

## **POL 210: Girl Stories: Race, Politics, and Pedagogy**

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Students will encounter the accounts of girls and young women with an eye toward understanding how these stories are used as tools of politics and pedagogy. First, the course questions how girls' stories are primary documents useful for understanding the meanings of race, racial identity, and lived racial experiences when race is a marker of inequality. Second, the course investigates how girls' stories are used by young women as tools of political action and organizing while being attentive to how these stories can be used very differently by others. Finally, the class explores multiple examples of how girls' stories act as academic and public pedagogy. This course focuses primarily, although not exclusively, on the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries.

### **Course Objectives**

Students will critically engage a wide range of scholarly and literary texts addressing the lives of girls and young women living with marginal racial or ethnic identities or in marginal linguistic communities. Because many of these girls and young women endure additional vulnerabilities, reading these texts, help students understand and critically analyze how intersectional identities influence life experiences.

Students will become familiar with broad themes and approaches to social science, historical, literary, and education research about race, gender, ethnicity.

Students will develop skills of critical analysis and practical problem solving.

Students will be introduced to multiple, contested ideas for understanding race and gender.

### **Required Texts**

*Addy: American Girl* 3 Book Box Set

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi: The Classic Autobiography of Growing Up Poor and Black in the Rural South*

Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Jacqueline Woodson, *Brown Girl Dreaming*

*(R)evolution: The Girls Write Now 2016 Anthology*

Monique Morris. *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*.

Piyali Bhattacharya (editor) *Good Girls Marry Doctors: South Asian American Daughters on Obedience and Rebellion*

Yoshiko Uchida, *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family*

Amani Al-Khatahbeh, *Muslim Girl: A Coming of Age*

Esmeralda Santiago. *When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir*

\*Readings marked with \* are available on Sakai and in course reserve

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

### Week 1

January 11

#### Readings:

Read before class [Elle.com Marley Mag](#). Be prepared to discuss.

## REPRESENTATIONS OF HISTORICAL BLACK GIRLHOOD

### Week 2

January 18

#### Readings:

*Addy: American Girl* 3 Book Box Set

Anne Moody. *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 1 - Childhood

Watch together in class:

[An American Girl Story- Melody 1963](#)

### Week 3

January 25

#### Readings:

\*Nazera Sadiq Wright. Introduction and "Black Girlhood in early 20th Century Black Conduct Books" both from *Black Girlhood in the 19th Century*. University of Illinois Press 2016

\*Chatelain, Marcia. *South Side Girls: Growing Up in the Great Migration*. Duke University Press, 2015. Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 4

## PEDAGOGY AND POLITICS OF BLACK GIRL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

#### **Week 4**

February 1

#### **Readings:**

Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Jacqueline Woodson, *Brown Girl Dreaming*

#### **Week 5**

February 8

#### **Readings:**

\*Love, Bettina L. "Urban Storytelling: How Storyboarding, Moviemaking, and Hip-Hop-Based Education Can Promote Students' Critical Voice." *English Journal* 103.5 (2014)

\*Brown, Ruth Nicole. *Hear our truths: The creative potential of Black girlhood*. University of Illinois Press, 2013. Selections

\*Cox, Aimee Meredith. *Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship*. Duke University Press, 2015. Introduction and Chapter 3

#### **Week 6**

February 15

#### **Readings:**

*(R)evolution: The Girls Write Now 2016 Anthology*

In class:

Visit from [Authoring Action](#)

#### **Week 7**

February 22

#### **Readings:**

Monique Morris. *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*. The New Press. 2016.

## MEMORY AND REPRESENTATION IN ASIAN AMERICAN GIRLS' STORIES

### Week 8

March 1

#### Readings:

Yoshiko Uchida, *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family*

\*Janin Young Kim. "Are Asians Black?: The Asian American Civil Rights Agenda and the Contemporary Significance of the Paradigm." [\*Contemporary Asian America \(Third Edition\): A Multidisciplinary Reader\*](#), Edited by Min Zhou and Anthony C. Ocampo, NYU Press, 2016, pp. 333–357

### Week 10

March 22

#### Readings:

Piyali Bhattacharya (editor) *Good Girls Marry Doctors: South Asian American Daughters on Obedience and Rebellion (selections)*

\*DAVÉ, SHILPA. "Matchmakers and Cultural Compatibility: Arranged Marriage, South Asians, and Racial Narratives on American Television." [\*The Colorblind Screen: Television in Post-Racial America\*](#), Edited by Sarah Nilsen and Sarah E. Turner, NYU Press, 2014, pp. 261–284

### Week 11

March 29

#### Readings:

Amani Al-Khatahbeh, *Muslim Girl: A Coming of Age*

\*Maira, Sunaina. "'Good' and 'Bad' Muslim Citizens: Feminists, Terrorists, and U. S. Orientalisms." [\*Feminist Studies, vol. 35, no. 3, 2009, pp. 631–656.\*](#)

## The Politics of Telling Latina Stories

### Week 12

April 5

#### Readings:

Diane Guerrero. *In the Country We Love: My Family Divided*. (Selections)  
Helen Thorpe. *Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America*. (Selections)

### **Week 13**

April 12

#### **Readings:**

\*Carrillo, Juan F. and Esmeralda Rodriguez. "She doesn't even act Mexican: smartness trespassing in the new south." *Race Ethnicity and Education*(2016)

\*Cervantes-Soon, Claudia G. "Mujeres truchas: urban girls redefining smartness in a dystopic global south." *Race Ethnicity and Education* (2016): 1-14.

\*TESTIMONIANDO: A Latina/Chicana Critical Feminist Approach to Racism in College. Mariela Nuñez-Janes and Andrea Robledo. *Chicana/Latina Studies*. Vol. 9, No. 1 (Fall 2009), pp. 72-102

\*Battling for Human Rights and Social Justice: A Latina/o Critical Race Media Analysis of Latina/o Student Youth Activism in the Wake of 2006 Anti-Immigrant Sentiment.

\*Veronica Vélez, Lindsay Perez Huber, Corina Benavides Lopez, Ariana de la Luz and Daniel G. Solórzano *Social Justice* Vol. 35, No. 1 (111), *Citizenship Surveillance of La Gente: Citizenship Theory, Practice, and Cultural Citizen Voices* (2008), pp. 7-27

### **Week 14**

April 19

#### **Readings:**

Esmeralda Santiago. *When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir*

## CONCLUSION

### **Week 15**

April 26

#### **Watch Before Class:**

*Mississippi Damned*