

## ENGL 02-470-01 MULTI-ETHNIC LITERATURE OF THE US: RESERVATIONS, BOUNDARIES, AND BORDERLANDS

**LED BY:** DR. YVONNE HAMMOND

**MEETING TIME:** MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 3:30-4:45

**CRN:** 43550

Filming from the living room of her 8,000 sq. ft. home Ellen DeGeneres said that quarantine life was like “being in jail” because she had been “wearing the same clothes for 10 days and everyone [in her home] is gay.” DeGeneres’ comments



reveal much about her understanding of space and imprisonment, particularly the feelings produced by limitations imposed upon personal freedom. Her statement also calls attention to the various borders and boundaries used to physically and socially separate individuals, which often replicate and reinforce systemic inequity. This course is inspired by questions about various forms of imprisonment, borders, boundaries, and inequity as addressed in

multi-ethnic US literature. The readings and discussions will explore a wide range of topics and texts to interrogate concepts of power, politics, and privilege as revealed through the literature written about prison, reservations, and the

experience of immigration.



### **Possible Literary Text Selections:**

Jack Abbott, *In the Belly of the Beast*

Leonard Peltier, *Prison Writings: My Life is Sundance*

Blank and Jenson, *The Exonerated*

Anna Deneuve Smith, *Notes from the Field*

Louise Erdrich, *Plague of Doves*

Sherman Alexie, *Reservation Blues*

Selections from Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*

Jenny Sanchez, *We Are Not From Here*



### **Possible selections from:**

*Are prisons obsolete?* by Angela Davis

*American Prison* by Shane Bower

*Discipline and Punish* by Michel Foucault

*The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander

*Until We Reckon* by Danielle Sered

*The Nations Within* by Vine Deloria

*Borderlands* by Gloria Anzaldua