

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Spring 2021
Discipline:	English
Course Number and Title:	E 332 Modern Women Writers
Division:	Upper
Faculty Name:	Joonok Huh
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will read modern women writers from diverse sociopolitical and cultural backgrounds. In the spirit of Semester at Sea and its quest for global understanding through the unfamiliar, we will focus on traveling – both literally and metaphorically. The traditional space for women is static, without much mobility, in most societies. Some brave women, however, break away from the familiar into uncharted waters—to gain or regain a sense of self by connecting themselves to others and locating themselves in the world. For them, travel becomes writing, and writing becomes travel. Writing is overall the ultimate means of self-preservation.

We will delve into various meanings of travel for women writers and their characters on a wide spectrum—from breaking away to returning, in novels such as Virginia Wolfe's To the Lighthouse and Jhumpa Lahiri's Unaccustomed Earth. What is the meaning of home? What is learned in exile or separation? What is their historical situation? How does travel transform their lives? Toward the end of the semester, students will link their own experience of travel to those of the writers we read.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To read and think critically and insightfully about women's traveling, diaspora, and globalization;
- To study travel as displacement accommodation, relocation, reconciliation in women's literature;
- To experience narratives of identity in personal, social, and national terms in women's literature;
- To appreciate the complexity of theme of travel in women's literature;
- To enhance women's experience of community;
- To explore critical and theoretical approaches to modern women's literature; and
- To encourage personal reflection through writing both during the after the Semester at Sea voyage.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

There are **7 required texts** for this course.

AUTHOR: Virginia Woolf
TITLE: To the Lighthouse
PUBLISHER: Harvest
ISBN #: 0-15-690738-0
DATE/EDITION: Any

AUTHOR: Maxine Hong Kingston
TITLE: The Woman Warrior
PUBLISHER: Knopf
ISBN #: 9780394400679
DATE/EDITION: Any

AUTHOR: Lan Cao
TITLE: Monkey Bridge
PUBLISHER: Penguin Books
ISBN #: 978-0-14-026361-9
DATE/EDITION: Any

AUTHOR: Arundhati Roy
TITLE: The God of Small Things
PUBLISHER: Harper Perennial
ISBN #: 0-06-097749-3
DATE/EDITION: Any

AUTHOR: Tsitsi Dangarembga
TITLE: The Nervous Conditions
PUBLISHER: Lynne Rienner Publishers
ISBN #: 978-0-9547023-3-5
DATE/EDITION: Any

AUTHOR: Jean Rhys
TITLE: Wide Sargasso Sea
PUBLISHER: Norton
ISBN #: 0-393-30880-4
DATE/EDITION: Any

AUTHOR: Toni Morrison
TITLE: Sula
PUBLISHER: Doubleday
ISBN #: 13-9781400033430
DATE/EDITION: Any

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

(*Assignment due dates will be added at a later day, after class schedule is announced.)

Depart Tokyo, Japan – January 5

Day 1 Introduction and poems

Day 2 To the Lighthouse

Shanghai

Day 3 Port Reflection
To the Lighthouse

Day 4 To the Lighthouse

Day 5 Port Reflection
The Woman Warrior

Ho Chi Minh City

Day 6 Port Reflection
The Woman Warrior

Day 7 The Woman Warrior

Surabaya

Day 8 Port Reflection
Monkey Bridge

Day 9 Monkey Bridge

Cochin

Day 10 Port Reflection
Monkey Bridge

Day 11 God of Small Things

Day 12 God of Small Things

Port Louis

Day 13 Port Reflection
God of Small Things

Day 14 The Nervous Conditions

Day 15 The Nervous Conditions

Day 16 The Nervous Conditions

Day 17 Wide Sargasso Sea

Jamestown

Day 18 Port Reflection
Wide Sargasso Sea

Day 19 Wide Sargasso Sea

Salvador

Day 20 Port Reflection
Sula

Day 21 Sula

Day 22 Sula

Day 23 Poetry

Casablanca

Day 24 Presentations

La Coruna

Day 25 Presentations

Arrive Amsterdam, The Netherlands – April 20

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea® field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

[Field Class proposals listed below are not finalized. Confirmed ports, dates, and times will be posted to the Spring 2021 Courses and Field Class page when available.]

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.

Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Field Class Proposal, #1: Cochin

Young Women in India

Our field class will take place in Cochin, India. With its long rich history and rapid economic growth, the present India shows a fascinating blend of the past and the present. Cochin, an international port and the hub of the Kerala area, has transformed into a metropolis. Women tend to get caught between the past and the present in fast changing societies, having to negotiate between traditional cultural norms, Western-influenced norms, and present-day values. We will spend the day visiting a women's community college so that we can converse with and interview young women students about their views of being a woman in India of today and tomorrow.

Evaluation: This field class will be evaluated in two ways, a field project presentation and a two-page paper.

- What did you learn from the Indian women students you met?
- Do your observations reinforce your perception of Indian young women? Why or why not?
- Relate what you observed and witnessed to Roy's book. Any common quality between the women characters in the book and the women you met? Is it a tangible or an intangible quality?
- What did the young women you met value most, and how did they express it?
- What is their view of gender roles in the future of India?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- Feel free to add your own questions.

Field Class Proposal, #2: Ho Chi Minh City

Women's Stories

Through Lan Cao's Monkey Bridge we glimpse gender roles in traditional Vietnamese society and the generation gap between a daughter and a mother who left Vietnam for America in 1975. The young Vietnamese American daughter constantly crosses the "bridge" between Vietnam and America in different times and begins to understand her mother's past.

We will spend the day in Ho Chi Minh City—a walking tour to familiarize ourselves with the local culture and people. We will interview women we meet, be they students, merchants, restaurant servers, or homemakers. We will take pictures and write down observations

about this fastly-changing society, and perhaps gain insight into the multiplicity of women's roles in Vietnam. We will see whether there is any consensus or common thread, and examine the sense of their identity or their position in present Vietnam. The goal is to have a better understanding of women's basic foundation of life and philosophies, their position in the past and in the present, and their hopes for the future.

- Are there differences among women because of education, class, ethnicity, age, etc?
- What is their view of the country vis-à-vis the rest of the world?
- What is their view of social, cultural transformation, especially of gender roles?
- What did you learn from your interviews?
- Do your observations reinforce your view of Vietnamese women? Why or why not?
- What did the women you met value most, and how did they express it?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- Feel free to add your own questions.

Independent Field Assignments

You will write about your experience in each port/country about the theme of this course—women's changing roles and learning about others and about yourself. In each port, get engaged in conversations with local members, take pictures or film videos, share common interests, etc. After you return to the ship, write a one-page summary/report. After Casablanca, you will read all reports and write an analysis of your experience throughout all voyages, three pages.

- From all the reports, has anything emerged? If so, what is it?
- What has been your most memorable experience and why?
- What have you learned about "the other"? Has this journey changed your perspective of "the other"?
- Has this helped you understand who you are or who we are in America? If so, how?

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Assignments

Your final grade will be from the following assignments and corresponding percentages:

1. Two Reading Response Papers (3 pages): 20% (10% each)

The response papers may focus on any aspect of the text that interests you. They should be well-focused and developed, almost "mini-papers." Good response papers raise questions for you to think through. Try to answer the questions you raise in your paper.

Choose two books from the semester. Topics/passages/chapters to write about will be announced during the semester. The response paper is due on the first discussion day of the following book.

2. Final Paper (10 pages): 30%

Your final paper will be based on a particular feminist struggle in a text or texts, whatever the source of the struggle might be—race, class, the postcolonial condition, sexuality, and so forth. You can choose your own specific topic and approach; however, I do encourage you to discuss your topic with me.

3. Field Class Paper & Presentation: 20% (See Field Project Assignments)

4. Independent Field Assignment: 20% (See Independent Field Assignments)

5. Class Discussion Lead and Participation: 10%

Throughout the semester each of you will lead one class discussion. At the beginning of class, you will introduce the reading of the day for 20 minutes. You can talk about the author, or present the historical cultural context, or analyze a passage/chapter/character from the reading assignment for the day.

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea® coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea® in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea® classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea® provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from students' home institutions verifying the accommodations received on their home campuses (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage. More details can be found within the **Course Registration Packet**, as posted to the [Courses and Field Classes page](#) no later than one month prior to registration.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea® courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

TBA

FILMS

TBA

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

TBA

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

TBA