

IMAGES OF THE SELF—EAST & WEST: LITERATURE OF THE ASIAN DIASPORA

Fall 2010
MW 2:30-3:45pm
Ballantine Hall 305

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CMLT C147-18177

Welcome to CMLT C147 Images of the Self—East & West! In this course we will explore the literature of the Asian diaspora—more specifically, the work of writers of Asian descent that are living in the West. To varying degrees, these authors challenge the notion that the self can belong to either the East or the West. As we will see, their texts illuminate the difficulties of carving out an identity in between. This class will take a comparative approach to this issue, as we will be analyzing a broad range of texts by authors of Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Indian, Japanese and Korean descent who are writing in the U.S., Canada, France, Brazil, and the U.K.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Kazuo Ishiguro. *A Pale View of Hills*. Vintage International.
2. Joy Kogawa. *Obasan*. Anchor Books.
3. Aimee Phan. *We Should Never Meet*. Picador.
4. Brian Ascalon Roley. *American Son*. W.W. Norton.
5. Salman Rushdie. *The Moor's Last Sigh*. Vintage International.
6. Other texts will be made available on Oncourse under the “Resources” tab. Please bring a printed copy to class.

[COURSE POLICIES]

PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION:

You are expected to seriously prepare for and participate in class discussions. Your participation grade will reflect both the quantity and quality of your comments in class. In addition, you will be expected to prepare a short, paragraph-length response for each class period. Each day, I will randomly choose several students to read their response to the class in order to begin our class discussion. Not being prepared to do so will negatively affect your participation grade for the course.

CLASS CONDUCT:

While you are in class I hold you to professional forms of conduct. Text messaging, falling asleep, doing homework for another class, reading the newspaper, or being otherwise disengaged or disruptive is unprofessional and will lower your participation grade. Please turn your cell phone completely off before class begins.

ATTENDANCE:

You may have 3 unexcused absences without penalty. After that, 3% will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences can be excused in the case of:

- **Illness**, provided I am notified within 24 hours of the class missed. For more than 2 consecutive days of absence I require a note from the IU Health Center or other healthcare provider.
- **Major family matters** (such as weddings or funerals). For weddings I require at least 2 weeks notice in advance.
- **Religious observances**, provided I am notified at least 2 weeks in advance.

LATE WORK:

Even if you cannot make it to class, make every effort to get your work in on time. You or someone you trust can drop off hard copies of your assignments in my mailbox (in Ballantine 901, open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

If you are unable to complete your work on time due to illness or other circumstances, you must contact me in a timely manner if you wish to arrange make-up work or an extension. I reserve the right to refuse late work or an extension if I determine that your reason for missing the deadline is not adequate.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

At IUB, plagiarism is considered a violation of academic integrity and can result in automatic failure of the course (see the Code of Student Conduct for more information: <http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/responsibilities/academic/index.shtml>.) Plagiarism occurs when you represent someone else’s work as your own work in the following ways:

- having someone write your paper for you or turning in someone else’s work
- purchasing someone else’s work and using it as your own
- simply copying and pasting published information into your paper
- deliberately using sources without attributing them.

Our course will teach you ways of integrating the ideas of other writers and documenting the source of those ideas, but please ask if you ever have any questions about plagiarism.

[ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION]

ASSIGNMENTS:

Attendance and Participation	150 points
Midterm Exam	200 points
Essay 1 (4-5p.)	200 points
Final Exam	200 points
Essay 2 (6-8p.)	250 points

Total **1000 points**

GRADING:

The final grade distribution is as follows:

1000-930 points (A)	899-870 points (B+)	799-770 points (C+)	699-600 (D)
929-900 points (A-)	869-830 points (B)	769-730 points (C)	599 and below (F)
	829-800 points (B-)	729-700 points (C-)	

Please keep in the mind that at Indiana University, an “A” indicates exemplary work and means you have mastered the concepts of the assignment. A “B” indicates very good work in which you have not only met all of the assignment requirements, but you have also met them at a level above expectations. A “C” indicates that you have sufficiently completed the assignment. A “D” indicates that you have failed to execute some portion of the assignment properly and need help with the assignment. And an “F” indicates that you either did not understand or did not follow through with the assignment.

