

English 436/ American Studies 478/ 778
Global Cities: New York, Chicago, San Francisco
Prof. Wai Chee Dimock
Fall 2016

Office: LC 417
Office Hours: Wed 3:30-5:30

Texts:

Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo*
Julia Alvarez, *How the Garcia Girls Lose their Accents*
Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*
Teju Cole, *Open City*
Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*
Carl Sandburg, *Chicago Poems*
Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*
Aleksandar Hemon, *The Lazarus Project*
Frank Norris, *McTeague*
Dashiell Hammett, *The Maltese Falcon*
Philip K. Dick, *The Man in the High Castle*
Amy Tan, *The Kitchen God's Wife*

Aug 31 INTRODUCTION

Recommended:

Michel de Certeau, "Walking in the City," from *The Practice of Everyday Life* (1988)

David Harvey, "Money, Time, Space, and the City," from *The Urban Experience* (1985)

Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City* (1960)

http://interactive.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Image_of_the_City.pdf

Sept 7 FRANK NORRIS, *McTeague*

Recommended:

"Picturing the Gold Rush: Images of Gold Rush San Francisco"

<http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2015/01/06/pictures-of-gold-rush-san-francisco/>

H. W. Brands, *The Age of Gold: The California Gold Rush and the New American Dream*

Sept 14 UPTON SINCLAIR, *The Jungle* (1906)

Recommended:

“Does Upton Sinclair’s Famous Novel Hold Up?”

http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/books/2006/07/welcome_to_the_jungle.html

Lincoln Steffens, *The Shame of the Cities* (1904)

Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull-House* (1910)

Sept 21 CARL SANDBURG, *Chicago Poems* (1916)

Recommended:

Nelson Algren, *Chicago: City on the Make* (1951)

Gwendolyn Brooks, *Selected Poems* (1963)

Sept 28 DASHIELL HAMMETT, *The Maltese Falcon* (1929)

Recommended:

Raymond Chandler, “The Simple Art of Murder” (1950)

<http://www.en.utexas.edu/amlit/amlitprivate/scans/chandlerart.html>

“San Francisco Noir”

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/29/travel/san-francisco-noir.html?_r=0

Oct 5 PHILIP K. DICK, *The Man in the High Castle* (1962)

Recommended:

Seo-Young Chu, *Do Metaphors Dream of Literal Sleep?* (2011)

“Lost in the Multiverse,” *New Statesman* (26 March 2016)

<http://www.newstatesman.com/culture/tv-radio/2016/03/john-gray-philip-k-dick-lost-multiverse-history>

Jonathan Lethem on Philip K. Dick

https://loa-shared.s3.amazonaws.com/static/pdf/lethem_interview.pdf

Oct 12 AMY TAN, *The Kitchen God's Wife* (1991)

Recommended:

“Amy Tan: A Life Stranger than Fiction”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/donotmigrate/3606308/A-life-stranger-than-fiction.html>

Iris Chang, *Rape of Nanking* (1997)

Oct 26 ISHMAEL REED, *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)

Recommended:

“An Interview with Ishmael Reed”

<http://ir.uiowa.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2915&context=iowareview>

Rudolph Fisher, *The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem*

Nov 2 SANDRA CISNEROS, *The House on Mango Street* (1984)

Recommended:

Interview with Sandra Cisneros

<http://www.missourireview.com/archives/bbarticle/interview-with-sandra-cisneros/>

“At the Library with Sandra Cisneros”

<http://www.nytimes.com/1993/01/07/garden/at-the-library-with-sandra-cisneros-a-solo-traveler-in-two-worlds.html?pagewanted=all>

Ana Castillo, *Peel my Love like an Onion* (1999)

Nov 9 JULIA ALVAREZ, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (1991)

Recommended:

Julia Alvarez on PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/video/2365053440/>

Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies* (1994)

Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007)

Nov 16 JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (2005)

Recommended:

Jonathan Safran Foer on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEE1hMopdpo>

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughter-house Five* (1969)

Nov 30 ALEKSANDAR HEMON, *The Lazarus Project* (2008)

Recommended:

“*The Lazarus Project*: One Writer’s Research”

<http://www.theparisreview.org/fiction/5475/the-lazarus-project-one-writers-research-aleksandar-hemon>

“Anarchy and Semicolons”

<http://nymag.com/arts/books/reviews/46636/>

Dec 7 TEJU COLE, *Open City* (2011)

Recommended:

Aleksandar Hemon on Teju Cole

<http://bombmagazine.org/article/10023/teju-cole>

Requirements:

- * Class presentation, 5-10 minutes. Please email outline to Prof. Dimock the night before.
- * Paper outlines and peer comments posted on digital platform, <http://amlitintheworld.yale.edu>
- * Short paper, 5 pp
(Outline due: September 21. Paper due: October 5)
- * Long paper, 15 pp
(Outline due: November 11. Paper due: December 7)