

## **HUM/SST 295: “Rethinking Global Cultures”**

**Fall 2016**

**Fri 2:30-3:50**

**Mears 217**

This course will take advantage of the Center for Humanities’ year-long theme of the same name, giving participating students and faculty a chance to engage with internationally-renowned scholars who have reconceptualized cultures on a global dimension, and given us a new perspective on intellectual borrowings, geographic roamings, transfers and exchange of knowledge, relationships of power, and the less-known lives of communities, societies, and marginal groups.

### **Course requirements**

Students will attend the talks of visiting speakers (5 this semester), and contextualize these scholars' work in reading, reflective writing, and discussions in a regular Friday seminar. The course is pass/fail, so in order to pass, students are required to:

- Attend and contribute to the Friday seminar.
- Prepare required readings and briefs. Briefs are 1-2-paragraph reflections on the readings or the speaker’s presentation; you must submit one for either the preparatory session or the debriefing session of the seminar in each of the four units. With your permission, these will be included in the Center for Humanities website project. At the end of the semester, students will submit all their briefs as a revised portfolio with a reflective introduction.
- Attend the talks and other events with visiting speakers (usually there will be a dedicated lunch or other chance for students to interact with the guest). Students must attend four of the five speaking events this semester.

### **Disabilities**

Grinnell College makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students need to provide documentation to the Coordinator for Disability Resources, Autumn Wilke, located on the 3rd floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702) and discuss your needs with her. Students should then speak with me as early as possible in the semester we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course and coordinate your accommodations.

### **Religious observation**

Grinnell College offers alternative options to complete academic work for students who observe religious holy days. Please contact me within the first three weeks of the semester if you would like to discuss a specific instance that applies to you.

## F16 Course Schedule

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### Introduction

Fri, Aug 25: Startup meeting

Fri, Sept 2: Discuss M.G. Vassanji short stories (handout; also available on Pweb)

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### Unit 1: Merging Musical Traditions (Facilitator: Gene Gaub)

Fri, Sept 9: Discuss Chen Yi work (in class)

In preparation, please read the following interview: <http://www.bruceduffie.com/chenyi.html>

Sept 12-14: Chen Yi visit

**Presentation: Tues, Sept 13, 7:30 p.m., JRC 101**

Fri, Sept 16: Discuss Chen Yi presentation

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### Unit 2: Mediating Culture Across Nations & Empires (Facilitators: Kelly Herold & Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa)

Fri, Sept 23: Discuss Natalie Rothman & Prasenjit Duara work (Reading TBA)

Sept 25-27: Rothman visit

**Presentation: Mon, Sept 26, 7:30 p.m., JRC 101**

Sept 29: Duara visit

**Presentations:**

- **Convocation, Thurs, Sept 29, 11:00 a.m., JRC 101**
- **Gates Lecture, Thurs, Sept 29, 7:30 p.m., location TBA**

Fri, Sept 30: Discuss Rothman & Duara presentations

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**Unit 3: Ethics, Morality, and Media Across Boundaries (Facilitators: Tim Dobe, Jonathan Larson, Caleb Elfenbein)**

Fri, Oct 28: Discuss Webb Keane work (Reading TBA)

Oct 31-Nov 2: Keane visit

***Presentation: Tues, Nov 1, 7:30 p.m., JRC 101***

Fri, Nov 4: Discuss Keane presentation

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**Unit 4: Gender, Sexuality, and Cultural Borders (Facilitator: Caleb Elfenbein)**

Nov 11: Discuss Sahar Amer work (Reading TBA)

Nov 15-17: Sahar Amer visit

***Presentation: Wed, Nov 16, 7:30 p.m., JRC 101***

Fri, Nov 18: Discuss Amer presentation

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**Coda: Writing Global Cultures**

Fri, Dec 2: Discuss Amitav Ghosh, *In an Antique Land*

Fri, Dec 9: Portfolio due

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