[RESOURCES]

OFFICE HOURS:

My office hours are scheduled specifically for you, and I encourage you to stop by with any questions or concerns. No appointment is necessary. If you cannot make it to office hours, email is the best method to get in touch with me with a simple question or to set up another meeting time. I will do my best to get back to you within 48 hours, but please do not wait until the last minute to contact me. If I have not responded to an email about an assignment by the time that the assignment is due, it is by no means an excuse for turning the assignment in late.

WRITING TUTORIAL SERVICES:

I highly encourage you to seek out additional readers for your writing at Writing Tutorial Services (WTS) in Ballantine 206. The tutors there can provide you with valuable feedback at any stage of your writing process.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Disability Services and The Adaptive Technologies divisions of the Office of Student Affairs can arrange for assistance, auxiliary aids, or related services if you think a temporary or permanent disability will prevent you from being a full participant in the class. Contact them at <http://www.dsa.indiana.edu> or 855-7578 with any individual concerns. Students with special needs must be registered with Disability Services before classroom accommodations can be provided.

[COURSE SCHEDULE]

All assignments and readings are due at the beginning of the class for which they are listed. I reserve the right to make changes to assignments and due dates. I will announce any changes in class and on Oncourse.

Mon., Aug. 30	Introduction to course and syllabus
Wed., Sept. 1	Maxine Hong Kingston, selections from <i>Woman Warrior</i> and <i>China Men</i> (Oncourse)
Mon., Sept. 6	Chang-rae Lee, “The Faintest Echo of Our Language” (Oncourse)
Wed., Sept. 8	Karen Tei Yamashita, selections from <i>Circle K Cycles</i> (Oncourse)
Mon., Sept. 13	Andrew Lam, selections from <i>Perfume Dreams</i> (Oncourse)
Wed., Sept. 15	Aimee Phan, <i>We Should Never Meet</i> , (“Miss Lien”, “We Should Never

	Meet”, “The Delta”)
Mon., Sept. 20	Aimee Phan, <i>We Should Never Meet</i> , (“Visitors”, “Gates of Saigon”, “Emancipation”)
Wed., Sept. 22	Aimee Phan, <i>We Should Never Meet</i> , (“Bound”, “Motherland”)
Mon., Sept. 27	Linda Lê, selections from <i>Slander</i> (Oncourse)
Wed., Sept. 29	Brian Ascalon Roley, <i>American Son</i> , Part I
Mon., Oct. 4	Brian Ascalon Roley, <i>American Son</i> , Part II
Wed., Oct. 6	Brian Ascalon Roley, <i>American Son</i> , Part III, Midterm Exam review
Mon., Oct. 11	Midterm Exam
Wed., Oct. 13	Joy Kogawa, <i>Obasan</i> (Ch. 1-11)
Mon., Oct. 18	Joy Kogawa, <i>Obasan</i> (Ch. 12-16), Essay 1 Draft due
Wed., Oct. 20	Joy Kogawa, <i>Obasan</i> (Ch. 17-26)
Mon., Oct. 25	Joy Kogawa, <i>Obasan</i> (Ch. 27-39)
Wed., Oct. 27	Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>A Pale View of Hills</i> (Ch. 1-3)
Mon., Nov. 1	Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>A Pale View of Hills</i> (Ch. 4-6), Essay 1 due
Wed., Nov. 3	Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>A Pale View of Hills</i> (Ch. 7-11)
Mon., Nov. 8	Barathi Mukherjee, “The Management of Grief” (Oncourse)
Wed., Nov. 10	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Moor’s Last Sigh</i> (Ch. 1-4)
Mon., Nov. 15	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Moor’s Last Sigh</i> (Ch. 5-8)
Wed., Nov. 17	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Moor’s Last Sigh</i> (Ch. 9-11)
Mon., Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Break (class does not meet)
Wed., Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Break (class does not meet)
Mon., Nov. 29	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Moor’s Last Sigh</i> (Ch 12-15), Essay 2 proposal due
Wed., Dec. 1	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Moor’s Last Sigh</i> (Ch. 16-17), Semester evaluations
Mon., Dec. 6	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Moor’s Last Sigh</i> (Ch. 18-20), Final Exam review
Wed., Dec. 8	Final Exam
Mon., Dec. 13	Essay 2 due (in my mailbox by 4pm)