

**ENGLISH 219: LITERATURE OF AMERICAN ETHNIC GROUPS**

Section: 0248

Room: NEA 205

Day/Time: T/Th 11:10-12:35 p.m.

Hello! I'm Professor Savard.  
Welcome to my class.  
Please come visit me at my  
office during student visit  
times listed below. Drop by  
for help or advice, or just to  
say hi.



**Office Location:** NEA 271  
**Meeting Times:** M-Th 2:15–  
3:30. If these times don't  
work for you please let me  
know. We can make a  
special appointment time.  
You can always email me at  
[savardh@lahc.edu](mailto:savardh@lahc.edu)

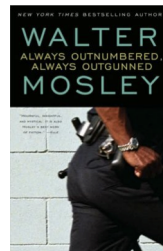
### Highly Recommended:

- A personal computer
- USB Flash drive
- Internet access
- An email account
- A good dictionary & thesaurus
- Common Sense & Responsibility

Our class support site is located at:  
[www.profsavard.weebly.com](http://www.profsavard.weebly.com)

This site has digital resources such as  
the class syllabus, essay assignments,  
rubric info, grammar help, learning aids,  
fun links, and more. If you are confused  
about something, or have lost an  
important class document, chances are it  
is archived here for your download.

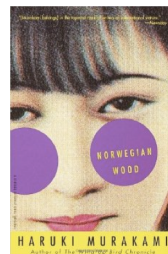
### Required Texts and Materials:



*Always Outnumbered,  
Always Outgunned*  
by Walter Mosley



*Desperados*  
by Rafael Joseph Zepeda



*Norwegian Wood*  
by Haruki Murakami



*The Interpreter of Maladies*  
by Jhumpa Lahiri

**Teaching Philosophy:**

*I believe that each student has the potential to succeed in my class. I support my students as individuals. I listen to my students and their needs. I try to develop a "mentor" relationship with my students, which means that I'm no better than you, but I just have more experience and expertise in English. I barely passed my freshman English 101 class. As the first one in my family to go to college, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. You probably don't either, but that's where I come in. If you are willing to work hard, try new strategies, be flexible, and commit to your goals you can be successful in this class and in college.*

**Course Description:** Welcome to English 219. Prerequisite: Completion of English 101 with a grade of "C" or better. Through various readings students will visit diverse cultures in order to grasp content and meaning of the work, to look beyond plot, infer what a given author's views are regarding people's actions, what motivates them, and how they deal with other human beings and with conflicts that confront them as it relates to ethnicity.

**Student Learning Outcomes (by the end of this course you will):**

1. Write analytical literary essays that are critical and documented
2. Describe the relationship between literature and the cultures that produce it
3. Identify the elements and techniques of fiction
4. Evaluate layers of meaning including psychological, historical, etc. in fiction
5. Discuss a broad range of issues relating to ethnic literature
6. Interpret literature using some historical aspects as it relates to cultural diversity

**How to be Successful in this Class:**

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory to pass this course. You must attend all classes and be on time. You are allowed two absences, no questions asked. After the second absence, your grade will drop by 1/2 a grade. Each subsequent absence will continue to affect your grade in this fashion. Tardies and leaving early will count for 1/2 of an absence. (If you know ahead of time that you will be late or absent on a specific day let me know; this may excuse your tardy or absence. Continued absences or tardiness--regardless of reasons--will adversely affect your grade.) **Please note that if your absences in "hours" exceed the number of hours the class meets per week, you may be dropped from the class. This class meets 3 hours per week.**

**Classroom Etiquette:**

Respect should be given to your peers and instructor at all times. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Arrive to class on time and stay the entire period. Turn off all cellular phones and sound-emitting electronics upon entering the classroom, unless otherwise given permission. No video or audio recording in class, unless special permission is given.

**Study Skills:**

Embrace questioning and inquiry, and realize you don't know everything, but you should. It's a tough world out there. Remember that you probably know a great deal already—try to access this

information at all times. Follow directions to the best of your ability. The amount of work you will do in this class, and many other college classes, is far more demanding than what you think it will be. Assume that you will need to read **everything** at least three times: once just to figure out what it is, twice to deal with the vocabulary and strangeness, thrice to start to identify some meaning and structure, and on... To this end you, you must annotate your readings. **Write in Your Books! Take Notes! Create Questions!** The road to success in this class and in life is asking the right questions. Make yourself into that annoying five-year old who constantly says, "But why?"

