

READING SEMINAR IN THE HUMANITIES
HONS 1010-04 / F15 / PROFESSORS TUEDIO & AFZAL

***Precarious Life and Collective Identity:
Transgressing Boundaries to Become Who We Are***

Course Texts

Assigned materials (bolded titles @ KIVA):

- Documentary: “Portrait of an Artist: Frida Kahlo”
Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*
Cherie Moraga, “The Welder” (poem)
Adrienne Rich, “In the Wake of Home” (poem)
bell hooks, “Choosing the Margin as a Space of Radical Openness”
Judith Butler, *Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence*
Ahmed Afzal, “‘Being gay has been a curse for me’: Gay Muslim Americans, narrative
and negotiations of belonging in the Muslim *ummah*”
**Donald Freed, *Agony in New Haven: the Trial of Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins
and the Black Panther Party***
Martha Nussbaum et al., *For Love of Country: Debating the Limits of Patriotism*

Additional recommended reading:

Stuart Hampshire, *Justice as Conflict*

Calendar of Reading Assignments

- M 8/24 Introductions; overview of course themes and assignments
W 8/26 documentary film: “Portrait of an Artist: Frida Kahlo”
M 8/31 Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street* (pp. 3-32)
W 9/02 Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street* (pp. 33-64)
M 9/07 Labor Day holiday (no class)
W 9/09 Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street* (pp. 65-83)
M 9/14 Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street* (pp. 84-110)
Rich, “In the Wake of Home” (poem: pp. 56-60)
Moraga, “The Welder” (poem)
W 9/16 hooks, “Choosing the Margin as a Space of Radical Openness” (pp. 145-53)
M 9/21 Butler, *Precarious Life*, pp. 1-18
W 9/23 Butler, *Precarious Life*, pp. 19-34
M 9/28 Butler, *Precarious Life*, pp. 35-49
W 9/30 Butler, *Precarious Life*, pp. 50-72
M 10/05 Butler, *Precarious Life*, pp. 73-100
W 10/07 Butler, *Precarious Life*, pp. 101-127
M 10/12 Butler, *Precarious Life*, pp. 128-142.8
W 10/14 Butler, *Precarious Life*, pp. 142.9-151
M 10/19 Freed, *Agony in New Haven*, pp. 13-67
W 10/21 Freed, *Agony in New Haven*, pp. 68-124

- M 10/26 Freed, *Agony in New Haven*, pp. 125-178.5
 W 10/28 Freed, *Agony in New Haven*, pp. 178.6-213
 M 11/02 Freed, *Agony in New Haven*, pp. 215-269.5
 W 11/04 Freed, *Agony in New Haven*, pp. 269.6-306

Thurs 11/05 thru Sat 11/07: Social Justice Conference on campus (sessions TBA)

- M 11/09 Freed, *Agony in New Haven*, pp. 307-332
 W 11/11 Veteran's Day holiday (no class meeting)
 M 11/16 Nussbaum (*For Love of Country*, pp. 2-17)
 W 11/18 Appiah (*For Love of Country*, pp. 21-29)
 M 11/23 Butler (*For Love of Country*, pp. 45-52)
 W 11/25 Scarry / Falk (*For Love of Country*, pp. 98-110 and 53-60)
 M 11/30 Afzal, "'Being gay has been a curse for me': Gay Muslim Americans, narrative and negotiations of belonging in the Muslim *ummah*"
 W 12/02 Bok / Himmefarb / Sen (*For Love of Country*, pp. 38-44, 72-77, 111-118)
 M 12/07 Gutmann / McConnell (*For Love of Country*, pp. 66-71, 78-84)
 W 12/09 Taylor / Walzer / Nussbaum (*For Love of Country*, pp. 117-121, 125-127, 131-144)
 M 12/14 Final Exam (11-15-1:15 – if in-class final)
 F 12/18 Final Exam due (if take-home final)

Writing Assignments

Paper One (1000 words): Belonging/Not-Belonging and the Space of Radical Openness: Kahlo, Cisneros, Moraga, Rich, hooks, and Butler (Due: Oct. 16th) [25%]

Paper Two (1000 words): Precarious Life and the Struggle for Justice: Butler and Freed (Due: Nov. 13th) [25%]

Paper Three (1500 words): Patriotism, Cosmopolitanism and Collective Identity: hooks, Freed, Nussbaum, Appiah, Butler, Scarry, Afzal, Bok, Himmefarb, Sen, Gutmann, McConnell, Taylor and Walzer (Due: Dec. 16th) [30%]

In-class or take-home final exam (2 hours of writing): critical reflective writing in response to an array of questions drawing on themes developed in our class discussions (Dec. 14th if in-class; due Dec. 18th if take-home). [20%]

Plagiarized work is unacceptable. Citations are required for *all* sources (author, title, and page reference), including not only the sources of *quotations* and *paraphrased passages* but also the sources from which you draw *ideas* to help frame or develop your discussion in the paper. To be safe, include a bibliography listing *all sources consulted* in the process of developing your topic and writing your paper, along with specific references (when relevant) in the body of the paper. ***NOTE:*** *Significant plagiarism (where insights of others are passed off as insights of your own) is grounds for failing the course.* It's fine to consult others, but in the end, calibrate your ear to ***think for yourself***, and, above all, ***trust your own voice!*** (*Ethics lesson #1: it's not about property!*)