such as “The Guest” by Camus, will be available as pdf files on Sakai and students are responsible for having a copy in class.

**Grading Scale:**

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

**Evaluation and Grading:**

- Class participation 10%
- Participation in NCP Conversation: 10%

- NCP Oral Evaluation: 5%
- Written Assignments: 25%
  - Thank you letter to the USA Foundation; due 8/23/12 (2% of final grade)
  - Study Abroad Self-Assessment; due 9/13/12 (5%)
  - Self-Assessment of your experience in the FLL Department; due 9/6/12 (5%)
  - Resume (3%)
  - Handouts (10%)
- Research Paper: 25%
  - Topic and thesis draft; due 9/18/12: 2%
  - Bibliography; due 10/11/12: 3%
  - Annotated outline; due 11/8/12: 5%
  - Public presentations (11/13, 14, 15, 19): 15%

**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, including discussions and presentations. Students are expected to listen actively to the presentations of others and to ask questions after the presentations. Students who are ill or otherwise unable to come to class should provide documentation as soon as possible to receive an excused absence.

- 5 points: present, prepared, actively participated
- 4 points: present, up to 5 minutes late or not fully prepared or does not actively participate
- 3 points: present, more than 5 minutes late or unprepared or does not participate
- 0 points: unexcused absence

If you are ill or otherwise unable to attend class, provide me with appropriate paperwork as soon as possible, and I will excuse the absence and accept any late work.

**Conversation with Native Partner:**

Beginning the week of September 3rd, small-group one-hour conversation sessions in the target language with a native speaker will begin and continue for 12 weeks. The native conversation partner (NCP) leading the discussion will evaluate each student at the end of the term.

**Written Assignments:**

- Thank you letter to the USA Foundation  
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. I will not read the letter, but you should show it to me, so that I know you have done it. The address is:  
P. O. Box 3148  
Mobile, Alabama  
36652-3148  
I will provide you with stamps
- Study Abroad Self-Assessment  
Write a typed essay evaluating your experience in your foreign study, roughly 1700 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 and about yourself?

- **Self-Assessment of your experience in the FLL Department**  
Write a typed essay examining your progress with foreign language learning, roughly 1700 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**  
After Ms. Nicole Schultz from Career Services talks to our class, you will write your resume, including items like studying abroad as one of your achievements.
- **Homework Handouts**  
Handouts with questions about the readings will be available on Sakai and are due at the beginning of class.

### **Research Paper:**

- **Paper Topic and Thesis Draft**  
Submit your topic for approval, with a proposed title and a short paragraph suggesting what approach you plan to take (literary, historical, comparative, etc.), and a few potential theses/hypotheses.
- **Initial Bibliography**  
Using MLA format, each student will submit a bibliography with at least five sources, two of which are annotated. The final paper should have at least eight sources cited.
- **Paper Outline**  
Students will submit an outline in a format of his/her choice; it should be about 2 pages long.
- **Presentation**  
Using PowerPoint, with other media if desired, students will give a 10-minute presentation on the research from their final papers. All students are expected to be present and to ask questions at the end of all presentations. You need not have finished the final research paper by the date of your presentation. Consider inviting family members to your own presentation as well as favorite professors. The Dean and Associate Deans of the College will be invited to your presentations as well as members of the Board of the USA Foundation. Students are expected to also attend each other's presentations unless there is a conflict with another course.
- **Final paper**  
The final paper should be 18-20 pages, in either English or the target language, citing sources using MLA style (or another appropriate style if more applicable to the approach). At least four of the eight cited sources must be in the target language, and both print and electronic sources should be included. I am glad to meet with students who would like to discuss rough drafts; please make an appointment with me to do so. It is due in my box by **Monday, 10 December, at 5p.m.**

**Late work** will not be accepted unless you have an excused absence.

### **Un-graded Assignment:**

During class on December 6, 2012 (Th), students will complete the Senior Assessment Exam. It is unique for each language and is used for the purposes of departmental assessment.

**RECOGNIZING THE BEST PAPERS and PRESENTATIONS** – The faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will select the top Senior Seminar Paper and will present the award at the Annual Awards Ceremony in April. If you happen to be the winner and will have graduated in December, you will be notified so as to be able to include it in your resume. The faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will also select the top five presentations. The results will be announced on the last day of class. The five presentations will be posted on the FLL website.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**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 assignments and announcements.

**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 Special Student Services (460-7212).

**Academic Honesty**

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures’ Academic Honesty Policy will be strictly enforced in this class.

**Waiver**

Not all classes progress at the same rate thus course requirements might have to be modified as circumstances dictate. Changes in the syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances may occur. Students will be notified of any modifications in advance.

**Course Calendar:**

21 August Course Introduction HW: write thank you letter to USA Foundation	23 August Brainstorm about research topics HW: make list of possible research topics
28 August Discussion of research topics HW: prepare 5-minute study abroad pres.	30 August Oral presentations on study abroad HW: write study abroad self-assessment
4 September	6 September

Oral presentations on study abroad HW: write FLL self-assessment	Oral presentations on study abroad HW: start statement of research topic/theses
<i>11 September</i> Research meeting in the USA library HW: write statement of research topic/theses	<i>13 September</i> Discussion of research/writing strategies HW: research for paper; draft bibliography
<i>18 September</i> Career services (Beverly Hendley) HW: write resume	<i>20 September</i> 2 groups meet with librarians by approach HW: research for paper; draft bibliography
<i>25 September</i> 2 groups meet with librarians by approach HW: bibliography (due 10/6)	<i>27 September</i> Research – Work on Bibliography HW: read “Ysrael,” “Fiesta” & “Aguantando”
<i>2 October</i> Discussion of <u>Drown</u>	<i>4 October</i> Discussion of <u>Drown</u> HW: read “Edison,” “How to Date” & “No Face”
<i>9 October</i> <b>FALL BREAK</b>	<i>11 October</i> Discussion of <u>Drown</u> HW: read p. v-62 in <u>After the Wall</u>
<i>16 October</i> Discussion of <u>After the Wall</u> HW: read p. 63-120	<i>18 October</i> Discussion of <u>After the Wall</u> HW: read p. 121-180
<i>23 October</i> Discussion of <u>After the Wall</u> (Dr. Rinne) HW: read “The Guest”	<i>25 October</i> Discussion of “The Guest” (Dr. Marin) HW: read Russian reading
<i>30 October</i> Russian reading HW: read Russian reading	<i>1 November</i> Russian reading (Dr. Mozur) HW: write paper outline
<i>6 November</i> Prepare presentations	<i>8 November</i> Discuss presentations and approaches
<i>13 November, 5-7p.m., Library Auditorium: research forum</i>	
<i>14 November, 5-7p.m., Library Auditorium: research forum</i>	
<i>15 November, 5-7p.m., Library Auditorium: research forum</i>	
<i>19 November, 5-7p.m., Library Auditorium: research forum</i>	
<i>20 November</i> Draft research paper	<i>22 November</i> <b>No class, Thanksgiving</b>
<i>27 November</i> Individual meetings to discuss drafts	<i>29 November</i> Individual meetings to discuss drafts
<i>4 December</i> Individual meetings to discuss drafts	<i>6 December</i> Senior Assessment Exam
<b>10 December (Monday), by 5p.m.</b>	
<b>FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE IN MY MAILBOX (HUMB 322)</b>	

