

**HU 5004 Communication in Cultural Contexts:
Subjectivity and Narrative Identity (Fall 2003)**

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Office hours: Tues. 1:00–2:00, Fri. 1:00–2:00, and by appointment

Meeting place: Walker 139
Meeting time: Wednesdays
7:05–9:35 p.m.

Required Texts

Vincent Descombes, *Modern French Philosophy* (Cambridge UP, 1980)
Calvin O. Schrag, *Communicative Praxis and the Space of Subjectivity* (Purdue UP, 2003)
Martin McQuillan, ed., *The Narrative Reader* (Routledge, 2000)
Gloria E. Anzaldúa and Analouise Keating, eds., *This Bridge We Call Home* (Routledge, 2002)
Jacques Derrida, *Monolingualism of the Other* (Stanford UP, 1998)
Luce Irigaray, *I Love to You: Sketch for a Felicity Within History* (Routledge 1996)
Kelly Oliver, *Witnessing: Beyond Recognition* (U of Minnesota P, 2001)
Recommended: Richard Kearney, *On Stories* (Routledge, 2001)

Books on Library Reserve

Gloria E. Anzaldúa, *Borderlands : La frontera = The New Mestiza*
Gloria E. Anzaldúa, ed., *Making Faces, Making Soul = Haciendo caras*
Mieke Bal, *Narratology :Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*
Luce Irigaray, *I Love to You*
Charlotte Linde, *Life Stories: The Creation of Coherence*
Jakob Lothe, *Narrative in Fiction and Film: An Introduction* available as online e-book via Library website
Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory*
Cherrie Moraga, Gloria Anzaldúa, eds., *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*
Janet Horowitz Murray, *Hamlet on the Holodeck: The Future of Narrative in Cyberspace*
Kelly Oliver, *Witnessing: Beyond Recognition*
Charles Taylor, *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity*

Course Description

This course introduces key concepts, texts, theorists, methodologies, and fields of inquiry that fall under the rubric of the “C” stream in the RTC program. While this streamhead course necessarily adopts a broad perspective, it is structured around the basic questions of subjectivity and narrative identity. The course asks what it means to be a human subject in light of all the different identities we assume. The “narrative” aspect of identity inquires about how the stories we tell, and the stories others tell about us, have a bearing on our identity.

Grading Criteria (see descriptions on reverse):

Final course paper, including class presentation	40%
Précis (2 over the course of the semester)	30%
Attendance, participation	20%
Intellectual autobiography	10%

The final grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

A = 93-100 % AB = 88-92% B = 83-87% BC = 78-82% C = 73-77% CD = 68-72% D = 60-67% F = 0-59%

Final Course Paper:

All participants will be encouraged to treat this course as an opportunity to further their own intellectual development, which includes creating a final paper project that is tailored to their interests and that engages with some of the key issues treated in the course. This aspect of the course will involve both a written paper of some 10-15 pages (double-spaced) in length and a class presentation on this research. The final course paper should illustrate both the innovativeness of the approach taken and its relation to existing scholarly work. Everyone is encouraged to solicit peer commentary and constructive criticism as they write and revise their paper.

Précis:

During the course of the semester, each participant will give two précis, which involve a written and an oral component. The précis is a critical engagement with an article or a book chapter we will have prepared for the class meeting during which the précis is presented. The précis should not simply summarize the ideas of the text, but should critically engage with the text by showing the significance and the interrelation of the key points. The oral presentation of the précis should serve as a springboard for class discussion, and may include discussion questions. The written portion of the précis should be some 5 pages (double-spaced) in length.

Attendance and Participation:

Because the success of this course depends on careful preparation of assigned material and active participation in discussion, evidence of your satisfaction of these criteria will be reflected in the attendance/participation grade. As there is only one meeting per week, missing just one class means missing an entire week's worth of discussion. You are strongly advised not to miss any class meetings. After one absence, the attendance/participation grade will decrease by 10% per absence. In case of any emergency or unforeseen conflict, or if you know in advance that you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Late work will not be accepted, and no Incompletes will be granted.

Intellectual Autobiography:

This assignment is an opportunity to start reflecting upon narrative identity. In addition to writing your own intellectual autobiography, you will present a brief in-class report about another class participant's intellectual autobiography. Details about this assignment will be provided on a separate handout. The intellectual autobiography is due on September 3.

