

# The 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Immigrant Narrative

---

Professor Erin Suzuki

Office: Literature 239

Office Hours: 2-3 pm, Tues. and Thurs

Email: [esuzuki@ucsd.edu](mailto:esuzuki@ucsd.edu)

## Course Description

What is uniquely American about American literature? This central concern of American literary study takes on additional complexity when it comes to exploring the contemporary literature of the United States. The diversity of ethnic cultures and subcultures in the United States makes it difficult to generalize about a singular American (or even ethnic American) experience. Moreover, many of these texts are explicitly transnational in scope, deliberately testing or transgressing the political and cultural boundaries of the nation. In this course, we will explore these changing ideas of “American-ness” in the context of an increasingly global world.

## Required Texts

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, Mohsin Hamid

*Open City*, Teju Cole

*The Book of Unknown Americans*, Cristina Henríquez

*Super Sad True Love Story*, Gary Shteyngart

*A Tale For the Time Being*, Ruth Ozeki

\*All other texts are available via Library Reserves

## Requirements

- **Class discussion (50% of your grade):** You must be a present and active participant in each class discussion (35%) and you will lead discussion once during the quarter (15%)
  - As a **discussion leader**, you will be responsible for preparing several open-ended discussion questions for class, and drawing out several themes or ideas from the weekly readings for in-depth debate. **You will sign up to be a discussion leader for one class.** There may be two discussion leaders per class: if so, you should coordinate with one another to make sure that you don't cover the same ground.
  - Since participation is crucial to your grade, please be advised that **every three unexcused class absences** will result in a lowering of your overall participation grade by around 1/3 of a point.
- **Written assignment: (50% of your grade):** You may choose one of the two following options:
  - **Weekly response papers (3-5 pages).** These are short papers in which you will perform a thoughtful literary analysis of one the weekly reading. You must include at least one cited passage from the text in your response. **Your final grade will be an average of five weekly response papers.**
  - **15-20 page research paper:** For those of you who are interested in going more in-depth on a particular topic, or might consider an article for publication. If you choose this option, you will need to turn in an **outline and annotated bibliography by 4/29**, and the finished paper will be due at the end of the course (6/10).

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism—including papers purchased from online sites or papers with sizeable readings or passages copied from outside sources—is a serious offense and will be reported to the Dean of Students for investigation.

### Electronics policy

You may use laptops and tablets to take or review your notes or the reading in the classroom; however, if computer/tablet use is being abused, I will revoke this option for the whole class.

### Office hours

While office hours are not required for this class, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of office hours to come in with any questions, concerns, or issues that you'd like to discuss further. If you cannot make the posted office hours above, I can speak to you via email, phone, or can schedule an alternate time to meet.

### Email policy

You may contact me by email with questions, concerns, or to set up an appointment; however, understand that I **do not always check email over the weekend**.

### Statement on students with disabilities

It is the policy of UC San Diego to make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students who anticipate a need for accommodations should let me know/have the OSD contact me as soon as possible so we can plan for alternative arrangements.

### Class Schedule

Week 1	4/3 4/5	Intro, Randolph Bourne, "Trans-national America" Mohsin Hamid, <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i> , Chapters 1-5
Week 2	4/10 4/12	<i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i> , Chapters 6-12 Ali Behdad, "Remembering 9/11"; Jasbir Puar and Amit Rai, "Monster, Terrorist, Fag"
Week 3	4/17 4/19	Teju Cole, <i>Open City</i> (Ch 1-6) [ <b>Class canceled</b> ] <i>Open City</i> (Ch 7-11)
Week 4	4/24 4/26	<i>Open City</i> (Ch 12-15) <i>Open City</i> (Ch 16-19)
Week 5	5/1 5/3	David Palumbo-Liu, excerpt from <i>The Deliverance of Others</i> Cristina Henríquez, <i>The Book of Unknown Americans</i> , 3-107
Week 6	5/8 5/10	<i>The Book of Unknown Americans</i> , 108-202 <i>The Book of Unknown Americans</i> , 203-286
Week 7	5/15	Gary Shteyngart, <i>Super Sad True Love Story</i> , 1-96

	5/17	<i>Super Sad True Love Story</i> , 97-224
Week 8	5/22	<i>Super Sad True Love Story</i> , 225-331
	5/24	Ruth Ozeki, <i>A Tale For the Time Being</i> , 3-108
Week 9	5/29	<i>A Tale For the Time Being</i> , 110-202
	5/31	<i>A Tale For the Time Being</i> , 203-356
Week 10	6/5	<i>A Tale For the Time Being</i> , 357-417
	6/7	Review
	<b>6/13</b>	<b>FINAL PAPERS DUE on TED by <u>5pm</u></b>