

English through Film
ESL 9L: Section 001 (CCN 26905)
Summer 2013

Instructor: Jeff McClelland
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Time: 2:00-4:30 Tuesday/Thursday
Location: 79 Dwinelle

Course Description

Through viewing films set in the San Francisco Bay Area and other parts of the US, you will develop your English skills while exploring immigrant and multicultural experiences in the United States. The first half of the class will focus on aspects of the Latin-American experience as told through the films, *La Mission* and *Spanglish*. The second half of the class will focus on aspects of the Asian-American experience through the films, *The Joy Luck Club* and *Mao's Last Dancer*. Class discussions and assignments will focus on surface level issues such as vocabulary and plot as well as deeper issues such as representations of culture and identity.

Course Goals

- To improve your speaking, listening, writing and reading skills
- To understand popular idiomatic language from the films as well as academic vocabulary and concepts that address the deeper issues explored in the films.
- To develop an understanding of immigrant and multicultural experiences in the US.

Fieldwork

You are required to spend at least 5-6 hours per week devoted to outside-class field work projects which will include 1) viewing films, short videos and podcasts, 2) conducting research on issues raised in the films, and 3) visiting and investigating San Francisco Bay area sites and museums that connect with the films and issues. You will then demonstrate your learning by keeping an academic journal in which you complete writing assignments based on this fieldwork.

Class Materials

- 2 folders (one for holding materials and one for keeping your academic journal)
- 1 notebook for taking notes
- All class readings will be accessible online

Class films

La Mission <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1200272/>
Spanglish <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0371246/>
Mao's Last Dancer <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1071812/>
The Joy Luck Club <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0107282/>

Class requirements

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class and arrive on time. The program policy states that 90% attendance is required to receive credit. Given that this course meets only 12 times, missing one class can seriously affect your grade, and missing more than one class could prevent you from passing the course. You are late if you arrive more than 10 minutes after the class start time. Three late arrivals equal one absence. You are allowed **one absence** but may not make up a quiz or missed presentation. If you must miss part of a class, you are responsible for giving me notice as soon as possible, making up any missed assignments, and getting class notes and handouts from your classmates.

Participation: Discussing issues and ideas is a hallmark of the American college classroom, and you will be evaluated on your contributions to class discussion. Excellent participation will be demonstrated by deep thinking and understanding of the plot and issues in the movies, effective use of turn taking strategies, and engagement with the ideas of other students. Participating in class - both through speaking and active listening - is a key to succeeding in this class and to improving your communication skills.

Quizzes: There will be 2 quizzes which will assess your understanding of idioms and vocabulary from the film as well as key issues and events in the plot. The quizzes will also assess your understanding and critical thinking around your fieldwork research. The first quiz will be given on Thursday of the 3rd week of classes and the second on Thursday of the 6th week of classes. The first quiz will focus on aspects of the Latin-American experience in the US and the 2 films, *Spanglish* and *La Mission*. The second quiz will focus on aspects of the Asian-American experience in the US and the 2 films, *Mao's Last Dance* and *The Joy Luck Club*. There will be no make-up opportunities for these quizzes so you must be present on these days in order to get a grade for these assignments.

Academic journal (homework): Homework will consist primarily of carrying out fieldwork research such as reading articles and taking field trips. You will also be assigned short writing assignments based on your fieldwork that you will keep in an academic journal. Each week I will grade your journal writing assignments. Journal writing assignments must be completed on time. I will mark them down one letter grade for each class meeting that they are late and I will not accept journal writing assignments that are more than one week late.

Final essay: You will write a 500 word essay in which you analyze an issue in 2 or more films from the class. The topic of your essay will be based on the homework assignments you have completed for your academic journal.

Grading and evaluation

Participation	20%
Academic Journal (homework)	20%
Quiz 1	20%
Quiz 2	20%
Final essay	20%

You may take this course for a letter (A-F) grade or a pass/fail grade (70% for undergraduates and 80% for graduate students).

A =	90 - 100%	= excellent, outstanding
B =	80 - 89%	= good work, above average
C =	70 - 79%	= average work
D =	60 - 69%	= poor work, below average.
F =	Below 60%	= fail, not meeting necessary requirements

Grades may also be given a "+" or "-"

Academic honesty

In American academia, academic honesty is required and plagiarism-- using someone else's words and ideas in a paper, presentation, or assignment -- without proper acknowledgement is considered a very serious violation. Here is the official policy from the College Writing Programs' website (<http://writing.berkeley.edu/about-us/academic-honesty>):

College Writing Programs has a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism. Students who submit plagiarized work will be subject to consequences ranging from a grade of "F" on the assignment to suspension from the University. Plagiarism is defined as use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source, for example:

- Wholesale copying of passages from works of others into your homework, essay, term paper, or dissertation without acknowledgment.
- Using the views, opinions, or insights of another without acknowledgment.
- Paraphrasing another person's characteristic or original phraseology, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledgment.

Contacting me

If you need extra help or have questions I am very happy to meet with you outside the class. Ask me or send me an email and we can arrange an appointment.

Schedule (Subject to Change)

Films	Materials and activities	Fieldwork and major assignments
Week 1 Spanglish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin-America and Latinos • Assimilation and acculturation • Exploring identity in the film and yourself • View film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “Coming here” • Research Latin-American immigration trends in the US • Investigate differences between assimilation and acculturation • Read “Spanglish – A Sociolinguistic Review” • Journal entries due Thur and next Tues
Week 2 La Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the Mission District • Chicano and other Latino identities • View first half of film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “Are Chicanos the same as Mexicans?” • Visit Mexican Museum in SF and research Chicano Arts exhibit • Read “Gentrification Facts” and interview with Benjamin Bratt • Journal entries due Thur and next Tues
Week 3 La Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentrification • Gang violence in San Francisco • View second half of film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz Thur • Visit Mission District in SF and research murals • Read “The Chinese Cultural Revolution” • Read the plot summary to Mao's Last Dancer • Journal entries due next Tues
Week 4 Mao's Last Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese Cultural Revolution • Story of the frog in the well • View film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Amy Tan bio • Read plot summary • Read history of Angel Island “The 'Ellis Island' of the West” • Journal entries due Thur and next Tues
Week 5 Joy Luck Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angel Island • History of Chinatown • Story of the swan feather • Revisiting assimilation • View first half of film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “Mother Tongue” • Read “The Joy Luck Club: Assimilation” • Visit China Town and research Chinese Historical Society • Journal entry due Thur • First draft of final essay due Tues
Week 6 Joy Luck Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View second half of film • Class wrap up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final essay due Thur • Quiz Thur