NOTE:

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students, 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

□ This syllabus is subject to modification at the discretion of the instructor, in response to student needs and abilities. □

Proposed Reading Schedule (Updated Sept. 10)

August 27

Introduction to the course and key issues

September 3

from Anzaldúa & Keating, *This Bridge We Call Home*:
Keating "Charting Pathways" pp. 6–20
Alexander "Remembering *This Bridge*" pp. 81–103
Miranda "What's Wrong with a Little Fantasy?" pp. 192–202
Miranda and Keating "Footnoting Heresy" pp. 202–08
Keating "Forging El Mundo Zurdo" pp. 519–30

+ Intellectual Autobiography due; brief in-class report Sept. 3

- September 10 from McQuillan, *The Narrative Reader*:
 “How to use this book” pp. xi–xiii
 Plato Allegory of the Cave from *Republic* pp. 37–39
 Smith “Narrative Versions” pp. 138–45
 Jackson “Narrative Theories and Legal Discourse” pp. 163–65
 Harré “Some Narrative Conventions of Scientific Discourse” pp. 165–66
 Roof from *Come As You Are* pp. 212–19
 Ricoeur “Narrative Time” pp. 255–61
 Aristotle from *The Poetics* pp. 39–44
 Benjamin “The Storyteller” pp. 46–53
 Booth, from *The Rhetoric of Fiction* pp. 69–74
- September 17 Descombes, *Modern French Philosophy*
- September 24 from McQuillan, *The Narrative Reader*:
 Lévi-Strauss “The Structural Study of Myth” pp. 75–81
 Genette “Order in Narrative” pp. 91–96
 Prince “Introduction to the Study of the Narratee” pp. 99–103
 Barthes “Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Narratives” pp. 109–14
 Prince “On Narratology” p. 129
 Brooks from *Reading for the Plot* pp. 145–52
 Iser “A Conversation with Wayne Booth” pp. 244–50
 Jameson from *The Political Unconscious* pp. 266–69
 Weber “Capitalizing History” pp. 269–74
 Metz “Notes Toward a Phenomenology” pp. 86–90
 Lyotard from *The Postmodern Condition* pp. 157–61
 Berger “Stories” pp. 170–74
- October 1 Guest: Dr. Patty Sotirin + reading
 from McQuillan, *The Narrative Reader*:
 Mulvey “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” p. 177–81
 Mulvey “Afterthoughts on ‘Visual Pleasure’” pp. 182–84
 de Lauretis “Desire in Narrative” pp. 204–12
 Miller “Line” pp. 231–38
 Felman from *Testimony* pp. 262–65
 Kellner “Narrativity in History” pp. 275–83
 Said from *Culture and Imperialism* pp. 284–88
 Gates “Thirteen Ways” pp. 288–91
 Trinh “Grandma’s Story” pp. 297–308
- October 8 Irigaray, *I Love to You*
- October 15 Guest: Dr. Daniel Makagon + reading
 Schrag, *Communicative Praxis* pp. vii–111
- October 22 Schrag, *Communicative Praxis* pp. 113–214

+ Final Paper topic/title due Oct. 22

October 29 from Anzaldúa & Keating, *This Bridge We Call Home*:
 Sandoval “AfterBridge” pp. 21–26
 Carbajal “Nacido en un Puente” pp. 50–53
 Rodriguez and Vasquez “Engaging Contradictions” pp. 53–59
 Aanerud “Thinking Again” pp. 69–77
 DiNova “Seventh Fire” p. 104
 Alsultany “Los Intersticios” pp. 106–10
 Morris “Young Man Popkin” pp. 137–45
 Handal “Shades of a Bridge’s Breath” pp. 158–65
 Pham “(Re)Writing Home” pp. 176–80
 Lim “Memory and the New-Born” pp. 208–23
 Elia “The ‘White’ Sheep” pp. 223–31
 Blanchard “Poets, Lovers, and the Master’s Tools” pp. 254–57
 Hill “All I Can Cook” pp. 258–66
 Witherow “Yo’ Done Bridge” pp. 287–93
 Gomez “Council Meeting” pp. 293–94
 Barker “Looking for Warrior Woman” pp. 314–25
 Bredin “So Far from the Bridge” pp. 325–30
 Pegueros “The Ricky Ricardo Syndrome” pp. 330–39

+ Final Paper outline and bibliography due Oct. 29

Monday Nov. 3 5:10 p.m. from Anzaldúa & Keating, *This Bridge We Call Home*:
 Cervenak et. al. “Imagining Differently” pp. 341–56
 Harris “Notes from a Welfare Queen” pp. 372–81
 Springer “Being the Bridge” pp. 381–89
 Lee “The Cry-Smile Mask” pp. 397–402
 King et. al. “Andrea’s Third Shift” pp. 403–15
 Franklin “Recollecting *This Bridge*” pp. 415–33
 Dykewomon “The Body Politic” pp. 450–58
 Courvant “Speaking of Privilege” pp. 458–63
 Violet “Linkages” pp. 486–94
 Lorenz “Thawing Hearts” pp. 496–506
 Anzaldúa “now let us shift” pp. 540–78

November 12 Oliver, *Witnessing* pp. 1–132

+ Final Paper draft due Nov. 12

November 19 Oliver, *Witnessing* pp. 133–224

Thanksgiving Break

December 3 Derrida, *Monolingualism of the Other*

December 10 Final paper presentations; final thoughts, wrap-up discussion

Monday, December 15 ***12:00 NOON *** **Final Paper Due in my office--Walker 334**