

EN 285: Multigenerational Family Narratives
Spring 2026
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-11:20 p.m.
207 Henry Hall

Instructor

Prof. Justin Wyble
Office: 206-B Henry Hall
Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (and at other times by appt.)
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Description

This introductory literature course examines several multigenerational family narratives (novels and films) from around the world, with a focus on histories of colonialism, intergenerational trauma, immigration, and the building and sustaining of community.

Required Texts

*No ebook editions will be allowed in this class. You are required to purchase, rent, or borrow paper editions following three books:

- Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing
- Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman
- Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods

You will also need the following supplies:

- notebook filler paper, college-ruled
- 1" three-ring binder
- black or blue pen
- journal

In addition, you may be required to rent several films and/or tv shows.

Please note that you will be expected to write in your books. Here is the CUH bookstore's policy on acceptable use of rental books:

"Can I mark up the inside of the book with a highlighter or make notes in the margins?"
Normal use of highlighting and writing is permitted. The bookstore will use the same standards for determining acceptable condition of rental textbooks that it uses for determining condition of books sold back as used books."

General Education Learning Outcome

Students will collectively contribute to, and individually reflect upon, the building and sustaining of community (Education in the Family Spirit).

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this course will:

- Define the elements of fiction and literary terms used to discuss them.
- Read and analyze literary texts using the elements of fiction.
- Situate and explain literary texts within their socio-historical contexts.
- Describe the characteristics of the genres of literature.
- Combine and apply interpretive skills in order to participate in class discussions of literary texts.
- Write unified, coherent, well-developed essays about literary texts.

Marianist Characteristics

Chaminade is a Marianist Institution and uses the following characteristics as a guide:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith
2. Integral Quality Education
3. Educate in the Family Spirit
4. Service, Justice, and Peace and the Integrity of Creation
5. Adaptation and Change

Requirements

- Attendance = 10%
- Participation (discussions, presentations, and other in-class activities) = 10%
- Journal = 10%
- Quizzes = 15%
- In-Class Writings = 15%
- Mid-Term Essay Exam = 20%
- Final Essay Exam = 20%

Attendance

Absences may be excused only if you provide a note from either your doctor or your CUH coach. All other absences will be unexcused. The professor determines whether or not an absence is excused.

Late arrivals, early departures, or unauthorized breaks will be counted as unexcused tardies. Three unexcused tardies will count as one unexcused absence. Late students are responsible for seeing me after class in order to confirm that their initial absence has been changed to a tardy.

Your attendance grade (10% of your final grade) will be determined as follows:

- 0-3 unexcused absences = 100 points
- 4 unexcused absences = 90 points
- 5 unexcused absences = 80 points
- 6 unexcused absences = 70 points
- 7 unexcused absences = 60 points
- 8 unexcused absences = 50 points
- 9 or more unexcused absences = 0 points

Your attendance record may also impact other components of your overall grade. For example, in-class assignments (including discussions, quizzes, presentations, in-class writing assignments, mid-term exam, etc.) cannot be made up unless your absence is excused.

Remember, if you are absent for two consecutive weeks or more (i.e., six classes in a row), the professor may either administratively withdraw you from the class or record an "F" for your final grade if the deadline to withdraw has passed.

Policies

No electronic devices (including laptops, tablets, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, smart glasses, etc.) are allowed in class, unless approved in advance by the professor. Please keep your devices silenced and in your bag. If I see you using an unapproved electronic device during class, I will mark you absent for the day.

In-class assignments (including discussions, quizzes, presentations, in-class writing assignments, mid-term exam, etc.) cannot be made up unless your absence is excused. Work missed due to an excused absence may be completed during my office hours. The final exam cannot be made up and must be taken during the scheduled final exam period.

No late assignments will be accepted (except for work missed due to an excused absence).

Plagiarized assignments and AI-generated or AI-assisted assignments will earn zero points.

We will not be using Canvas for this in-person class. If you would like to review your grades, please see me during office hours.

I respond to emails on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (except for university holidays).

I expect all students to treat each other and the professor with respect at all times. This includes listening carefully and speaking thoughtfully to others during our class discussions.

Plagiarism Guidelines

Plagiarism is presenting the work of another as your own. The guidelines for plagiarism are in the Academic Catalog. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Complete or partial copying directly from a published or unpublished source without proper acknowledgment to the author. Minor changes in wording or syntax are not sufficient to avoid charges of plagiarism. Proper acknowledgment (citation) of the source is always mandatory.
2. Paraphrasing the work of another without proper acknowledgement.
3. Submitting as one's own original work (however freely given or purchased) the original exam, research paper, manuscript, report, computer file, or other assignment that has been prepared by another individual.

