Modern Voyages

CFIII-UF9103001 Cultural Foundations III
Fall 2015
Tuesdays 9am–12pm*
Location to be confirmed.

*The class does not meet on one Tuesday during the semester.

Instructor Details

Prerequisites

Cultural Foundations I and II

Class Description

On the cusp of the Modern Age, the poet John Donne wrote “no man is an island,” stressing the importance of forces beyond any individual in an increasingly networked world. This course will examine works of art that explore an individual’s relation to multiple forces beyond the self—political, historical, cultural, social, technological and religious—but focus primarily on the political dimensions of identity formation. How do we define ourselves and why does that definition almost always involve an opposition? Another person, people, race or nation? What is the role of cultural memory in such formations? As we move through the modern age we will discuss issues such as gender, race, colonialism, slavery, violence, exile and war.

Desired Outcomes

To acquaint students with some of the events and artistic movements that led to, composed, and then moved beyond, modernity

To alert students to the various interpretive and expressive assumptions and traditions that have served the past and taken us into the present
To build on methods of inquiry and interpretative skills that should be applied to understanding and appreciating artistic texts of various kinds

To continue to develop students’ critical faculties, including the reading and writing skills that are essential to critical thought

**Assessment Components**

**15% In-Class Participation**: Participation in seminar meetings is essential. You should each come to class prepared to actively engage one another and the course materials in a thoughtful and critical manner. If you come to class unprepared, or unwilling to actively participate in discussion, you might as well be absent and I will count you as such. Be sure to bring relevant texts with you every week. It is important we all have the SAME texts so please try to stick to the editions specified or in the Reading Room or online. I will keep track (mostly) of the quality (not the quantity) of your contribution to class discussion. If you are particularly shy, you may partially compensate for your reticence by coming to see me during office hours or by participating more online. Once in the semester you will also be required to lead seminar discussion—details TBA.

**10% Online reading responses**: I will maintain a NYU Classes discussion board where you will respond each week (before we meet) to the question posed. In just 5-7 sentences draw on the week’s readings or films to respond to the question. If you respond after fellow students, you are expected to read their responses and build upon them, or differ from them.

**15% Paper #1**  5-6 page paper (1750- 2100 words) Details TBA

**20% Paper #2**  6 -7 page paper (2100- 2450 words) Details TBA

**15% Midterm**—A treasure hunt (written up as a short essay) Details TBA

**25% Final Exam**—In class and in three sections involving text identification and short essay answers

**Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.**

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A**: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B**: The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C**: The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the
work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Grade conversion**

NYU Washington, DC uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
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<td>86-84</td>
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<td>83-80</td>
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<td>79-77</td>
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<td>73-70</td>
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<td>69-67</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>below 65</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Attendance Policy**

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students' semester grades.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must email or discuss with the Academic Program Coordinator in advance of their missed class. For an excused absence, students must produce a doctor’s note dated with the exact dates of the missed class and/or exam.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Program Coordinator prior to the date(s) in question, who will communicate the absence to all relevant faculty members. If faculty
members do receive notification, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each instructor to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.

**Late Submission of Work**

1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed. (If the assignment must be submitted in person, the Academic Program Coordinator can collect on behalf of the faculty between the hours of 9–5, M–F.)

3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.

4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.

6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.

7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

**Students with Disabilities**

Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at +1-212-998-4980 or see their website.
Plagiarism Policy

As the University's policy on "Academic Integrity for Students at NYU" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." **Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.**

The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

http://gls.nyu.edu/page/gls.academicintegrity

http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity


Religious Observances

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.
Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email at least one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

**Required Text(s)**

Books:
- Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
- William Blake, *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
- Dion Boucicault, *The Octoroon*
- Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim*
- Rabindranath Tagore, *Home and the World*
- Octavia Butler, *Fledgling*
- J M Coetzee, *Foe*

Films:
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s *Magic Flute*
- Ingmar Bergman, *Persona*
- Andrei Tarkovsky, *Ivan’s Childhood*
- Alain Resnais, *Hiroshima Mon Amour*
- Gillo Pontecorvo, *Battle of Algiers*
- Guru Dutt, *The Master, the Mistress and the Slave*
- Tomas Alfredson, *Let the Right One In*

**Supplemental Texts(s) (i.e., not required for purchase but consulted for class discussion)**

Danny Boyle, *The Beach*
- Robert Zemeckis, *Cast Away*
- Robert Wise & Jerome Robbins, *West Side Story*
- Steve McQueen, *Twelve Years A Slave*
- David Fincher, *Fight Club*
- Mike Nichols, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*
- Sally Potter, *Orlando*
- Bimal Roy, *Devdas*
- Ashutosh Gowariker, *Lagaan*
- Denis Villeneuve, *Enemy*

