BOOKS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE:


AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:487:01: SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES: MEMOIR AND MEMORY


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**
The design of this course has been assisted by advice from Ann Fabian of the History Department at Rutgers and from my colleagues in American Studies: Louise Barnett and Andrew Urban.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**
Memoir and Memory examines classic and modern American memoirs in order to understand how these memoirs sought to interpret their subjects’ lives both as they had been lived and as their subjects would like to have them understood retrospectively.

**LEARNING GOALS:**
Departmental learning goals:
• Students will be able to describe the methods of American Studies and synthesize the debates that have shaped the field.
• Students will learn to investigate American culture and society across time and space by examining history, politics, literature, and the arts.
• This course will contribute to the department’s long-term goal that students learn to articulate ideas in well-organized oral presentations and clearly written prose.
Assignments are designed to help students learn to think critically, analytically, and creatively.

Additional learning goals met by this course:
Students will learn:
• to examine memoirs as primary sources and to situate them historically in their cultural, social, and political context
• to understand and apply a critical vocabulary in memoir and memory studies to a whole series of texts: historical, literary, film, and other cultural artifacts
• to do in-depth research on a topic related to memoir and memory in American cultures
• to identify central concerns about memoir and memory in primary source documents and write thoughtful response papers, responding critically to the primary text’s central concerns or question

ABSENCES:
Regular class attendance is required by Rutgers and is essential to this class. You will be allowed one unexcused absence without grade penalty. The consequences of unexcused absences are as follows:

1 unexcused absence  = No penalty
2 unexcused absences = 20% grade penalty = final grade no higher than a B
3 unexcused absences = 30% grade penalty = final grade no higher than a C
4 unexcused absences = failure in the course

Excused absences are those that result from documentable family emergencies, illness, religious observance, court dates, jury service, etc., that is, situations over which you have no individual control. Please inform me as soon as possible if you are unable to attend class on a regular basis.

ABSENCE AND LATENESS POLICY
Students are expected to arrive at class promptly and to attend the entire class.

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes for reasons such as jury duty, illness, family funeral, etc., please use the University absence reporting website //https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra// to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS:
All special accommodation requests must be brought to my attention during the first two weeks of class. Full disability policies and procedures are available for review at: http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/.
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at [http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html](http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html).

CURRENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml). Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

**Honor Pledge:** I pledge on my honor that I will adhere to all aspects of the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy.


Consult Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don’t plagiarize by accident: [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib_instruct/instruct_document.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib_instruct/instruct_document.shtml)


**NO CELL PHONES OR COMPUTERS ARE PERMITTED IN THIS SEMINAR EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF STUDENTS WITH CLASSIFIED DISABILITIES THAT REQUIRE SUCH USE.**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Class participation. This is a seminar. Its success depends on your active and informed participation in our weekly discussions. Therefore, attendance is required at ALL class meetings, and class participation constitutes an essential part of the final grade. (15% of final grade)

Each student will be the primary moderator of one class and the assistant moderator of another. (15% of final grade)
AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:487:01: SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES:
MEMOIR AND MEMORY

October 14th: Last date to consult on term paper topics.
October 21st: First 3-4 page critical paper due.
October 28th: Preliminary bibliography due. E-mail to me at fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu.
November 4th: Second 3-4 page critical paper due.
November 25th: Thesis statement due. E-mail to me at fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu.
December 9th: 12-15 page term paper due on topic to be decided in consultation with instructor. Please supply stamped self-addressed large (e.g. 9” x 13”) manila envelope for return of paper.

AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/AmericanStudiesAtRutgersNewBrunswick
TWITTER: @RUAmerStudies
SITE: http://amerstudies.rutgers.edu/

OFFICE HOURS:

Office: Ruth Adams Building 024C Office hours: Monday: 3:30-5:00 P.M.
Office telephone: (848) 932-8650 Tuesday: 3:45-5:15 P.M.
and by appointment
E-mail: fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu

GRADING COMPONENTS:

Moderation..................15%
Class participation.........15%
First short critique........15%
Second short critique.....15%
Term paper...................40%
AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:487:01: SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES: MEMOIR AND MEMORY

FILM SHOWINGS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FILM</th>
<th>SHOW DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family Gathering (1988, 30 minutes)</td>
<td>September 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harlan County, USA (1976, 103 minutes)</td>
<td>September 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Day O’Connor: Biography (2004, 60 minutes)</td>
<td>September 30th</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Stories of Maxine Hong Kingston (1994, 60 minutes)</td>
<td>November 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Child is Born a Poet: The Life and Work of Piri Thomas (2003, 59 minutes)</td>
<td>November 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daughters of Dykes (1994, 14 minutes)</td>
<td>December 9th</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS: All readings on reserve at Mabel Smith Douglass Reserve Desk and articles available on electronic reserve.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Week of:</th>
<th>Readings and Films: (*on reserve)</th>
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<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>September 9th</td>
<td>No readings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>September 16th</td>
<td>Family Gathering (1988, 30 minutes) SHOWN IN CLASS</td>
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No.  Week of:  Readings and Films: (*on reserve)

Region:

EXCERPTS FROM *HARLAN COUNTY, USA* (1976, 103 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS


*SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR: BIOGRAPHY* (2004, 60 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS

Poverty, Class, and Addiction:


**AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:487:01: SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES: MEMOIR AND MEMORY**

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<th>No.</th>
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<th>Readings and Films: (on reserve)</th>
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**Immigration and Ethnicity:**

|-----|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

*EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET: THE LIFE AND WORK OF PIRI THOMAS* (2003, 59 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS
No. | Week of: | Readings and Films: (*on reserve)
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E-mail thesis statement to me at fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu.

Sexuality:


**DAUGHTERS OF DYKES (1994, 14 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS**

-- continued on page 10
AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:487:01: SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES: MEMOIR AND MEMORY

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Week of:</th>
<th>Readings and Films: (*on reserve)</th>
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<td>XIV</td>
<td>December 9th (continued)</td>
<td>TERM PAPER DUE: (12-15 pages). <strong>Paper actually must use and document in footnotes or endnotes THREE of the sources provided by the instructor at meeting at which term paper topic is approved.</strong> Please e-mail your paper to me at <a href="mailto:fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu">fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu</a> and supply stamped self-addressed large (e.g. 9” x 13”) manila envelope for return of paper, which must be submitted in hard copy at the December 9th class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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