

DUE AT REGISTRATION: You will not be enrolled in ICL without it.

Intercultural Literature

Culver City High School

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Intercultural Literature 12 presents a literary and socio-cultural analysis of representative work by American and transnational authors who, collaboratively, illustrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of our global society. The course operates primarily around the following domains of study: race/ethnicity, immigration/movement and space, gender/orientation, and, finally the art of intercultural practice.

The objective of intercultural training and the study of respective texts revolve around the procurement of a firm understanding of meaningful cultural exchange through dialogue in the domains mentioned previously. Intercultural Literature 12 is designed to: engage learners in reading, thinking, and discussing issues and concepts associated with the major issues that affect cultural diversity in society; the development of critical thinking and intercultural competence through the analysis of texts through a discussion-based, Socratic-method format; the examination of different literary genres (i.e., fiction, prose, poetry, etc.), and the analysis of nonfictional sources of literature and information (i.e., articles, film, multimedia, etc.) that reveal the historical, social, and cultural complexities that help explain culture today. In this writing-intensive, seminar-driven course, students produce critical, analytical, and creative written compositions of post-secondary integrity, engage in research, intercultural activities, and project-based learning assignments designed to enrich the understanding of cultural diversity, while also engaging in activities that promote positive human relations among all people in the community, school site, and as envisioned in post-secondary life.

While this course is aligned with the 12th grade, secondary school Language Arts California State Content Standards, as well as the Common Core framework, it is modeled and taught as a college-level humanities course that **introduces and intersects with topics that are often considered controversial and/or objectionable for some audiences, as evidenced by multiple R-rated films, mature readings, and classroom discussions. As a result, collegiate maturity is expected from the student, and similar support is required from the parent.** This course requires permission slips for viewing of multiple films.

Various films listed below are classified as “R”-rated for language, sexual content or violence. **Your permission is needed for your son/daughter to view these motion pictures.** While all films are a part of the curriculum, some may not be shown this year due to unforeseen changes in planning. The following list of films may be considered for viewing during the 2018-2019 school year.

COURSE VIEWINGS

Crash (2004) Winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture. The film explores how the lives of a diverse group of people living in Los Angeles connect and clash over the course of two days. As a series of events unfold that heighten already-existing racial and cultural tensions, individuals are brought face to face with complexities that their prejudices have prevented them from seeing. (R)

My Left Foot (1989) Christy Brown (Academy Award winner Daniel Day-Lewis), born with cerebral palsy, learns to paint and write with his only controllable limb - his left foot. (R)

Milk (2008) Nominated for Best Picture. The film is based on the true story of San Francisco camera storeowner, Harvey Milk, who joins the emerging Gay Pride movement in the 1970's. Milk turns his efforts to politics, campaigning for a spot on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors--a quest that will make him the country's first openly gay man to be elected to public office. (R)

American History X (1998) is based on a true story. Derek Vineyard is paroled after serving 3 years in prison for killing two individuals who tried to break into/steal his truck. Through his brother, Danny Vineyard's narration, we learn that before going to prison, Derek was a skinhead and the leader of a violent white supremacist gang that committed acts of racial crime throughout L.A. and his actions greatly influenced Danny. Reformed and fresh out of prison, Derek severs contact with the gang and becomes determined to keep Danny from going down the same violent path as he did. (R)

RENT (2006) Based on Puccini's classic opera *La Boheme*, Jonathan Larson's revolutionary rock opera *Rent* tells the story of a group of bohemians struggling to live and pay their rent in the gritty background of New York's East Village. "Measuring their lives in love," these starving artists strive for success and acceptance while enduring the obstacles of poverty, illness and the AIDS epidemic. The multicultural composition of the characters serves as the guiding trajectory of analysis. (PG-13)

A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story (2006) Based on a true story, the film narrates the life of transgender individual, Gwen Araujo (born Eddie Araujo), who felt different from a young age. By the time she entered her teen years, Eddie could no longer hide the fact that she needed to live life as female, and not male. When she finally accepted it, and with her mother's support, Eddie changed her name to Gwen and started to live life as female, until her murder at the hands of a hate crime. (TV-14)

