

TCTC Dual Credit English

American Literature & Diversity (Youngstown State University)

Instructor: Allyson Russell (B119)

Office Hours: M-F 10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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This classroom is an iClass: iPads for critical thinking, leadership, active learning, student-centered space

Course Goals

- This course is designed to introduce you to some of the diverse forms and voices in American literature. The course texts represent works from three literary genres: Cisneros and Alexie—short stories; Mosley, Tan, Kingsolver—the novel; Wilson—drama. The aim of this course is to help us see that American literature represents American culture in all of its diverse forms, including class, race, and ethnicity. An equally important goal is to have fun with our readings, to allow ourselves to enjoy reading (per YSU syllabus).

Required Reading

- *Ten Little Indians* by Sherman Alexie
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Devil in a Blue Dress* by Walter Mosley
- *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
- *Fences* by August Wilson
- *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver

Course Methods

- Because class discussion will make up a large part of the learning experience, it is expected that you will have read the assigned readings (according to the syllabus) prior to each class period.
- Regularly, there will be journals, short response essays, or quizzes that reflect upon the readings.
- Small groups will occasionally prepare and present a portion of a class session.
- Periodically, individual students will conduct presentations.
- Students will utilize a course website (Moodle) to engage in online assignments such as forums and group feedback.

- Two shorter papers (1000 words each), and one longer final paper will serve as the indicators of student growth and critical thinking.
- The TCTC Senior Project will be completed in the fall as an independent assignment from the YSU course requirements.

Note

- This course is a college course. This means that homework, mostly in the form of reading, is an everyday expectation. Make sure that your work and family obligations allow for this kind of commitment.

Classroom Rules

In addition to TCTC student rules, I have three simple rules that pretty much cover all aspects of student behavior within the boundaries of my classroom:

1. Be prompt.
2. Be prepared.
3. Be polite.

This is a college-level class; however, because the class is held within a high school, you are responsible for following the TCTC code of conduct.

Assignment Assessment Description

'A' work is an excellent assignment with very few errors that meets and goes beyond all of the requirements. It is evident to all that serious time and effort was spent to show understanding of a skill or lesson.

'B' work is a great assignment with a few errors that show some lack of effort. A few requirements of the assignment are not fully met; however it is evident that you understand a skill or lesson.

'C' work is an average assignment. Errors are significant and show a mediocre level of effort. Several requirements of the assignment are not met and you do not show complete evidence of understanding a skill or lesson.

'D' work is a poor assignment. It has many errors that show a great lack of effort. Most elements of the assignment are not met and you show minimal evidence of understanding a skill or lesson.

'F' work is incomplete with chronic errors or not attempted at all. There is no evidence of understanding a skill or lesson.

Grading Scale: 92-100(A), 83-91(B), 74-82(C), 66-73(D), 0-65(F)*

*Grading scale may be altered to reflect YSU specifications.

Materials for Class

Because this classroom is an iClass (a classroom that utilizes iPads), there are few materials requirements.

1. **Headphones**—please bring your own set each and every day.
2. **A touchscreen/iPad stylus pen**—you must have one to use the iPads (school policy). Available at Walmart, Target, Best Buy, and Amazon.com.
3. **Pencil/Pen and Paper**
4. **Book we are currently reading in class** (or other materials as needed)

Mrs. Russell's Moodle Website

You will be required to sign on to my Moodle site, which will be an integral factor in our classroom. Class handouts, presentations, assignments, and other information can be found on the website. If you are absent, the website will enable you to obtain your work and assignments from home. You will receive a separate hand out on how to log on.

The iPad Classroom

The focus of the iPad program at TCTC is to provide the tools and resources that will enhance classroom practice and school-wide implementation of 21st century learning through technological innovation. This initiative involves the use of the iPad. This project will initiate an intensive study of technology and student learning through tablet technology, providing research and feedback for future initiatives. This device will be used for classroom activities, producing differentiation of instruction and learning and providing students with an active, digital environment in which to connect with their work. Student Use of the iPad in school falls under the guidelines of TCTC's *Acceptable Use Policy*. All Internet access is monitored through our schools content filtering software and all rules and expectations are applied to the use of the iPad. *Please see the TCTC iPad Agreement for more information.*