

LG 480 Senior Seminar: ALIENS AND OUTSIDERS

Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Christine Rinne Eaton

Office: HUMB 329

Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:30p.m., Th 9-11a.m., & by appointment

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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, 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 departmental study abroad requirement or the departmental Chair's permission; 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 USAonline 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%
- Conversation (12 meetings): 10%
- Presentation on study abroad in class and in CAS 100/FLL courses: 10%
- Written Assignments (20%):
 - Thank you letter to the USA Foundation: 2%
 - Study Abroad & Departmental Self-Assessment: 5%
 - Resume: 3%
 - 2 textual analyses: 10%
- Research Paper (50%):
 - Topic and thesis draft: 3%
 - Prospectus? Include questions will consider (from honors)
 - Background or Introduction - A presentation of the context and rationale for the project focus. This section should be supported by appropriate citations from the primary literature in a style and format customary to the discipline.
 - Project Hypothesis (-es) or Objectives - clearly present the focus of the project.
 - Methods or Approach - How will you investigate and test the hypothesis or achieve the objectives? Should include citations from the literature, as appropriate.
 - Project Outcome - What are anticipated results or the scholarly product of the project? What will be the format of the public presentation?
 - Annotated Bibliography: 3%
 - Add precis for 3 articles plus plain bibliography with eight potential sources
 - Abstract in target language: 4%
 - Annotated outline: 5%
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 - Oral presentation: 10%
 - 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, including discussions and presentations. 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 26th, 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 attendance at the end of the term.

Presentations on Study Abroad:

Students will present in class on their experiences abroad: where, when, what they learned (about themselves, linguistically, socially), what challenges they faced and what solutions they found, etc. There should be a visual component and the presentation should be five to ten minutes long.

Students will give a slightly altered version of this presentation to two foreign language classes or CAS 100 (First Year Experience) sections, either alone or with someone else from the course. This presentation will discuss: why students should study abroad, how to find a program, what academic challenges one might face, how to interact socially in a new culture and use one's expanding language skills, etc. A sample PowerPoint presentation will be provided for students to adapt, and we will practice in class.

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
- 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? 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 exceed your expectations?
- Resume
After Career Services talks to our class, students will write a resume, including studying abroad and language skills.
- Textual Analyses
Students will write two papers comparing the texts we discuss, each around 700 words. Possible topics will be provided via USAonline. If students would like to write about another topic, it must be approved before the due date.

Research Paper:

- **Paper Topic and Thesis Draft**
Submit a brief description of your topic, with a proposed title and a few potential theses or hypotheses.
- **Initial Bibliography**
Using MLA or Chicago style, students will submit a bibliography with at least five sources, three 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 2-3 pages long.
- **Abstract**
Students will write an abstract of their paper in the target language, which will be assessed by departmental faculty members.
- **Oral Presentation with Visual Component**
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. All students are expected to be present and to ask questions each evening, unless you have discussed the conflict with me. 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.
- **Final paper**
The final paper should be about 6000 words (not including notes or works cited), in either English or the target language, citing sources using MLA or Chicago style. 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. The paper must be submitted via USAonline by Monday, December 8th, at 9a.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 2, 2014, 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 will not be accepted unless you have an excused absence.

USAonline

Course material is available through USAonline, 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 and the University’s will be strictly enforced in this class.

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.” Plagiarism is using somebody else’s words or ideas in your writing without correctly identifying the sources.

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 USAonline.

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 USAonline.

CALENDAR:

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

8/19	Course introduction; reverse culture shock; how to pick a topic; talk about study abroad presentations
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	HW: prepare presentation on study abroad; write thank you letter; brainstorm about possible research topics
8/26	Students present on study abroad experience HW: write self-assessments; find research topic
9/2	Students present on study abroad experience HW: find research topic
9/9	Meet in the library for research instruction with Ms. Wilson Work on study abroad presentations for FLL/CAS courses HW: watch <i>28-Up</i>

9/16	Dr. Gossett will present on <i>28-Up</i> Writing thesis statements/outlining strategies/evaluating sources HW: read <i>Drown</i> ; write self-assessments
9/23	Career Services presentation by Ms. Hendley at 3:30p.m. Dr. Brown will present on <i>Drown</i> at 4:15p.m. HW: write resume
9/30	Meet in the library for more detailed research instruction HW: write topic and thesis draft and textual analysis 1
10/7	FALL BREAK, NO CLASS OR CONVERSATION THIS WEEK
10/14	<i>After the Wall</i> In-class thesis revision HW: write annotated bibliography
10/21	Writing strategies Dr. Marin will present on "The Host" by Camus at 4:15p.m. HW: annotated outline, textual analysis 2
10/28	How to write an abstract HW: annotated outline
11/4	presentation strategies; how to organize an essay HW: prepare presentation and paper, including abstract
11/11	individual meetings to discuss drafts and presentations HW: prepare presentation

11/17-20, 5-7 P.M.	ORAL PRESENTATIONS IN THE LIBRARY AUDITORIUM no conversation this week HW: finish paper, including abstract
11/25	individual meetings to discuss drafts no conversation this week due to Thanksgiving
12/2	senior assessment exam in class last conversation meeting

Papers are due by 9a.m. on Monday, December 8th, via USAonline.