**English 4400: Minority American Literature**

**Fall 2018**

TR 11:00-12:15 Section A 112 Academic Building

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| **Dr. LaRonda Sanders-Senu** |
| Office: 103G Academic Building |
| Office Hours: MW 9:50-10:50, 12:15-1:30; TR 9:15-11:00 |
| Phone: 678-359-5444 |
| Email: lsanders-senu@gdn.edu |

**Course Objectives:**

This course will provide a survey of Contemporary Minority American Literature. It will focus primarily on literature from the Native American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Black Immigrant traditions. From our examination of poetry, drama, short stories, and novels, you will gain a better understanding of the heterogeneity of these minority communities. You will leave this course with a better understanding of how race, culture, and gender shape immigrant experiences with America and the American Dream. Though there are many important authors and texts that we are unable to include in this course, this course will provide you with a focused knowledge of a handful of authors and texts, upon which you can further build your foundation of American literary knowledge.

**In this class you can expect to:**

- read a great deal of material

-read thoroughly and write critically about texts

- engage complex and shifting ideas about American identity, the role of art, femininity, masculinity, and authenticity

-participate in lively and thoughtful class discussions

**In this class I will expect you to:**

-come to class prepared to discuss the texts, with readings in hand

-ask questions

-have an open mind

-be respectful to me and your classmates

-contribute to class discussions

-approach assignments and text as academics

**Required Texts:**

*Breath, Eyes, Memory*  by Edwidge Dantiat (Vintage 1994)

*Drowning in Fire by* Craig S. Womack(University of Arizona Press, 2001)

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros (Vintage, 1984)

*The Woman Warrior: Memories of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*  by Maxine Hong Kingston (Vintage, 1989)

*The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz(River Head, 2008)

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Moshin Hamid* (Mariner, 2008)

Other readings for the class are on our course website **http://www.gordonstate.edu/Faculty/lsanders-senu/** . You are required to print the documents out and bring them to class, unless otherwise noted. If you come to class without your readings, you will be counted absent for that day.

**Assignments**

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| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Short Response Papers and Film Questions | 20% |
| Final Paper | 20% |
| Participation/Attendance (including quizzes, homework, and Class work) | 15% |

# Grading

# General Scale

A = 100—90 B =89.9— 80 C = 79.9—70 D= 69.9—60 F = 59 and below\*

Paper Scale

A = 95 A- = 92 B+ = 88 B = 85 B- = 82 C+ = 78 C = 75 C- = 72 D+ = 68 D= 65 D-= 62

F = 58 and so on.

Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I will only discuss grade information with students in person. This also means that I will not discuss specific absence information over email. Moreover, I will not communicate with anyone aside from the student about his or her grade. Grades are calculated on a percentage basis. Therefore, it would be inaccurate for me to speculate about a student’s overall grade until the end of the semester.

Papers

**Response Papers**- You will write three short response papers. These papers do not require any research. These short papers will be between 2-3 pages in length. Each paper should be a critical analysis that advances your **own** brief argument about some aspect of the text. This means that you should have an introduction, body sections, and a conclusion. You should be advancing a specific argument. You need evidence (brief quotations) from the text to support your argument. There is no need to summarize a text. You do not have the space for summary in such a short paper. Focus on analysis. One of these papers **must** focus on a piece of poetry. One analysis must focus on a text that we discuss **before October 4, 2018** and be submitted on or before that date. At least one analysis must focus on a text that we discuss **after October 4, 2018** and must be submitted on or before **November 20, 2018**. All papers are due before we discuss your chosen text in class. You will watch a film version of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. You will be responsible for answering a set of questions about the film.

**Final Paper**- This paper will be a longer critical analysis on a text or pair of texts from the semester. This 8-10 page paper will require you to advance your own argument about a text or paired texts. You will incorporate at least four scholarly sources into this paper. Make sure that you follow all directions. You will also have to submit a proposal on **October 30, 2018**. This paper will be due on **November 20, 2018.** More details will follow.

All papers should be in proper MLA format and include a works cited page. The works cited page does not count toward the minimum length. These papers should have one-inch margins and be in Times New Roman Font. I do not accept papers via email. Six-points will be deducted for each day that a paper is late. If a paper is not submitted at the start of class, it is considered one calendar day late.

