4592 Special Topics in Women and Literature

Instructor: Professor Wendy S. Hesford
Spring 2013, TR 12:45-2:05, Arps 388
Office Hours TR 11:00-12:30 and by appointment, Denney 518

Labored Realisms: Modern Slavery, Migration, and Human Trafficking

In this course, we will explore representations of laboring bodies as they are depicted across realist genres (autobiography, journalism, documentary film, and legal discourse) and young adult literature. We will consider changing definitions of work, family, motherhood, the private and public, and the global exchange of care, sex, and love. We will also consider topical debates such as those over US immigration law and birthright citizenship, contradictions between representations of laboring immigrant women and dominant narratives of citizenship, and the economic and political factors that contribute to the need for migrant labor. We will also explore modern forms of slavery, debt-bondage, forced migration, and human trafficking, with particular attention to the figure of the girl child.

Required Texts (available at OSU Barnes and Noble)

Overview of Course Requirements
Assignment #1: Rhetorical Criticism (4-5 pages) 30%
Assignment #2: Visualization Project & Artist Statement 30%
Assignment #3: Rhetorical Criticism (4-5 pages) or In the News Media Project 30%
Participation: Class contributions, homework assignments, attendance, etc. 10%

Participation-- 10% (includes Worksheets & Carmen Posts/Peer Responses)
Good participation means coming to class on time having read the material assigned for the day, active listening, being prepared to contribute your views on the assigned reading, showing a positive attitude, collaborating appropriately in group presentations, and showing respect to your classmates and to me. Students should not text or email during class time, as doing so will result in point deductions for participation. Should there be any reason that hinders your ability to participate, please speak with me and we will work together to resolve the situation.

Course Policies Attendance is important to the success of this class. Therefore, each unexcused absence after two will result in the lowering of your final grade by a third of a grade. Excused absences, such as those for documented illness, family tragedy, religious observance, or travel for inter-collegiate athletics, will not affect your grade. Excused absences require official documentation. Five unexcused absences will automatically result in failure for the course.

Tardiness is disruptive to the classroom environment, and prevents you from fully participating. Excessive tardiness will lower your participation grade.

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person. It is a serious academic offense that can result in referral to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and failure for the course. Please remember that at no point during the writing process should the work of others be presented as your own.

Student Work must be completed and submitted on time. All assignments should be posted on Carmen by the designated due time and day. Late submission of a final graded assignment will result in the deduction of one full letter grade for each day past the due date (for example, B+ to C+). The grade will not be affected when a draft or final graded assignment is late for reasons that would result in an excused absence. Students who know they will miss the class when the assignment is due must contact the instructor as soon as possible in advance of class to arrange for submission of the assignment.

Class Cancellation Policy: I will contact you via email and let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting.

Resources The OSU Writing Center is available to provide free, professional writing tutoring and consultation. You may set up an appointment by calling 688-4291 or by dropping by the center at 475 Mendenhall Laboratories. If you are interested in on-line writing advice, visit the OWL (On-Line Writing Lab) at www.cstw.osu.edu.

The Office for Disability Services located in 150 Pomerene Hall offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the ODS at 2-3307.
# Daily Schedule

## UNIT I  DOCUMENTING CHILD LABOR & CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

**1/8**  Introductions: “Slavery and What We Buy” (Anti-slavery Coalition)

**1/10**  History of Child Labor Laws
Mother Jones “The March of the Mill Children” excerpt (Carmen)

**1/15**  Lewis Hines, Photographer
Critical Frame #1 Patricia Pace “Staging Childhood” (Carmen)

**1/17**  Children and International Media
Critical Frame #2 Susan Moeller “A Hierarchy of Innocence: The Media’s Use of Children in the Telling of International News” (Carmen)

**1/22**  Political Children: Children’s Human Rights
Critical Frame #3 Jessica Kulynych “No Playing in the Public Sphere: Democratic Theory and the Exclusion of Children” (Carmen)
UNICEF “The Rights of the Child” photo-essays

