COURSE DESCRIPTION

"The very process of constructing a narrative for oneself—of telling a story—imposes a certain linearity and coherence that is never entirely there. But that is the lesson, perhaps, especially for us immigrants and migrants; i.e., that home, community and identity all fall somewhere between the histories and experiences we inherit and the political choices we make through alliances, solidarities and friendships." —Chandra Talpade Mohanty

What is culture? Where is it found? By whom? What sense or meaning does it make? How do we experience and communicate other cultures? How do those other cultures experience and communicate us? How can we become more mindful border crossers in a world where different languages, ideologies, religions, political systems, and philosophies compete, cooperate, mingle, meld, and transform? Through the exploration into these and other questions, students can expect to develop a better understanding of their location and/or dislocation in a complex world, to gain new insights into the nature of contemporary world issues, and to better understand and experience expressions of difference.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Ayaan Hirsi Ali. *Infidel.*
- Khaled Hosseini. *A Thousand Splendid Suns.*
- Words Without Borders, editors. *Literature from the Axis of Evil.*
- The Week World News & Opinion

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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EXPECTATIONS & GRADING
First, simple & straightforward, fulfill your responsibilities, seldom early & never late. Attend class & visit office hours, complete all assignments in & out of class on deadline, read, take notes, participate, be engaged & be engaging. Late assignments will not be accepted & no coursework can be made up without written documentation from the Dean of Students Office.

Second, please bear in mind that integrity & ethics are central to any community searching for truth. Anything less than total commitment to integrity & ethics undermines the efforts of the entire community. Every member is responsible. Every member is culpable. Be kind. Be honest. Be curious. Be adventurous. Work hard. Leave the campground better than you found it. Those who cannot keep the compact will be asked to leave.

Third, in terms of access, Michigan Tech encourages ALL qualified persons to participate in its programs & activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please contact Prof. Seigel as soon as possible &/or visit the Office of Student Affairs or phone 487-2951.

Fourth, concerning grading, students can expect the following:

A (4) = Excellent. Student exceeded all course expectations.
A/B (3.5) = Very good. Student exceeded most course expectations, but not all.
B (3) = Good. Student met all course expectations, exceeding many.
B/C (2.5) = Above average. Student met all course expectations, exceeding some.
C (2) = Average. Student met all course expectations.
C/D (1.5) = Below average. Student met some, but not all course expectations.
D (1) = Inferior. Student met few course expectations.
F (0) = Failure. Student met very few to none of the course expectations.

**COURSEWORK**

**Attendance & Participation** (20%): Engage. Come to class every day, on time, prepared, & take part thoughtfully & conscientiously. Sit in your assigned seat as attendance will be taken daily. I reserve the right to fail students who amass more than three unexcused absences (only excuses documented through the Dean of Students Office are accepted). Attend all assigned films. Attend all assigned outside events. Attend films. Meet your deadlines, all of which are final & cannot be made up unless accompanied by documentation from the Dean of Students Office. Read daily, in small bites & stay current. Take notes. Visit office hours. Be a human being.
**Bi-Weekly Quizzes** (20%): There will be a 15-question quiz every other week starting in week 2, 6 quizzes in all. Questions will cover the assigned readings, lectures, films, & performances. Bi-weekly quizzes are not cumulative. Quizzes cannot be made up unless an excuse is documented through the Dean of Students Office.

**Mid Term Exam** (20%): There will be a 100 question mid term exam. Questions will cover the assigned readings, lectures, films, & performances. The mid term exam cannot be made up unless an excuse is documented through the Dean of Students Office.

**Final Exam** (20%): There will be a 100 question final exam. Questions will cover the assigned readings, lectures, films, & performances for the entire semester. The mid term exam cannot be made up unless an excuse is documented through the Dean of Students Office.