Exams

You will have two exams in this course. The final exam will be cumulative. These exams will contain a variety of questions, and may include passage identification, matching, short answer, and essay questions. You should know the historical context, authors, and titles of the works. Taking notes, even in what seems like informal discussions, will be very helpful in your preparation for these exams. You are responsible for all material that is disseminated through verbal communications, my website, blackboard, written assignments, and handouts.

Participation

In order to earn an average participation grade (in the C range), you must fulfill four basic requirements:

1. Arrive on time
2. Be ready to discuss readings when called on
3. Be prepared with the book or readings in class
4. Complete class work and have homework completed
5. Listen respectfully

To earn a B, you must consistently fulfill requirements 1-5, and:

1. Volunteer questions or points of interest from readings to generate discussion
2. Willingly offer ideas in class; make sure your contributions are topical and thoughtful

To earn an A, you must consistently fulfill the above criteria and:

1. Show leadership in class discussions (break uncomfortable silences; respond to open-ended questions; challenge received opinions; ask difficult questions)
2. Respond to other students’ ideas (not just mine) by asking questions or building on their points

You will receive a failing participation grade if you are excessively and/or frequently: (1) tardy; (2) unprepared for class; (3) disruptive during class; or (4) occupied with activities other than those related to English. Please remember to turn off all cell phones and to be respectful of other students and the instructor during discussions or lectures. Participation is important to the success of this course. Your participation grade will be a composite of my perception of your contribution to the class.

**Attendance**

Students may have up to three absences without penalty. All absences are considered the same, whether the absence is due to a legitimate illness, a family emergency, or a desire to have an early weekend. No excuse is necessary for absences one through three. Each subsequent absence (after three) will result in a ten-point deduction from the student’s attendance grade. After six absences, students will earn a zero for their participation grade. NO EXCEPTIONS. Use your absences wisely. You are responsible for all material missed. If you are absent, you are welcome to visit me during my next scheduled office hours. I am happy to discuss material, but I will not re-teach all of the material that was covered during your absence. Please remember that poor attendance will adversely impact your participation grade and negatively impact your ability to successfully complete major assignments.

Please Do NOT come late to class. I understand that sometimes late arrival is unavoidable; however, chronic tardiness will adversely impact your grade. After the add/drop deadline, students will be required to sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of class. You may not sign the attendance sheet for anyone other than yourself. If you sign the attendance sheet for one of your peers, your violation of academic integrity will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs and you will receive two absences. If you come in late, you must see me after class, and you will be marked tardy. If a student fails to see me immediately after class, he or she will not be afforded that opportunity later. Three tardies will result in one absence. If you are out of class for fifteen minutes or more (including tardies), you will be considered absent that day.

**Religious Holidays**

Gordon State College acknowledges that the academic calendar can sometimes conflict with major holidays from among our diverse religious traditions. If a student must miss class due to the observance of a religious holiday, that absence may be excused. To be excused, the student must inform his/her instructors before the absence and make alternate arrangements for any work due at the time of the absence. An excused absence for the observance of a religious holiday does not excuse a student from responsibility for required course work.

**Academic Integrity**

The 2018-2019 Gordon College Academic Catalog states that

Plagiarism is prohibited. It is assumed that the written work submitted for evaluation and credit is the student's own unless appropriately acknowledged. Such acknowledgment should occur whenever one directly quotes another person's actual words, appropriates another's ideas, opinions, or theories even when they are paraphrased, and whenever one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative materials unless the information is common knowledge. (364)

Be mindful of this in your academic work. Academic integrity is a serious matter.

Types of Plagiarism:

**Lack of Citation**- Quotations that do not have proper citation or quotations that do not have accurate citation information.

**Inadequate Paraphrase**- A paraphrase that shares the same sentence structure and word choice with the original text (Quotation), a paraphrase that changes the meaning of the original text, or a paraphrase that is not properly cited.

**Patchwork Plagiarism**- A text that is comprised, either entirely or in part, of improperly cited material from multiple sources.

