

ENGL 02-530-01 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in US Literature



Who: Dr. Yvonne Hammond

Where: Bunce 302

When: FALL 2022, Tuesdays, 5pm-7:45pm

Registration Details: CRN 40235

NOTE: See your advisor to check if senior privilege might be an option to take this course.

From John Winthrop's beacon shining atop the "city upon a hill" to the Statue of Liberty and beyond, US-American identity thrives on the symbolic representation of refuge, acceptance, and hope. Yet, while projecting these messages of equal opportunity, individual liberty, and democratic idealism, individual stories seem to offer contradictory experiences in which the US maintains deceptively rigid socio-political, ethnic, economic, gender, sex, and cultural hierarchies. This course will survey a range of theoretical study related to diversity, equity, and inclusion alongside literary texts chosen for their elevation of under-represented US cultures and voices.

A Few of Our Topics:

- Coming-of-Age in 1776: Nationalism & the Emergent American Identity
- The Legacy of the Colonial Experience: Native American Voices
- The 'Peculiar' Institution: Race, Slavery, & the Birth of Prison
- Remembering the Ladies: Feminism in the US
- 'Bodies that Matter': A Conversation about Ableism

We will read selections from these and other texts:

- Vine Deloria's *Playing Indian*
- Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*
- Ta-Nehesi Coates' *Between the World and Me*
- Dorothy Allison's *Skin* and *Trash*

Potential Literary Texts:

- Suzan Lori Parks, *The America Play*
- Jesmyn Ward, *Men We Raped*
- Janet Campbell Hale, *The Jailing of Cecelia Capture*
- Jenny Torres Sanchez, *We Are Not From Here*
- Viet Thahn Nguyen, *The Refugees*
- Allison Bechdel, *Fun Home*
- Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You, and You Fall Down*
- Selections from Phil Klay's *Redeployment*
- And others: James Baldwin, Richard Wright, Louise Erdrich, Octavia Butler, Toni Morrison, Roxanne Gay, Dorothy Allison, Sherman Alexie