**Outside Events:** Attendance is required at four outside events: The Klezmer Conservatory Band, San Jose Taiko, The Memorandum, and the free Mark Seddon Lecture *The Clash of Civilizations: Will the 21st Century Really Be America's Century?* Friday classes during outside event weeks are canceled. To secure tickets, go to http://www.rozza.mtu.edu, click on “World Cultures” in the left menu bar. The password is WC3200. Click on the correct section (D). Select your day and seats. There is no charge for the tickets as they are part of the course fee, however, if you do not reserve your tickets before February 22, you will have to pay full price. Reserve tickets must be picked up in advance; picking up tickets on the night of the event will result in a $5 late pickup fee. If you lose, switch, or exchange tickets after picking them up, you will be charged a $2 per ticket handling fee.

**COURSE CALENDAR, FALL 2007**

**Week 1**

Mon. 01.14: Introduction to the course.
Wed. 01.16: Typical American, pp. TBA.
Fri. 01.18: Typical American, pp. TBA.

**Week 2**

Mon. 01.21: No Class, Martin Luther King Day
Wed. 01.23: Quiz 1. Typical American, pp. TBA.
Fri. 01.25: Film, Xiao cai feng (*Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*), 2002.
Week 3

Mon. 01.28: Infidel, pp. TBA.
Wed. 01.30: No Class, AWP, New York.
Fri. 02.01: No Class, AWP, New York.

Week 4

Mon. 02.04: Infidel, pp. TBA.
Wed. 02.06: Quiz 2; Infidel, pp. TBA.
Fri. 02.08: No Class, Winter Carnival.

Week 5

Mon. 02.11: Infidel, pp. TBA.
Wed. 02.13: A Thousand Splendid Suns, pp. TBA.
Fri. 02.15: Film, Osama, 2003.

Week 6

Mon. 02.18: A Thousand Splendid Suns, pp. TBA.
Wed. 02.20: Quiz 3; A Thousand Splendid Suns, pp. TBA.
Fri. 02.22: Film; Beauty Academy of Kabul, 2004.

Week 7

Mon. 02.25: A Thousand Splendid Suns, pp. TBA.
Wed. 02.27: A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, pp. TBA.
Fri. 02.29: No Class, Outside Event, Memorandum (check for event times; there are many).

Week 8

Mon. 03.03: A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, pp. TBA.
Tue. 03.04: San Jose Taiko, 7:30pm, Rozsa Center.
Wed. 03.05: Mid Term Exam; San Jose Taiko, 7:30pm, Rozsa Center.
Fri. 03.07: No Class, Outside Event.

Week 9

Mon. 03.10: No Class, Spring Break.
Wed. 03.12: No Class, Spring Break.
Fri. 03.14: No Class, Spring Break.
Week 10

Mon. 03.17: *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, pp. TBA.
Wed. 03.19: *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, pp. TBA.
Fri. 03.21: Film, *Hotel Rwanda*, 2004.

Week 11

Mon. 03.24: *The Namesake*, pp. TBA.
Wed. 03.26: Quiz 4; *The Namesake*, pp. TBA.
Fri. 03.28: No Class, Outside Event.
Sat. 03.29: *The Klezmer Conservatory Band*, 7:30pm, Rozsa Center.

Week 12

Mon. 03.31: No Class, Mark Seddon Lecture, 7:30pm, Rozsa Center, Free Admission.
Wed. 04.02: *The Namesake*, pp. TBA.
Fri. 04.04: No Class, Film, *Born into Brothels*, 2004, with lecture (could be Saturday, TBA).

Week 13

Mon. 04.07: *The Namesake*, pp. TBA.
Wed. 04.09: Quiz 5; *Literature from the Axis of Evil*, pp. TBA.

Week 14

Mon. 04.14: *Literature from the Axis of Evil*, pp. TBA.
Wed. 04.16: *Literature from the Axis of Evil*, pp. TBA.
Fri. 04.18: Film TBA.

Week 15

Mon. 04.21: *Literature from the Axis of Evil*, pp. TBA.
Wed. 04.23: Quiz 6; Evaluations; Course Wrap.
Fri. 04.25: No Class, Exam Prep.

Week 16

Mon. 04.30: 3-5pm, Final Exam.