

**San José State University**  
**English and Comparative Literature**  
**123A-01-Literature for Global Understanding,**  
**The Americas**  
**Spring 2022**

Instructor: Rebecca Kling

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Classroom: Online

Office Hours: W 1:30-2:30

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/82757033220?pwd=ZThtdzZodVl0VnlyRHRqYlZmSVFUUT09>

Password: 298103

Class Days/Time:

T/Th 12:00-1:15

Synchronous (live) classes on Tuesdays

Asynchronous on \*most\* Thursdays except for 1/26 & 3/10 (close-reading posts due by the end of class under Canvas/Discussions)

Zoom link for all class meetings:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/81996850552?pwd=aHdhU3I0SFNCTHBhNVFnb2tGaml3QT09>

Password: 956733

**GE/SJSU Studies Category:** The English 123 –Global Literature series is intended as an upper-division= GE (area V) course that introduces students to literature of the world from various regions and helps students: 1) appreciate literature as a form of human expression and understand how that expression has developed over time in different cultures; 2) increase their understanding of how other cultural traditions have influenced American culture and society, and how cultures in general develop distinctive features and nteract with other cultures.

**Course Format: Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses**

The course will be conducted mainly online, although the instructors reserve the right to hold occasional mandatory in-person meetings (with appropriate prior notification to students). The class will also be run partly on a “hybrid” basis, meaning that seminars will meet only once per week (some seminars will meet only on Mondays, others only on Wednesdays), with students being responsible for work that will be done independently to take the place of the alternate seminar session.

**Course Description:** Course promotes global understanding by examining the cultures and literary arts of a selected region of the world, the Americas, and covers representative texts and authors from Latin America and the Caribbean/West Indies. GE Area: V Prerequisite: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted).

This course in literature of the Americas will be grounded in four themes: culture, identity, memory, and justice. In this course, students will learn how colonialism and modernity impact the Americas and how people in this diaspora negotiate identity, language, culture, and empire. We will begin by examining ways in which writers have theorized the Americas in response to/against Western/North American colonialism and imperialism. From Jose Martí’s vision of an American hemisphere dominated by the U.S. to Retamar’s reclaiming of the image of Caliban, we will begin to understand how these cultures have developed in response to colonialism and post-colonialism, while also beginning to map the influence of the Caribbean/West Indies and Latin America on the U.S. We will also turn our attention to a series of contemporary writers who will aid us in drawing connections between violent pasts and contemporary challenges. This body of literature, encompassing both prolific and understudied writers, sheds light on what it means to be a product of diaspora impacted by the legacies of colonialism, imperialism, and modernity. Through this process, students will gain insight into how these nations are similar in many ways but also unique and dissimilar. Approaching these narratives as both historians and literary critics, we will draw connections between violent pasts and contemporary challenges, while simultaneously examining notions of genre and aesthetics and their impact upon the representation of history, culture, and identity.

**GE Learning Outcomes (GELO):**

SJSU Studies Area V Student Learning Objectives (SLO)/GE Learning Outcomes

(GELO) A. The GE writing requirement will be met in this class by means of the following assignments with an aggregate word count of 5,000+ words, as follows:

1. Weekly discussion posts--200 words each
2. Final Project—1250+ words
3. Discussion Leader Activity

4. Exam based on reading and class discussion (four short essay questions)

B. The General Education Learning Outcomes that are fulfilled by the course and the class activities/assignments/experiences linked to those outcomes are described below:

SLO/GELO 1: Upon successful completion of this program, students shall be able to compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S. This GELO/GELO will be met by means of close examination, analysis, and critique of the texts throughout the semester; student success in achieving this objective will be assessed by means of systematic comparison tasks embedded in the reading responses, group presentation/project, midterm exam and/or the final exam.

SLO/GELO 2: Upon successful completion of this program, students shall be able to identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture. This GELO/GELO will be met by means of cultural activities and involved learning experiences embedded in lectures, presentations, discussions, and other class interactions throughout the semester; student success in achieving this objective will be assessed by means of appropriate writing assignments and group presentations focusing on (1) the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S.A., and on (2) how American culture has been influenced, affected, or impacted by such cultural traditions.

SLO/GELO 3: Upon successful completion of the course, students shall be able to explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures. This objective will be met by means of in-depth study of the texts and their contexts as students conduct library research beyond the lectures and other in-class activities. Student success in achieving this objective will be assessed by means of a group presentation and a final paper/project with specific focus on questions of cultural change in a culture outside the U.S.A.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature;
2. show familiarity with major literary works and critical approaches to Caribbean and Latin American literature;
3. write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and the nature of the subject;

4. develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively;
5. develop and carry out group projects using New Media tools and effectively communicate research and ideas to their instructor and peers using a variety of presentation styles (oral, visual, written, activity-based)
6. articulate the relations among memory, identity, justice, and texts.

**Required texts:**

- \**Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys (Jamaica & Dominica, 1966) 978-0-393-96012-9
- \**A Small Place* by Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua, 2000) 978-0374527075
- \**The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea (Mexico, 2004) 978-0316010801
- \*Sources from linked PDFs and internet sites on Canvas Course Schedule.

**Departmental Grading Policy:**

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU Catalog. Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A=excellent;
- B=above average;
- C=average;
- D=below average;
- F=failure.

**Course Assignments & Determination of Grades:**

- Participation (20 points) = 25%
- Weekly Discussion Posts = 25%
- Midterm Exam (4 questions worth 10 pts each; 40 total) = 25%
- Final Paper/Project (2,500 words worth 25 points) = 25%

*A plus = 1000 to 970 points*

*A = 969 to 930 points*

*A minus = 929 to 900 points*

*B plus = 899 to 870 points*

*B = 869 to 840 points*

*B minus = 839 to 800 points*

*C plus = 799 to 770 points*

*C = 769 to 740 points*

*C minus = 739 to 700 points*

*D plus = 699 to 670 points*  
*D = 669 to 630 points*  
*D minus = 629 to 600 points*  
*F = 599 points or lower*

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>970 to 1000</i>	<i>97 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 969</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>870 to 899</i>	<i>87 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 869</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>770 to 799</i>	<i>77 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 769</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>670 to 699</i>	<i>67 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 669</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

### **University Policies:**

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

### **Student Services:**

Students have a wide variety of resources available to them on campus. These include the following...

**Student Technology Resources:** Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

**SJSU Peer Connections:** Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university

experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

**SJSU Writing Center:** The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126 and 2nd floor, MLK Library. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

**SJSU Counseling Services:** The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.