

FYS 148-00
Fall 2003

First Year Seminar

Dr. Luba Iskold
Office: Ettinger 102-A

Time: T/R 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Strangers in Paradise

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Room: Ettinger 214

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Office Hours--M:10:30-11:30 a.m.

E-mail:

TR:3:00-4:30p.m.&

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by appointment

Course Description:

Who are the immigrants and why do they come? How are new ethnic communities formed? What is "the American dream"? What are the emotional consequences of adaptation and acculturation? What is identity, patriotism, land naturalization? In written assignments and class discussions, you will critically examine the immigration phenomenon. We will look at the new lives of immigrants in the U.S. from several perspectives: through post-WWII American fiction, selected multicultural readings and feature films, stimulating guest speakers, as well as field trips and collaborative class projects. Five hours of community service is required.

Course Objectives:

Through writing assignments, short topic presentations and daily class discussions you will learn to think and express yourself analytically. Our focus on immigration will lead you to a broad-based exploration of ethnic, cultural, religious, social, and political diversity, including our own campus community. You will learn to detect ethnic stereotypes and will discuss the immigration phenomenon in the U.S. Collaborative research projects and community service will prepare you for participation in public arguments and stimulate your interest in public affairs. Because the seminar is a writing intensive course, you will write an average of 1-3 pages per week. You will learn how to use **Blackboard** for online discussions of controversial issues.

Required Texts:

Lee Brandon. *Celebrating Diversity*. 1995. D.C. Heath and Company: Lexington, Massachusetts. ISBN 0-669-35081-8. Abbreviated **CD**.

Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*. Vintage Contemporaries: New York. ISBN 0-679-73477-5. Abbreviated **HMS**

Amy Tam, *The Joy Luck Club*. 1995. Ivy Books: New York. ISBN 0-8041-0630-4. Abbreviated **JLC**.

Additional readings will be handed out in class.

Recommended Text: Writing Analytically by Muhlenberg professors David Rosenwasser and Jill Stephen.

Grades:

Paper I/Revised Paper I	15%	Community Project	10%
Paper II	15%	Presentations (2)	10%
Essays	20%	<u>Daily writings & Diary</u>	<u>15%</u>
Class Participation	15%	Final Grade	100%

Academic Behavior Code: All work in this course will be performed and evaluated in accordance with Muhlenberg College's Academic Behavior Code (ABC) explained in the Student Handbook. Please pay close attention to the definition of "plagiarism." All work submitted for a grade in this course needs to have your signature attesting compliance with the ABC.

Attendance: It is not permitted to miss more than 2 classes this semester without an excuse from your physician or the Dean's Office. Because class participation is part of your final grade, missing more than this amount will result in the lowering of your grade. Conference attendance is mandatory.

Course components: Specific instructions and guidelines for each of the following will be provided in class.

Papers: Your two formal papers (**Paper I & II**) range in length from 3-5 pages and will be graded for content, structure and grammar. Paper I will require revision (see the Class Schedule). The original and revised version of Paper I will be averaged together for **15%** of your final grade. Paper II will account for 20% of your final grade and will not be revised.

Essays: Essays range from 1-3 pages each and will serve as preparation for formal papers. You will receive an instruction sheet for each essay with due dates clearly identified. You will be assigned informal grades for the Diagnostic Essay (0, --, √, +). All essay grades will be averaged together for **20%** of your final grade.

Daily Class Participation and Daily Writings: You are expected to have read, viewed, attended and/or written about materials and events assigned for each class as per the course schedule. Preparation for and constructive participation in class is crucial to the discussion and development of ideas throughout this course. **Quizzes** will be unannounced and will count towards your Daily participation; you may be asked to write a short paragraph on the day's reading assignment or film. Your grade for daily class participation represents **15%** of the final grade. You will also be given sample "Citizenship" quizzes. Although not graded, these will familiarize you with questions frequently asked on Naturalization exams. **Diary:** Your diary should be of a critical thinking/analytical nature and will count as part of your **Daily Writings**; both will count for **15%** of your grade.