Vendetta (1999) Based on a true tale of power, corruption, discrimination, and murder, Christopher Walken stars in the story of what was known as the New Orleans Mafia Trial of 1891, resulting in the largest lynching in American history. (R)

Boys Don't Cry (1999) The film is a dramatization of the real-life story of Brandon Teena, a transgender man (Hilary Swank), who pursues a relationship with a young woman. Teena is beaten, raped and murdered by his male acquaintances after they discover he is biologically female. The picture explores the themes of freedom, courage, identity and empowerment. (R)

Men of Honor (2006) is based on a true story. In February of 1948, the United States Armed Forces were segregated. The narrative depicts the life of Carl Brashear, an African-American from Kentucky who begins his Naval career under the conditions of and harsh realities of racial prejudice. President Truman soon issued an Executive Order requiring American military forces to integrate. Not long after, Carl Brashear set a goal for himself: to become the Navy's first African-American master diver. (R)

Get Real (1998) A coming of age story of a young man in a British prep school as he struggles with his sexual identity. The film illustrates some of the major issues related to homophobic attitudes in society today. (R)

Babel (2006) is an international dramatic film directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu. The multi-narrative drama completes Iñárritu's *Death Trilogy*. The film portrays multiple stories taking place in Morocco, Japan, Mexico, and the United States. Separated by clashing cultures and sprawling distances, each of these four disparate groups of people are nevertheless hurtling towards a shared destiny of isolation and grief. (R)

The Terminal (2004) is an examination of space and identity through the situation of Viktor Navorski. Navorski finds himself without a home, trapped within the confines of the JFK airport upon the dissolution of his home

nation. Barred from entry to the U.S., and disallowed to return to his nation, his struggles with identity, home, and connection allow for an analysis of interculturalism. (PG-13)

La Misma Luna (Under the Same Moon) (2007) - Single mother Rosario leaves her young son Carlitos in the care of his grandmother and illegally crosses the border into the U.S. Though she hopes to eventually make a better life for herself and her son, she toils in a dead-end job as a cleaning lady in Los Angeles. When Carlitos' grandmother passes away some years later, the boy begins a difficult and dangerous journey to join her. (PG-13)

Stand and Deliver (1988) - Los Angeles high school teacher Jaime Escalante (Edward James Olmos) is being hassled by tough students like Angel Guzman (Lou Diamond Phillips). But Jaime is also pressured by his bosses, who want him to control his raucous classroom. Caught in the middle, he opts to immerse his students in higher math. After intensive study, his students ace California's calculus test, only to learn that their scores are being questioned. They'll have to retake the exam in order to quiet the critics. (PG)

Freedom Writers (2007) - A dedicated teacher (Hilary Swank) in a racially divided Los Angeles school has a class of at-risk teenagers deemed incapable of learning. Instead of giving up, she inspires her students to take an interest in their education and planning their future. She assigns reading material that relates to their lives and encourages them all to keep journals. (PG-13)

Danish Girl (2015) - A fictitious love story loosely inspired by the lives of Danish artists Lili Elbe and Gerda Wegener. Lili and Gerda's marriage and work evolve as they navigate Lili's groundbreaking journey as a transgender pioneer. (R)

Spanglish (2004) – John Clasky is a devoted dad whose skills as a chef have afforded his family a very upscale life, including a summer home in Malibu and a breathtaking new housekeeper, Flor. She and her daughter have recently emigrated to L.A. from Mexico and are trying to find a better life. When they move in with the Claskys for the summer, Flor has to fight for her daughter's soul as she discovers that life in a new country is perilous . . . especially when you're being embraced by an affluent, eccentric American family. (PG-13)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Valverde or Dr. Pernoon.

Sincerely,



Carlos Valverde, Ed. D.



Farhang Pernoon, PhD

I give permission for my son/daughter to view all films listed above.

Student Name _____

Parent Name

Signature

Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS DOCUMENT TO YOUR COUNSELOR or DROP IT OFF IN THE ICL BOX AT REGISTRATION. IT WILL NEED TO BE ON FILE TO BE ENROLLED FOR NEXT YEAR. THANK YOU.