**Internet Research Guidelines**

The internet is a powerful and useful source. Internet research is encouraged but it must be cited as you would cite a book, essay or poem—even basic information you find on Wikipedia gets a footnote. Some of our course texts are discussed on sites such as Spark Notes or Shmoop but I caution you to stay away from such sites as the notes are not particularly insightful or helpful. Any ideas you do find
online, must be carefully cited, even if re-written in your own words. Please see NYU’s policies on plagiarism for further guidelines.

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<th>Additional Required Equipment</th>
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**Session 1 – Tuesday, September 1, 2015**

**Introductions**

Start reading *Robinson Crusoe*

**Session 2 – Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

**UNIT I: Voyage Out:**
**The Modern Novel**

READ: Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

**Session 3 – Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

**The Enlightenment**

WATCH: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Magic Flute* (Two DVD versions are available—please pick one to watch. The first is a German language production, more faithful to the original, and the second is a contemporary English language version).

READ: Denis Diderot *Encyclopedie*, Jean-Jacques Rousseau *Duties of Women*, and Mary Wollstonecraft *Vindication of the Rights of Women*.

BROWSE: http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did

**Session 4 – Tuesday, September 22, 2015**

**The Romantic Movement**

READ: William Blake, *Marriage of Heaven and Hell* and Dion Boucicault, *The Octoroon*

**Session 5 – Tuesday, September 29, 2015**

**UNIT II: Ship Wrecked:**
**Alone?**

WATCH Ingmar Bergman, *Persona*

**Paper One due by 5pm Sunday October 4**, uploaded on NYU Classes and hard copy dropped off in the student lounge on Monday October 5 by 10am.

**Session 6 – Tuesday, October 6, 2015**

**The Modern City**


WATCH: Andrei Tarkovsky, *Ivan’s Childhood*

**Please note that we do not meet next week (Oct. 13) because it is a Make-Up Day for various Monday classes.**

**Session 7 – **Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

**War and Memory**

READ: Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim*

WATCH: Alain Resnais, *Hiroshima Mon Amour*

**Session 8 – Tuesday, October 27, 2015**

**Identity and the Other**

READ: Virginia Woolf’s “A Room of One’s Own,” “Death of the Moth,” and “Robinson Crusoe”

ATTEND: A performance of *Sancho: An Act of Remembrance* at the Kennedy Center, Saturday October 24th.

**Session 9 – Tuesday, November 3, 2015**

**Modern Fine Art**

There is no reading for this week. Instead there will be a **Midterm** treasure hunt at the National Gallery of Art—given out in class. Please upload your typed response by **Sunday, November 8, 5pm on NYU Classes**. No hard copies necessary.
### Session 10 – Tuesday, November 10, 2015

**UNIT III: Encounters with the Other**

**The Colonial Subject**

READ: Albert Camus, "The Adulterous Woman" and "The Guest"

WATCH: Gillo Pontecorvo, *Battle of Algiers*

### Session 11 – Tuesday, November 17, 2015

**Struggle for Independence**

READ: Rabindranath Tagore, *Home and the World*

WATCH: Guru Dutt, *The Master, the Mistress and the Slave*

### Session 12 – Tuesday, November 24, 2015

**Paper Two due noon, Monday November 23rd** on NYU Classes. Please leave a hard copy in the student lounge as well by 2pm Monday November 23rd.

**Gender and postcolonialism**

READ: Gayatri Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak" and Mahasveta Devi, "Draupadi"

### Session 13 – Tuesday, December 1, 2015

**Postmodernism**

READ: J M Coetzee, *Foe*

### Session 14 – Tuesday, December 8, 2015

**The 21st Century and other worlds**

READ: Octavia Butler, *Fledgling*

WATCH: Tomas Alfredson, *Let the Right One In*
Session 15 – Tuesday, December 15, 2015

FINAL Exam in class during our regular class times.

Classroom Etiquette

Please do not eat or drink in class. Water is fine. This is a three-hour discussion seminar with a 15 minute break around the 1.5 hour mark (exactly when will vary on the discussion).

Required Co-curricular Activities

Sancho performance

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Washington DC is a tremendous resource for any student of cultural histories. World-class museums are free and easily accessible—so take advantage! In particular I recommend the National Gallery of Art, the Freer-Sackler Galleries and the Phillips Collection.

Your Instructor