Presentations: Throughout the course of the semester, you will be asked to prepare at least two presentations-- one in the beginning and the other, towards the end of the semester. You may be introducing the material assigned for that particular day, leading a class discussion, or preparing questions for class. The second presentation is part of your work on a collaborative final project. Presentations will account for **10%** of your work in this course.

Community Project: Your grade for community service projects represents **10%** of the final grade. You will work in groups and select from several project options (for example, you may assist with citizenship classes held on Saturday mornings from 9-12 at the Catholic Social Service agency, where immigrants from many different countries that attend need help both with ESL classes and filling out paperwork for the INS). You will receive detailed instructions for the projects. Transportation and supervision will be provided by the College.

Assignments: Please be sure to submit all assignments as scheduled. Late submissions will drop one letter grade per each day they are overdue. Written assignments should be typed and double spaced.

Films: During the semester, we will watch several films which will be presented on the dates listed below. You are expected to attend these showings and to take notes. If you are not able to attend, you must see the film **before the class discussion**. All films will be on reserve in the library during the week before the showing. Although you will not be allowed to take these films out of the library, you will be able to view them in the library during a four-hour period. on an individual basis.

We will watch together, discuss and write about the following movies:

September	<i>My American Girls.</i>
October	<i>My Family/Mi Familia, Coppola</i>
November	<i>My Big Fat Greek Wedding</i> <i>Moscow on the Hudson</i>

Writing Assistant: Nikolay Pandoursky '04 will serve as the Writing Assistant for this course. Nik will attend class daily and will participate in our class discussions. He is a trained Writing Center tutor who will assist you with your writing assignments for this seminar outside of class. You will be required to have a minimum of three conferences with him. Failure to do so will result in an automatic reduction of your final essay/paper grades for this seminar. You will also have three Conferences with me (see the schedule). Nik and I will work closely together to make this FYS an effective experience for you.

Learning Disabilities: If you wish to disclose to me any *documented* learning disability that you have, please do so. I will make accommodations as per recommendations of the Academic Support Services. The information will remain confidential.

Class Schedule:**August**

Theme:		Pivotal Moments in American Experience
Tuesday,	26	Introduction : Syllabus/course requirements Celebrating Diversity. Sandra Cisneros, <i>The House on Mango Street</i> (HMS).
Thursday,	28	<u>Writing: Special Paragraphs within an essay</u> . Writing a thesis . Diagnostic Essay is due. Start reading (HMS).

September

	Tuesday,	2	Using library resources. Class meets at Trexler Library. Find <i>A Brief Guide to Research Paper</i> in CD, 397-407.
	Thursday,	4	<u>Writing strategies: Division and classification</u> . CD, 210-217. Discussion: HMS, 1-31. Prepare a list of themes. Discuss: CD, 1-33.
	Tuesday,	9	Conference # 1 . Sign-up sheet, Ett.102-A. Read HMS 31-62
**	Wednesday		Movie: My Family/Mi Familia Trexler Library, Room B-2, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
	Thursday,	11	Guest speaker: Dr. Anna Adams, history. Discussion of the movie "My Family"-- the ties that bind..
	Tuesday,	16	Essay #1: bring to class. Documentary: <i>My American Girls</i> (in class).
	Thursday,	18	Discussion: beyond the generation gap. <i>My American Girls</i> . (compare & contrast with <i>My Family</i>). Writing strategies & techniques: Narration (properties of a narrative) Read CD, 34-61. Critical thinking & discussion. CD, 42, 55.
	Tuesday,	23	Read HMS 62-78. Discussion: psychological implications of acculturation. Focus: CD, 46. HMS, 76-78. Collaborative Learning: role-play, simulations. CD, 45, 97,
	Theme:		Home: Sweet and Sour
	Thursday,	25	Techniques of descriptive writing. Read CD, 63-95. Read HMS, 79-110. Critical thinking & discussion. CD, 72, 78, 82.
**	Friday,	26	Revised Essay # 1 (in my mailbox by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Sept.26).
	Tuesday,	30	Guest speaker: Dr. Erika Sutherland, LLC.