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### **How Your Grade is Calculated:**

**Participation:** Participation is calculated by your attendance in class, preparedness, and your support of the classroom environment. It is a vital component of this class, as most of our time will be spent discussing in class the readings and concepts related to them. We will meet collegially, as a small group, meaning that if you are unprepared, it will show. **BE PREPARED.** Participation is worth 100 points.

**Course Work:** All work is due at the **beginning** of class the day the assignment is listed on the class schedule. If you show up tardy on a day that an assignment is due, your grade for that assignment will be lowered one full grade; if you fail to turn in an assignment on its due date, your final grade will be marked down three full grades for each class day that it is late. This rule applies to **all** out of class work. There are **no** make-ups for reading quizzes or any other work done in class. I do not accept any work via email. Do us both a favor--read this paragraph again.

**Reading Journals:** For each day's assigned readings the following is due at the beginning of class, to be used in discussion during class. Handwrite responses to the following:

- Summarize each story or chapter assigned in **one** sentence. So if three chapters are assigned that means three sentences are needed—one for each chapter.
- Find **five** words within the reading that are unfamiliar vocabulary words and write a definition for each. Note that this definition should be in your own voice, but may use elements of any source you've used.
- Comment on **two** of the following:
- How the reading addresses the idea of ethnicity. What is particularly ethnic or culturally specific to the reading? Responses should be **at least three** sentences.
- How the reading addresses cultural dissonance, or the interaction of ethnicities with the "American" hegemony. Responses should be **at least three** sentences.
- How the reading uses **one** of the following: Character, Plot, Setting, Point-of-View, Symbol, Theme, Voice. Responses should be **at least three** sentences.

Each Reading Journal is worth 25 points and is due the day we discuss reading in class. There are 21 total Reading Journals, so you get to skip **one** journal at no penalty. If all 21 are turned in then the one with the lowest score counts as extra credit. Total for all Reading Journals is 500 points.

**Essays:** Students are required to write four out-of-class essays of varying lengths. Since we will concern ourselves not only with final products, but also with the writing process itself, you will be required to complete prewriting activities and write successive drafts of all out-of-class essays. Each essay is worth 100 points, all totaling 400 points. Further details when essays are assigned.

Essays are graded using a rubric. We will discuss and analyze this rubric in great detail throughout the semester. The elements of the rubric are:

- 1) Thesis, Process, and Response to Prompt
- 2) Content Development, Support, and Organization
- 3) Grammatical soundness (usage, sentence structure, punctuation, spelling, etc.).
- 4) Coherence, Diction, and Style
- 5) Critical, Evaluative, and Analytical Elements

**You must turn in all outside essays (4) in order to pass this course.**

**Total Class points are 1000 and a standard grading scale is used with 90% and up an A, 80-89% a B, 70-79% a C, 60-69% a D, and 59% and below an F.**

Additionally we will be using Turnitin.com to submit all out-of-class essays. Every essay must be submitted to Turnitin.com by the start of class on the date the essay is due and a final hard copy must be brought to class and turned in. **You must do both to turn in an essay properly for a grade.** Directions for registration are:

- 1) Go to <http://www.turnitin.com>
- 2) Click on “create an account” and then follow the hyperlink for “student.” (If you have previously used Turnitin, you can log in with your prior information.)
- 3) Enter class ID and password: Class ID: **9505863** Password: **write**
- 4) Continue with all registration prompts and find your class and section: **Eng 219 0248**

#### **Other Information:**

**Emergency Procedures:** If required to evacuate a classroom or building, students will proceed to a clear and safe area away from the building. Take all personal belongings with you.

**Academic Accommodations:** Students with verified disabilities requiring accommodations should make a specific request of the instructor in a timely manner, both at the beginning of the semester and at least one week prior to the verified and identified need.