Please note that AI-generated and/or AI-assisted assignments will earn zero points.

Credit Hour Policy

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester, 10-week term, or equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in total student engagement time of 45 hours for one credit.

The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

This is a three-credit hour course requiring a minimum of 135 clock hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend approximately 35 hours in class. The remaining time (approximately 100 hours) will be devoted to the assigned readings and viewings (and related journal entries), averaging approximately 6.7 hours each week.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1

Monday, 1/12: syllabus; introductions

Wednesday, 1/14: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing

Friday, 1/16: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing; **In-Class Writing #1**

Week 2

Monday, 1/19: no class (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Wednesday, 1/21: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing; **Quiz #1**

Friday, 1/23: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing; **In-Class Writing #2**

Week 3

Monday, 1/26: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing; **Quiz #2**

Wednesday, 1/28: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing

Friday, 1/30: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing; **In-Class Writing #3**

Week 4

Monday, 2/2: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing; **Quiz #3**

Wednesday, 2/4: no class (Prof. Wyble is attending an academic conference.)

Friday, 2/6: no class (Prof. Wyble is attending an academic conference.)

Week 5

Monday, 2/9: Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing; **Quiz #4**

Wednesday, 2/11: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman

Friday, 2/13: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **In-Class Writing #4**

Week 6

Monday, 2/16: no class (Presidents' Day)

Wednesday, 2/18: no class (Prof. Wyble is attending an academic conference.)

Friday, 2/20: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman

Week 7

Monday, 2/23: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **Quiz #5**

Wednesday, 2/25: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman

Friday, 2/27: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **In-Class Writing #5**

Week 8

Monday, 3/2: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman

Wednesday, 3/4: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **Mid-Term Essay Exam, Part I**

Friday, 3/6: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **Journal Check #1; Mid-Term Essay Exam, Part II**

Week 9

Monday, 3/9: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman

Wednesday, 3/11: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman

Friday, 3/13: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **In-Class Writing #6**

**** SPRING BREAK: Monday, 3/16, through Friday, 3/20 ****

Week 10

Monday, 3/23: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **Quiz #6**

Wednesday, 3/25: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman

Friday, 3/27: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **In-Class Writing #7**

Week 11

Monday, 3/30: Louise Erdrich, The Night Watchman; **Quiz #7**

Wednesday, 4/1: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods; **In-Class Writing #8**

Friday, 4/3: no class (Good Friday)

Week 12

Monday, 4/6: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods; **Quiz #8**

Wednesday, 4/8: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods

Friday, 4/10: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods; **In-Class Writing #9**

Week 13

Monday, 4/13: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods; **Quiz #9**

Wednesday, 4/15: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods

Friday, 4/17: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods; **In-Class Writing #10**

Week 14

Monday, 4/20: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods; **Quiz #10**

Wednesday, 4/22:

Friday, 4/24:

Week 15

Monday, 4/27: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods; **Quiz #11**

Wednesday, 4/29: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods

Friday, 5/1: Kiana Davenport, House of Many Gods; **In-Class Writing #11**

Finals Week: Wednesday, 5/6, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: **Journal Check #2; Final Essay Exam**

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an “F” grade for the work in question, an “F” grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the Academic Honesty Policy on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

Plagiarized assignments and AI-generated or AI-assisted assignments will earn zero points.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. For pregnant and parenting students, I am also obligated to provide you with similar resources for support and protections available to you. My goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the Chaminade University Title IX Office Contact Information and Confidential Resources website. On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES.

The University’s Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the Campus Incident Report form. Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: Notice of Nondiscrimination.

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students’ cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade’s emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment of Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2-3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua 'Ike's website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Hazing Prevention Resources and Athlete Helpline

Assists athletes, parents, coaches, and any allies interested in ensuring physical and mental safety for sports communities by offering confidential emotional support, crisis intervention, informational athlete-focused resources, and guidance related to concerns about any type of abuse—*including hazing*.

Chaminade University's Hazing Policy: <https://catalog.chaminade.edu/studenthandbook/codeofconduct>

<https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/>

<https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/how-to-report-hazing/>

Basic Needs Resources: <https://chaminade.edu/basic-needs/>