**Wholesale Plagiarism**- A text that is submitted by a student that is comprised of work that was written by someone other than the student. This includes papers or sections of papers that are taken from the internet, purchased, retrieved from reference books ,or written by an acquaintance, friend, or family member.

**Self-Plagiarism-**A text, either in its entirety or in part, that was written by the student and submitted for another course (or the same course).

**Collusion**- A text with which a student receives so much help from others that the assignment can no longer be considered a valid representation of the student’s work. This includes excessive help from friends, family members, tutors, or other classmates. All work should be an indication of the student’s ability. I reserve the right to refuse to accept an assignment that reflects collusion between a student and any other person.

At my discretion, the penalty for plagiarism of any type may range from a lower grade, to a zero on the assignment, to a failure of the course. I will inform the Vice President of Student Affairs of cases of plagiarism. Egregious instances of plagiarism or repeated instances of plagiarism will result in referral to the Academic Judicial Committee. Please review the Student Code of Conduct.

**ADA and 504**

If you have a documented disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and/or physical accessibility.  The Counseling and Accessibility Services office located in the Student Center, Room 212 can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GSC programs and facilities.  Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements.  For documentation requirements and for additional information, contact Counseling and Accessibility Services at 678-359-5585.

**Title IX**

Gordon State College is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.  If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. All faculty members at Gordon State College are mandated reporters.  Any student reporting any type of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking must be made aware that any report made to a faculty member under the provisions of Title IX will be reported to the Title IX Coordinator or a Title IX Deputy Coordinator.  If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, you must contact the Counseling and Accessibility Services office, Room 212, Student Life Center.  The licensed counselors in the Counseling Office are able to provide confidential support.

Gordon State College does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy, parenting or related conditions.  Students seeking accommodations on the basis of pregnancy, parenting or related conditions should contact Counseling and Accessibility Services regarding the process of documenting pregnancy related issues and being approved for accommodations, including pregnancy related absences as defined under Title IX.

**Friendly Notes**

Please ask if there is ever anything that you do not understand. Please come during my office hours or make an appointment with me. I am here to help, and I want to help! I would also encourage you to utilize the Students Success Center, which is located in room 235 of the Student Center. The tutoring staff there can help you in most of your courses. ( <http://www.gdn.edu/successcenter/> )

Students are responsible for all written and verbal material that I introduce in class, post on the website, send through email, and place on Desire2Learn.

Frequently, lectures will carry over into the next class period. This does not mean that we are behind; it means that our discussion is good!

I would like for our class time to be fun. It will take all of us to make this an enjoyable learning experience. We will have different perspectives; that is good. However, we should be respectful of each other when sharing those perspectives. We should listen respectfully and respond thoughtfully. Our behavior should be conducive to our academic/professional environment. This also means you should not be involved with anything not related to this class during class time.

Make sure that you check your Gordon email frequently. I will use your gordonstate.edu address to communicate with you. Make sure that emails are professional and that you include either your CRN# or your class time on the email.

Students are expected to always follow the schedule without being prompted by the professor, unless notified of specific changes.

I do not respond to emails after 4:00 pm or on weekends. If I do respond via email during those times, you should consider it a courtesy. I will try to respond to all emails in a timely manner.

I will try to return paper grades within two weeks of submission. Please do not ask when papers will be returned prior to this two-week period.

Students are required to wait at least twenty-four hours to ask questions about their paper grades. During that twenty-four-hour period, students should review both my comments and their paper to make sure that they fully understand their grade. Those questions should be asked during my office hours.

I expect you to read the syllabus, your assignments, and any supplemental documents that I supply thoroughly. I am happy to answer any questions that you have, but please make sure that your questions do not reflect your failure to read the materials that I supply or listen to me during lectures.

Please address me as Dr. Sanders-Senu or Dr. Senu. It took me eleven years of education to earn that title. I prefer the title for which I worked very hard.

