

Requirements and Explanations

Texts:

David Levithan, *Every Day* (Ember, 2013)

Sigmund Freud, *Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis* (W. W. Norton & Company; Reissue edition April 17, 1990)

Mary Antin, *The Promised Land* (Dover Publications; Reprint edition November 21, 2012)

Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers* (Persia 3rd edition August 1, 2003)

Arthur Miller, *Focus* (Penguin Books; Reissue edition September 1, 2001)

Danzy Senna, *Caucasia* (Riverhead Trade February 1, 1999)

Rachel Gold, *Being Emily* (Bella Books, Inc., 2012)

Anna Poletti and Julia Rak, eds. *Identity Technologies: Constructing the Self Online* (Madison: U of Wisconsin Press, 2104)

*Other required readings (articles and book chapters) will be available on the class wiki or distributed as pdfs.

*You will also be required to view films on your own outside of class. They are on reserve in the JC library and most are also available on Netflix.

Course Requirements:

10% Participation

15% Quizzes on readings and films (both announced and unannounced)

20% Midterm Exam

15% Paper #1 **Papers should be emailed to me before class on the day they are due**

20% Paper #2 **Papers should be emailed to me before class on the day they are due**

20% Final exam

Additional Requirements, Explanations and Class Policies:

1. As key ideas will be discussed in class, you MUST ATTEND CLASS regularly to do well; attendance will be crucial to your understanding of the material. Active class participation means contributing to class discussion. Please arrive promptly because screenings will begin at the start of class
2. You will also be required to view films on your own outside of class. They are on reserve at the JC Library and most are also available on Netflix.
3. You must join the class wiki. You will receive an email invitation from me. On the wiki you will find the syllabus, required readings, and the paper assignment.
3. You must complete the assigned readings *before class*, bring the readings with you, and to be prepared to discuss them in class.
4. Absolutely no unexcused late papers. Extensions must be requested at least a week in advance of the due date.
5. Technology:
 - E-Mail: Everyone must have an activated masonlive.gmu.edu e-mail account. I will only use these addresses, so if you want to use another email provider, activate your GMU account and have mail forwarded.
 - Cell Phones: No cell phones out (or ringing) during class. Absolutely no texting during class.
 - Laptops: No laptops allowed. If you have a specific reason for needing a laptop, please contact me and I might make an accommodation.
6. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office
7. You are all bound by the GMU Honor code. For a statement of the Honor Code, see <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>. Plagiarism or cheating in any form will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism: Make sure to read the George Mason Plagiarism Statement, excerpted here: "Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes; a simple listing of books and articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. Student writers are often confused as to what should be cited. Some think that only direct quotations need to be credited. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers' own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge. What constitutes common knowledge can sometimes be precarious; what is common knowledge for one audience may not be so for another. In such situations, it is helpful, to keep the reader in mind and to think of citations as being "reader friendly." In other words, writers provide a citation for any piece of information that they think their readers might want to investigate further. Not only is this attitude considerate of readers, it will almost certainly ensure that writers will never be guilty of plagiarism. (statement of English Department at George Mason University)

Plagiarism and the Internet: Copyright rules also apply to users of the Internet who cite from Internet sources. Information and graphics accessed electronically must also be cited, giving credit to the sources. This material includes but is not limited to e-mail (don't cite or forward someone else's e-mail without permission), newsgroup material, information from Web sites, including graphics. Even if you give credit, you must get permission from the original source to put any graphic that you did not create on your web page. Shareware graphics are not free. Freeware clipart is available for you to freely use. If the material does not say "free," assume it is not. Putting someone else's Internet material on your web page is stealing intellectual property. Making links to a site is, at this time, okay, but getting permission is strongly advised, since many Web sites have their own requirements for linking to their material."

Course Goals:

1. To enable students to come to an understanding of the complexity of identity and notions of self: both the possibility of authoring oneself, and the social and biological limitations of such self-making.
2. To help students gain an understanding of the way in which at different historical moments it has been more or less possible to change one's identity, and why.
3. To sharpen students' critical reading skills, to enhance students' ability to write a paper with a clear argument, and to foster engaged classroom participation.

Important Dates:

- Jan. 30: Last day to add classes and last day to drop with no tuition penalty
- Feb. 13: Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty
- Feb. 24: Final drop deadline with 67% tuition penalty
- Feb. 27-Mar. 31: Selective withdrawal period for undergraduates (see conditions at <http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/SWR.pdf>)