



Special Topics in Literature: The Immigrant Experience Syllabus

ENGL 330 Special Topics in Literature Spring 2025

Instructor	Kaia L. Simon, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
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Course Meeting Days and Time	9:30 - 10:45 am, Tuesday & Thursday
Required Experiential Learning Dates	None
Office Hours	By appointment

Catalog Description:

Students will read and analyze a variety of literary texts that reflect the immigrant experience from various aspects of immigration: refugees, economic migrants, education-related migration, and highly-skilled migrants.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Standard lecture:

"This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit." (Def 1)

Course Learning Objectives:

Students will develop nuanced understanding of the global phenomenon of international migration through literary texts from multiple genres.

Students will develop literary analysis skills in writing and orally.

Students will experience multiple perspectives on global migration through diverse voices.

Students will plan, propose, and complete an independent project that engages with their own interests in English studies and in the course theme.

Methods of Instructions:

This course will be largely discussion-based. You can expect to read texts in advance of each class and arrive well-prepared to lead yourselves in student-centered discussions about the assigned reading(s). You will be actively involved in class sessions. Some independent initiative will be expected as you will develop and complete a final project that relates to your interests in the theme or in English studies more broadly.

HARLAXTON



Textbooks and Required Reading:

To purchase: (paperback, Kindle, or e-book versions of these are all fine)

Brooklyn by Colm Tóibín (ISBN 978-1439148952)

The Late Homecomer by Kao Kalia Yang (ISBN 978-1566894786)

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang (ISBN 978-1250811899)

Additional readings will be supplied by PDF.

Course Schedule:

A detailed calendar with specific reading assignments, other homework, and writing exercises will be distributed on the first day of class in January 2025. Reading assignments will be organized according to the perspectives on migration as organized below. Preparation and Discussion assignments will be due throughout the semester.

Week One: Global Migration History and Context: *Oxford UP Very Short Introduction to International Migration*

Weeks Two-Six: Aspirational economic and educational push-pull factors in migration: *Brooklyn*; short stories; poetry; Unit Essay due during week 6.

Weeks Seven-Nine: Refugee experiences: *The Late Homecomer*; short stories; poetry; Unit Essay due during week 9

Weeks Ten-Twelve: Colonial and postcolonial migration: short stories; poetry; Final Project Proposal and Plan due; Unit Essay due during week 12

Weeks Thirteen-Fourteen: Second generation migrant perspectives: *American Born Chinese*; "With Great Power Comes Great Pronounceability" podcast; short stories; poetry; Project Working draft due during week 14

Week Fifteen: Final project presentations and due date.

Grading Criteria:

I will use these percentages to calculate final grades. I round up to the nearest whole number (i.e., 92.5 rounds up to 93% and 92.2 remains 92%).

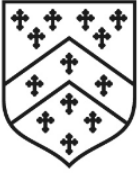
	B+ = 86-89%	C+ = 76-79%	D+ = 66-69%		
A = 93% or higher	B = 83-85%	C = 73-75%	D = 63-65%	F = 59% or below	
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	D- = 60-62%		

Types of Assignments

Preparation (15% of course grade) will be assigned for each reading assignment. You will write a brief summary of the reading and prepare two ideas, topics, questions, or other prompt to inspire discussion. These will be graded as complete/incomplete and they cannot be submitted or graded on days you have an unexcused absence.

Discussion Presence and Participation (15% of course grade) will be expected for each discussion you attend. Participation will be noted as speaking, listening, asking questions, or otherwise contributing to the conversation. Presence will be noted as, well, your physical and mental presence. It should go without saying that scrolling (online or on your phone), working on other homework, sleeping, or other obvious evidence of distraction will result in a deduction of this grade, especially if it becomes habitual and regular. You cannot make up points in this category on days you have an unexcused absence.

Unit Essays (three total for 50% of course grade) will ask you to draw connections across multiple texts and make a claim that relates to the focus on migration for the unit. We will dedicate class time to idea generation and peer review of these essays.



They will be 1250-1500 words in length, will use evidence from multiple texts to support the claim, and be written with attention to good style and editing. Essays will earn a letter grade based on evaluation criteria distributed with each prompt.

Final Project (20% of course grade) will allow you to take initiative in developing a project related to our course theme that meets your interests. You might choose to read additional texts and explain how they relate to the theme and why they should be assigned in future iterations of the course; you might choose to write a creative response to any of the texts assigned; you might investigate how one or more text from this class has been adapted into different media and describe how the affordances of the different media affect representations of immigration...These are just some ideas to get you thinking. You will submit a Final Project Proposal and Plan during week Twelve for approval. You will present your final projects to each other during the last week of class and they will be due on the last day of class.

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty.

This class meets twice a week. Students are allowed two unexcused absences without incurring a penalty. For the third and each subsequent absence, there will be a third-letter grade deduction applied to the final grade at the end of the semester. In other words, five total unexcused absences will result in a deduction of one full letter grade.

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).



- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261

Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lselect@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk