SYLLABUS
ENGLISH 157W, Readings in Global Literatures
Spring 2024

Instructor: Tracy Riley
Email: triley@qc.cuny.edu
tracysriley@gmail.com
Office: Klapper 533
Office Hours: Via Zoom, Tuesdays 11:20am-12:20pm and 3-4pm; sign up at https://calendar.app.google/NZ8Qrwe26U3kzAdP9

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- *The Death of Vivek Oji,* by Akwaeke Emezi, Riverhead Books, 2020
- *A Man of Two Faces,* by Viet Thanh Nguyen, Grove Press, 2023
- ***https://qc.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/4201034/***
- Students must have paper copies of these books to bring to class meetings. Digital copies are not acceptable for in-class activities.
- Additional readings will be provided by the instructor or they will be available through the College Library.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A methods course in the discipline of English. Students learn how to engage in scholarly conversations about literature: by using close reading of primary and secondary sources; conducting original research; and developing analytical arguments about literary texts in different genres.

This course is a Writing Intensive (W) course and fulfills one Writing Intensive requirement. W classes include a significant portion of time devoted to writing instruction. This may include things such as revision workshops, discussions of rhetorical strategies, or reflective writing about writing assignments.

This is a general education course that satisfies the Literature requirement (LIT) for the Queens College Core under the CUNY General Education structure called Pathways.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To enhance communication skills through engaged participation in and leadership of class discussions
- To enhance critical thinking and reading skills through careful reading and class interaction
- To deploy critical terms effectively

- To analyze and/or deploy various modes or genres of writing, including exposition, narrative, verse, dialogue, and drama
- To critically explore, analyze, and articulate concepts of place across multiple disciplines (literature, history, sociology, philosophy)

COURSE POLICIES

- Some of the material covered in this course will be difficult or uncomfortable. Students are expected to understand the concepts and how they are applied before accepting or rejecting them. Using the concepts while accomplishing the activities in this course does not constitute an endorsement. Approach readings and ideas with an open mind and a lively curiosity.
- Class discussion is an integral part of this course. Students are expected to be courteous and thoughtful.
- All work must be completed by the due date. I reserve the right to refuse or penalize late work. If a student finds that they cannot meet a deadline, they must email the instructor to request an extension.
- When sending an email or message, please use appropriate etiquette. Begin your email with a greeting (Dear Professor Riley) and end with a salutation (Best regards, <Your Name>). Be sure to include the name of the course, in order to eliminate confusion. If you send to my gmail address, please mention Queens College as well.
- All hard copy essays must be typed and double-spaced in 12-point Arial or Helvetica black font with one-inch margins all around.
- All essays must be in MLA format.
- Minimum page or word count requirements are **mandatory**. Essays that do not meet the minimum will not be accepted.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Special Services Office, Kiely 171; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to Queens students contact: Pratik Patel, Special Services Office; 171 Kiely Hall; 718-997-5870 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); e-mail address: pratik_patel@qc.edu. Website: https://www.qc.cuny.edu/sp/

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

“Academic dishonesty is one of the most serious offenses in the academic community. Acts of dishonesty include - but are not limited to - plagiarism and/or cheating on examinations and papers, sabotage of research materials, the purchase or sale of academic papers, and the falsification of records.”

Intentional cheating/plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

Note: Use of an online paraphrasing tool to re-word the writing of another person is also plagiarism and cheating.

RESOURCES
Queens College Writing Center
https://sites.google.com/qc.cuny.edu/qcwritingcenter/home

Queens College Library
https://library.qc.cuny.edu

GRADING (Weighting percentages are approximate and subject to change based on the needs of the class.)

Modern/Postmodern Essay	15%
Nguyen Essay	30%
Emezi Essay	30%
Participation	25%

Note One: All formal essays must be completed in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Note Two: If I get the impression that a large percentage of the class has not read the novels, I may add a final exam in order to test for reading and comprehension. If this becomes necessary, I will adjust the percentage weights accordingly.

ESSAYS
For this course, you will complete three essays, including a research essay. Specific instructions for the essays will be given during the semester.

Modern/Postmodern Paper
Based on class lecture, readings, and visual arts, this paper will articulate the development of modernism and postmodernism on the global stage. (1400-1600 words)

Paper in the Style of Nguyen's A Man of Two Faces
Choose a theme from the novel and write an essay using the same formal elements as Nguyen's memoir: Shifting perspective (I/you/they); shifting layout (left, right, and center-justified); allusions and quotations (unobtrusively cited in endnotes); font changes. (1600-2000 words)

Emezi Essay
Research and read ALL of the secondary critical work (reviews and scholarly articles) on Emezi's *The Death of Vivek Oji* which are available through the

Queens College Library. Write a paper summarizing and analyzing the critical reception of this novel. (1600-2000 words)

Drafts must be submitted on the due date in order to receive full credit. Drafts submitted late but within 24 hours will receive a 5% deduction. Drafts submitted more than 24 hours late, but within one week will receive a 10% deduction. Drafts submitted more than one week late will receive no credit, but are nevertheless required in order to receive a passing grade for the course (regardless of points earned).

PARTICIPATION

We will engage in informal writing and analysis, in and out of the classroom, throughout the semester. Students begin to participate by reading the assigned texts at least once before the assigned date and making notes of questions and comments for class discussion. Actively listening, speaking during group discussions, asking questions, engaging with the comments of classmates, and bringing up points which you find interesting or difficult are all forms of participation which help generate a lively space for practicing our reading and writing skills.

I will often use informal writing prompts in class to determine whether students have completed the reading and are prepared to discuss. Unprepared responses on in-class writing will negatively affect the participation grade.

I may also assign study questions for completion before class as part of the participation grade.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(Readings and assignments dates are subject to change. Our updated schedule with links to readings can be found here [link will be added soon].)

1/31 (Wed)

- Introduction to Course

2/7 (Wed)

- Intro to Modernism and Surrealism

2/14 (WED)

- Intro to Postmodernism

2/21 (Wed)

- **Modern to Postmodern Paper Due**

2/28 (Wed)

- **No Class – Monday Schedule**

3/6 (Wed)

- Nguyen, *A Man of Two Faces,* pp. 1-96

3/13 (Wed)

- Nguyen, pp. 97-202

3/20 (Wed)

- Nguyen, pp. 203-280

3/27 (Wed)

- Nguyen, pp.281-362

4/3 (Wed)

- **Nguyen Paper Due**

4/10 (Wed)

- Akwaeke Emezi, *The Death of Vivek Oji,* pp. 1-49

4/17 (Wed)

- Emezi, pp. 50-109

SPRING BREAK 4/22-4/30

5/1 (Wed)

- Emezi, pp. 110-159

5/8 (Wed)

- Emezi, pp. 160-248

5/15 (Wed)

- **Emezi Paper Due**