October

	Thursday,	2	Collaborative learning: group planning, library research. <u>Start reading JLC</u> . Fall Recess begins at the conclusion of classes on Friday, Oct.3. Classes resume on Wednesday, Oct.8.
	Theme:		Love, Sex, and Marriage.
	Thursday,	9	Writing strategies: Exemplification. CD, 98. Discuss/write in class and write a bout JLC, 90-93. Topics for final papers and presentations are due. Mid-Semester grades due on Friday, Oct. 10.
**	Tuesday,	14	Movie: My Fat Greek Wedding. Trexler Library, Room B-2, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
	Tuesday,	14	Discussion: <i>Feathers from a Thousand Li Away</i> . JLC, 3-33.
	Thursday,	16	Essay #2 (bring to class). Tell a story about love and/or marriage (student presentations). Choose from CD, Ch.4. E.g., <i>Marriage as a Restricted Club</i> , 127.
	Tuesday,	21	Conference #2 . Discuss Essay 2. Sign-up sheet, Ett.102-A
	Thursday,	23	Writing Strategies: Process Analysis. CD, 148. Discussion: Scar, The Red Candle. Read JLC, 34-82. Deadline for "W." Family weekend Oct. 24-26.
	Tuesday,	28	Revised Essay #2 (by 4 p.m. in my mailbox, Ett.104). Read JLC: <i>Half and Half</i> , 122-140. Also, from CD 98-104.
**	TBA		Swearing Ceremony for new citizens. City Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Theme:		Culture-- Blends & Clashes.
Thursday,	30	Writing strategies: Comparison and Contrast. CD, 253-262. Discussion: JLC , <i>Two Kinds</i> , <i>American Translation</i> , <i>Magpies</i> (241).
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November		
Tuesday,	4	Discussion: <i>Spanglish</i> (268-274); <i>Living in Two Worlds</i> (278-280); <i>Chinese Parents and American Parents</i> (290-292). Also, JLC: <i>Rules of the Game</i> 89-104.
Thursday,	6	Paper I (Ettinger 104, my mailbox by 4:00 p.m.).
Theme:		Types and Stereotypes
Tuesday,	11	<u>Writing strategies: Definition.</u> CD, 293-298. Critical thinking and Discussion: JLC, 274-306. CD, 293-337. Focus: <i>The Myth of the Latin Woman: I Just Met a Girl Named Maria</i> ; <i>The Media's Image of the Arab</i> ; <i>What's Behind the "Asian Mask"?</i> (310-324).
Thursday,	13	Writing Strategies: Persuasion. CD, 339-344. Critical thinking and discussion: rediscovering the "roots." Read JLC: <i>A Pair of Tickets</i> , 306-336.
Tuesday,	18	Collaborative learning: peer reviews of paper I.
** Wednesday	19	Revised Paper 1 (Ettinger 104, my mailbox by 4:00 p.m.).
Theme:		America: What is it? What should it be?
Thursday,	20	Conference # III. Sign-up sheet, Ett.102-A. We will discuss final paper and presentations.
Thursday,	20	Movie: <i>Moscow on the Hudson</i>
Tuesday,	25	Other Ethnic Cultures. Read two Essays by Joseph Brodsky (handout). Select a piece from CD (find ideas on XXIV). Also, read in CD 377-379. <i>Melting Pot</i> ; <i>Dump the Melting Pot</i> ; <i>From the Melting pot to the Gene-Mixing Bowl</i> . Thanksgiving Recess begins Thursday, Nov. 26 till Monday, December 10.
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December		
Tuesday,	2	Student Group Presentations (evaluation sheets will be handed out in class).
Thursday	4	Student Group Presentations
** Friday	5	Performance Day. Unfinished business and presentations.
Final Paper	9	Ettinger 104, my mailbox by noon.
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Study days	Dec. 6 & 7	
Final Exams	Dec. 8-12	
Final grades due	Dec. 15	

Study days Dec. 6 & 7
 Final Exams Dec. 8-12
 Final grades due Dec. 15

Note: ** These events do not occur during regular class times: (follow instructions)

Texts on Reserve in the Trexler Library:

Briggs, Vernon M., Jr. *Mass immigration and the national interest.*

Dublin, Thomas. *Immigrant voices. New lives in America.*

Chavez, Leo R. *Covering Immigration.*

Daniels, Roger. *Coming to America. A history of immigration and ethnicity in American life.*

Daniels, Roger. *Debating American immigration, 1882-present.*

King, Desmond. *Making Americans.*

Portes, Alejandro and Ruben G. Rumbaut. *Immigrant America: a portrait.*

Salins, Peter D. *Assimilation American style.*

Simon, Julian L. *The economic consequences of immigration.*

Films

My American Girls: Dominican Story (52 min.)