**1/24**  Applications of Critical Frames to *Born into Brothels* (excerpts)

## UNIT II  LITERARY REALISM & LITERARY RADICALISM

**1/29**  Critical Frame #4 “Human Rights Markets and Born into Brothels”

**1/31**  The Gendered Worker: Women’s Short Fiction & Poetry of the 1930s
T. Olsen’s poem “I Want You Women up North to Know”
Meridel Le Sueur “Sequel to Love”
Boxcar Bertha “An Autobiography”

**2/5**  Meridel Le Seur “Women on the Breadlines” (Carmen)
Leane Zugsmith. “Room in the World.” (Carmen)
Dorthea Lange “Migrant Mother” photographs

**2/7**  More American Photographs (Wexner Exhibit)
Meet in Class for Orientation & Walk together to Wexner

**2/12**  Engendering Sweatshops in the US
*Sweatshop Warriors* (Introduction & Chapters 1-3 students will be assigned one of the case-study chapters)
2/14  **Sweatshop Warriors** (Chapters 5-6 and Conclusion)

2/19  **DRAFT OF A1 ESSAY #1 DUE** (308 & 316 Denney COMPUTER LAB)

2/21  Introduction to Visual Project, Assignment #2

2/25  **FINAL A1 DUE by 5pm to CARMEN DROPBOX**

2/26  Photoshop Workshop (for ½ class) (Hagarty Hall 186 COMPUTER LAB)

2/28  Photoshop Workshop (for ½ class) (Hagarty Hall 186 COMPUTER LAB)

3/4  **DRAFT OF A2 VISUAL PROJECT POSTED TO CARMEN DISCUSSION BOARD by 5pm**

**UNIT III**  **US IMMIGRATION, DEPORTATION, AND THE DREAMERS**

3/5  **Migrant Melodrama**  
Reading: *Enrique’s Journey*, Sonia Nazario (1-135)

3/7  Reading: *Enrique’s Journey*, Sonia Nazario (137-300)  
Students will be assigned a particular chapter to summarize for class

3/8  **REVISION OF A2 DUE FOR INSTRUCTOR AND PEER FEEDBACK**

**SPRING BREAK**  [HW: Finalize Visual Project & Read Alvarez *Return to Sender*]

3/17  **A2 FINAL DUE CARMEN DROPBOX by 5pm**

3/19  Julia Alvarez *Return to Sender* (entire book ready for today)

3/21  **Rhetorics of Immigration** (Metaphoric Analysis)  
Mothers against Illegal Aliens (anti-immigration stances)  
Alvarez *Return to Sender* (continued, if necessary)

3/26  **The Dream Act/Dreamers**  
DREAM Act Basic Info (Carmen)  
Obama Immigration Speech (Carmen)  
Benita Valiz DNC Speech (Carmen)  
Dream Activist Undocumented Students Action and Resource Center  
http://www.dreamactivist.org/
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>K. Bales “Disposable People: Contemporary Global Slavery” (Carmen) Kristoff PBS/Frontline Half the Sky</td>
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<td>4/2</td>
<td>Kristoff and WuDunn “Emancipating Twenty-First-Century Slaves” &amp; “Rescuing Girls is the Easy Part” from Half the Sky (Carmen) Anti-slavery coalition fact-sheets (Carmen)</td>
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<td>4/4</td>
<td>Patricia McCormick, Sold Obama Speech Sept. 25 2012 (on Human Trafficking)</td>
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<td>4/9</td>
<td>Harriet Ann Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of Slave Girl (first ½)</td>
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<td>4/11</td>
<td>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (second ½)</td>
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<td>4/16</td>
<td>Peer Workshop on Final Projects (Denney 308 &amp; 316 COMPUTER LAB) DRAFT OF A3 FINAL PROJECT DUE TO CARMEN DISCUSSION BOARD 11:00am</td>
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<td>4/18</td>
<td>LAST CLASS, Evaluations, Review, Party</td>
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**A3 FINAL PAPERS/PROJECTS DUE 4/23 by 5pm to DROPBOX on Carmen**