**Course Schedule**

**English 4400: Minority American Literature**

**Fall 2018**

TR 11:00-12:15 Section A 112Academic Building

**\*\*\*\*We will discuss what is listed on the day that it is listed. Have texts read, printed, and with you.**

**\*\*\*\*Schedule subject to chance with notice**

**\*\*\*\* All text, aside from the novels, are on our webpage.**

**Thursday, Aug. 9** Introductions; HW: Read Louise Erdrich “American Horse” and “The Bingo Van”, Also

read “Indian Boarding School: The Runaways,” “Dear John Wayne”

**Tuesday, Aug. 14** Discuss Erdrich; HW: Read Sherman Alexie’s “A Drug Called Tradition”

Also read “Vision (2)” pg 66, “Translated from the American”,” “Crazy Horse Speaks”,

and “Pow wow Polaroid”

**Thursday, Aug. 16** Discuss Alexie; HW: Read Craig Womack’s *Drowning in*

*Fire* Ch. 1-5

**Tuesday, Aug. 21** Discuss *Drowning in Fire*; HW: Read *Drowning in Fire* Ch. 6-8

**Thursday, Aug. 23** Discuss Drowning *in Fire*; HW: Read *Drowning in Fire* Ch. 9-Finish

**Tuesday, Aug. 28** Discuss Drowning *in Fire*; HW: Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*  Sections 1-2

**Thursday, Aug. 30** Discuss *The Woman Warrior* HW: Read *The Woman Warrior*  Section 3

**Tuesday, Sept. 4**: Discuss *The Woman Warrior* HW: Read *The Woman Warrior*  Sections 4-5

**Thursday, Sept.** Discuss *The Woman Warrior*; HW: Read Gotanda’s *The Wash*

**Tuesday, Sept. 11 6** Discuss *The Wash*; HW: Read the Reluctant Fundamentalist Ch. 1-6

**Thursday, Sept. 13** Discuss *Reluctant Fundamentalist*; HW: Read The *Reluctant Fundamentalist* Ch. 7-Finish

**Tuesday, Sept. 18** Discuss *Reluctant Fundamentalist*

**Thursday, Sept. 20** Discuss *Reluctant Fundamentalist* Film

**Tuesday, Sept. 25** Discuss *Reluctant Fundamentalist* Film and Exam Review

**Thursday, Sept 27 Mid-Term Exam**; HW: Read Hispanic/Latino Poetry TBA

**Tuesday, Oct. 2** Discuss Hispanic Poetry; HW: Read Anzaldúa “How to Tame a Wild

Tongue” and Sandra Cisneros’ *The House on Mango Street* Introduction to Pg 55

**Thursday, Oct. 4** Discuss Anzaldúa and *The House on Mango Street*; HW: Read *The House on Mango Street*

Finish

**Tuesday, Oct. 9 FALL Break**

**Thursday, Oct. 11** Discuss *The House on Mango Street*; HW: Read Miguel Piñero’s *A Midnight Moon at a Greasy*

*Spoon*

**Tuesday, Oct. 16** Discuss *A Midnight Moon at a Greasy Spoon*; HW: Read Edwidge Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*

Ch.1-10

**Thursday, Oct. 18** Discuss *Breath, Eyes, Memory*; ; HW: Read Edwidge Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*

Ch.11-24

**Tuesday, Oct. 23** Discuss *Breath, Eyes, Memory*; HW: Read Edwidge Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*

Ch. 25-Finish

**Thursday, Oct. 25** Discuss *Breath, Eyes, Memory*;

**Tuesday, Oct. 30** Research Paper Workshop**;** HW: Read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*pgs. 1-75

**Thursday, Nov. 1** Watch *Black in Latin America* **;**HW: Read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*pgs. 77-143

**Tuesday, Nov. 6** Discuss *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***;** HW: Read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar*

*Wao*pgs. 143-210

**Thursday, Nov. 8** Discuss *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***;** HW: Read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar*

*Wao*Pgs. 211-279

**Tuesday, Nov. 13** Discuss*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* **;**HW: Read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Pgs. 279-Finish

**Thursday, Nov. 15** Discuss*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

**Tuesday, Nov. 20** Discuss Black Immigrant Poetry TBA, **Final Paper Due**

**Tuesday, Nov. 27** Review

**Final Exam Wednesday, December 5, 2018 10:15-12:15**