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism occurs when you copy someone else’s words, work, or ideas and pretend that they are your own. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that carries with it heavy penalties. The bare minimum in terms of punishment for plagiarism is an ‘F’ in the class and a referral to the dean. Other penalties include academic probation and expulsion from Los Angeles Harbor College. Such things tend not to enhance one’s resume/application for either a job or college. For further information, refer to the Los Angeles Harbor College catalog. It is essential that you read and fully understand this statement.

**Syllabus Changes:** The professor reserves the right to make any changes to this syllabus as necessary. If any changes are made, the students will be notified promptly, and sufficient time will be given to adjust to the changes. This syllabus is a contract, and if you remain in this class, you are agreeing to abide by its rules and regulations. This applies to the instructor as well.

**Finally:** If you have a problem, question, or concern with anything on this syllabus or in this class, please come talk to me! I assure you that approaching me for help or clarification will prove beneficial. My office is in NEA 271, phone extension is 4241, email is savardh@lahc.edu.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics &amp; Reading Due (finish before class)</b>	<b>Homework Due or In-Class Assessment</b>	<b>Objectives &amp; Notes</b>
<b>Tue 2/10</b>	Syllabus, Introductions		
<b>Thu 2/12</b>	Defining Ethnicity	Bring your own definition of ethnicity	
<b>Tue 2/17</b>	Ethnicity & American Hegemony	Present one article on America & multiculturalism	
<b>Thu 2/19</b>	Sherman Alexie Poems	Reading Journal	
<b>Tue 2/24</b>	Mosley "Crimson" "Midnight" and "Thief"	Reading Journal	
<b>Thu 2/26</b>	Mosley "Double" "Equal" and "Marvane"	Reading Journal	<b>Assignment of Essay #1</b>
<b>Tue 3/3</b>	Mosley "Man" "Wanderer" and "Lessons"	Reading Journal	
<b>Thu 3/5</b>	Mosley "Letter" "History" and "Firebug"	Reading Journal	
<b>Tue 3/10</b>	Mosley "Black Dog" and "Last Rites"	Reading Journal	
<b>Thu 3/12</b>	<b>Essay #1 due</b>	Turn final draft in to Turnitin.com	<b>Assignment of Essay #2</b>
<b>Tue 3/17</b>	Zepeda chapters 1-9	Reading Journal	
<b>Thu 3/19</b>	Zepeda chapters 10-15	Reading Journal	
<b>Tue</b>	Zepeda chapters	Reading Journal	

3/24	16-20		
Thu 3/26	Zepeda chapters 20-29	Reading Journal	<b>Assignment of Essay #3</b>
Tue 3/31	<b>Cesar Chavez Holiday</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Thu 4/2	Zepeda Decompress		
Tue 4/6	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Thu 4/8	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Tue 4/14	<b>Essay #2 Due</b>		
Thu 4/16	Murakami Chapters 1-3	Reading Journal	
Tue 4/21	Murakami Chapters 4-5	Reading Journal	
Thu 4/23	Murakami Chapter 6	Reading Journal	
Tue 4/28	Murakami Chapters 7-8	Reading Journal	
Thu 4/30	Murakami Chapters 9-10	Reading Journal	<b>Essay #4 assigned</b>
Tue 5/5	Murakami Chapter 11	Reading Journal	
Thu 5/7	<b>Essay #3 Due</b>	Turn final draft in to Turnitin.com	<b>Last day to Drop with a "W" In person is 5/07, or online is 5/10.</b>
Tue 5/12	Lahiri "Temporary" "Mr. Pirzada"	Reading Journal	
Thu 5/14	Lahiri "Interpreter" "Real Durwan"	Reading Journal	
Tue 5/19	Lahiri "Sexy" "Mrs. Sen's"	Reading Journal	
Thu 5/22	Lahiri "Blessed House" "Treatment"	Reading Journal	
Tue 5/26	Lahiri "Third and Final Continent"	Reading Journal	
Thu 5/28	<b>Essay #4 Due</b>	Turn final draft in to Turnitin.com	
Tue 6/2	<b>Class Final 10:30 to 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Papers returned. Grades given. Be here.</b>	