Producer/director/camera/editor, **Aaron Matthews**; story, **Jennifer Mittelstadt**

Summary: Dominicans are New York's largest and fastest growing immigrant group. This film chronicles the lives of immigrants from the Dominican Republic to New York City through one family with three daughters. Each daughter is traveling down a different road as their mother, Sandra, struggles to do right by each of them. They grapple with being a bicultural family while negotiating the hurdles of their adopted city.

My Family (120 min). Producer **Francis Ford Coppola presents** A powerful, three-generation epic saga of the Sanchez family as told by the eldest son. From the very beginnings of his father's adventurous journey from Mexico to California in the 1920s, to his brother Chucho's tragic rebellion of the 1950s, to the stark realities of modern day, the struggle to live the American dream is sometimes darkened but never diminished. Rated R.

Moscow on the Hudson (117 min).Circus saxophonist Vladimir Ivanoff suddenly defects from his touring troupe in that temple of "Western decadence" -- Bloomingdale's. Fleeing the K.G.B., Vladimir wins asylum and moves into the crowded Harlem flat of Black security guard Lionel Witherspoon. Though Vladimir learns that life in America can be cold and even painful, he grows to love this strange and wondrous new land. Cast: Robin Williams, Alejandro Rey, Maria Conchita Alonso, Cleavant Derricks. Portions in Russian with English soundtrack with optional subtitles in English

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (will be detailed in class).

The Center for Ethics: Sustainable Communities

As part of the group research project for this course, you will be asked to identify and examine selected works of immigrant authors from a variety of ethnic backgrounds in post-WWII American literature who pursue sustainability through their writings.

Please attend The Center for Ethics programming on Sustainable Communities. For complete schedule of events visit the Center's web site at <http://www.muhsenberg.edu/cultural/ethics/sustain.html>.

(continued)

The concept of sustainability has emerged in many different disciplines as a way to discuss consumption and production from a perspective broad enough to include respect for cultural values, natural resources and humane practices. The Center for Ethics invites critical reflection on the strengths and limits of sustainability through its Fall 2003 programming, Sustainable Communities: Balancing Economy, Ecology and Justice.

What Is Sustainability: A Community Roundtable Discussion

Wednesday, 3 September • 7:00pm - 9:00pm • Miller Forum, Moyer Hall

What is Sustainability? A Community Roundtable Discussion" At 7:00 p.m., Muhlenberg faculty introduce the concept of sustainability from various disciplines: Biology (Rich Niesenbaum), Economics (Art Raymond), History (Dan Wilson), Philosophy (Chris Sistare), and Sociology (Tammy Lewis). Brief presentations will be followed by discussion including the audience. At 8:00 a reception will follow.

Gary Snyder: Poetry Reading

Monday, September 8 • 7:00pm - 8:30pm • Miller Forum, Moyer Hall

Recipient of many awards for poetry and nature writing, Gary Snyder is one of the most eloquent and reflective American poets to speak about the human place in the natural world. Known for his work on bioregions and watersheds that is both inspiring and compelling, Snyder calls upon humans to be loving and responsible stewards of the land and members of a vibrant and harmonious human-land community. This event is co-sponsored by the Living Writers program. Reception follows.

The Sustainable Campus: "Town Meeting"

Wednesday, September 24 • 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

How have college campuses implemented practices that use renewable resources, save energy, and build on local economies? What "green" practices are currently being used at Muhlenberg? What practices could be tried? What are the challenges to implementing such practices? Join in a town meeting led by College administration, students, and faculty.