

# LTEN 181/ETHN 124: Special Topics in Asian American Literature: Philippine Literature in English

---

Class Time: M/W 5-6:20 @ WLH 2114

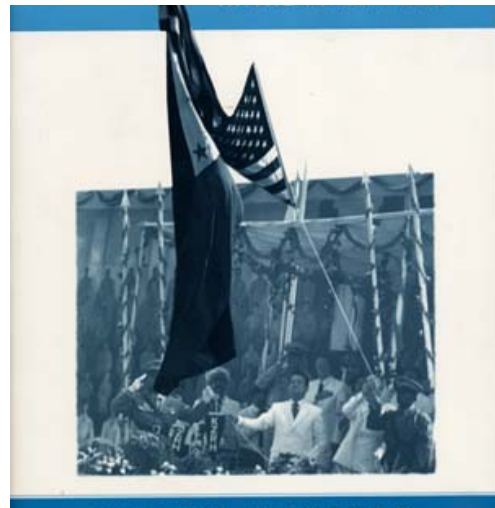
Instructor: Prof. Amanda Solomon

Email: alsolomon@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: M/W 2-4 @ SSB 245 & T/Th 2-3 @ the Cross Cultural Center

## Course Description

In this course, we will focus on English writing from the Philippines. This class will complicate the idea of national literature by focusing on the ambiguous political and national status of the Philippines under US occupation, when it was neither a sovereign nation nor an official colonial possession. We will think through how developments of Philippine writing in English and Filipino American literature challenge not only the concept of the national, but also of the transnational. Key questions of the course are: How does literature constitute the nation? How is defining the nation through literature, a gendered project? What defines a national literature? What would qualify as transnational literature? How does the concept of the “transnational” still manage to reify the supposedly given and stable nature of national boundaries? How does Philippine writing in English and early Filipino American literature destabilize both the concept of the national and the transnational? What are the aesthetic and political consequences of such destabilization?



## Course Requirements

**NOTE: ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS AND VIOLATION OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COULD RESULT IN AUTOMATIC FAIL.**

### ❖ Attendance & Participation: 10%

This grade is determined partly by a student's consistent attendance and lack of tardiness as well as by participation in small and large group discussions and/or visits to office hours. Students may also be required to complete short in-class writing assignments and or/reading quizzes. Roll will be taken every class meeting. Failure to attend at least 60% of class meetings will result in an automatic F.

### ❖ Group presentation: 15%

In small groups, each student will present on the readings for one day of class. Students will be responsible for discussing the critical or literary elements of the reading and pose questions for discussion that can explore the texts themselves and/or put the texts in relationship to other readings of the class. Each student is expected to present for 5 to 7 minutes, and will submit a

1pg summary of his/her contribution to the group. Presentations are meant to stimulate the discussion for the day.

❖ In-class Midterm: 35%

In week 5, there will be an in-class midterm. It will be a bluebook essay exam based on the first weeks of readings. It will be closed note and closed book but students will be given potential essay questions one week before the exam.

❖ Final Paper: 40%

In lieu of a final exam, students will write a final 5-6pg paper closely analyzing the final readings of our course. No outside research is necessary. Paper prompts will be made available in week 8.

### Office for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should talk with me as soon as possible to make accommodations for the quarter. Please see the Office for Students with Disabilities website for more information.

### Tutoring and Writing Academic Support and Instructional Services

Students who would like help with essay writing and/or students who are English language learners are encouraged to visit the tutoring centers on campus. Please see the OASIS website for more information.

### Required Texts

- ❖ Hagedorn, Jessica. *Dogeaters*.
- ❖ Joaquin, Nick. *The Woman Who Had Two Navels*.
- ❖ Villa, Jose Garcia. *The Anchored Angel*.
- ❖ For all other course material, see <http://ucsdwi13lten181.wordpress.com/>

### Tentative Schedule of Readings

#### Week 1: Filipino/America

- M 1/7: Introduction
- W 1/9:
  - o \*Issac, Allan. *American Tropics: Articulating Filipino America*. Ch 1

#### Week 2: The Mis-Education of the Filipino

- M 1/14:
  - o \*Salanga, Alfredo N. "A Philippine History Lesson"
  - o \*Ileto, Reynaldo. "The Philippine-American War: Friendship and Forgetting"
  - o \*Lumbera, Bienvenido. "From Colonizer to Liberator: How U.S. Colonialism Succeeded in Reinventing Itself After the War"
- W 1/16:
  - o \*Constantino, Renato. "The Mis-Education of the Filipino"

#### Weeks 3-4: *Inang Bayan* (Motherland)

- M 1/21: **No Class**
- W1/23:
  - o \*Lumbera, Bienvenido. "Literature Under Spanish Colonialism"

- \*Rizal, Jose. “Mi Ultimo Adios.”
- \*Bonifacio, Andres. “What the Filipinos Should Know” and “The Final Cry of Filipinas.”
- \*Jacinto, Emilio. “Light and Darkness” and “Our Plea.”
- M 1/28:
  - \*Zapanta-Manlapaz, Edna. “Songs of Ourselves: Writings by Filipino Women in English”
  - \*Arguila, Manuel. “A Son is Born.”
  - \*Benitez, Paz Marquez. “Dead Stars”
  - \*Latorena, Paz. “Desire”
- W 1/30:
  - \*Hau, Caroline. *Necessary Fictions: Philippine Literature and the Nation*. Intro.
  - \*Gloria, Angela Manalang. “Revolt from the Hymen” and selected poems.
  - \*Zulueta da Costa, R. *Like the Molave and Collected Poems*. Selected poems.

#### Week 5: The Erotic Trans-Nationalism of Jose Garcia Villa

- M 2/4: **Midterm Exam**
- W 2/6:
  - Chua, Jonathan. “Colonialist or Critic.” *Anchored Angel*. Pgs 176-185.
  - „A Composition,, *Anchored Angel*. Pgs 134-136.
  - Pres. McKinley’s “Address to the Methodist Delegation”
  - “Divine Poems.” *Anchored Angel*. Pgs 19-30.

#### Week 6: Filipino/American Literature

- M 2/11:
  - \*Ngai, Mae. *Impossible Subjects*. Ch. 3: “From Colonial Subject to Undesirable Alien: Filipino Migration in the Invisible Empire”
  - \*Bulosan, Carlos. Selected short stories from *On Becoming Filipino*
- W 2/13:
  - \*Santos, Bienvenido. “Scent of Apples” & “The Day the Dancers Came”

#### Week 7-8: Trans-national Existentialism

- M 2/18: **No Class**
- W 2/20: *The Woman Who Had Two Navels* (1<sup>st</sup> 1/3)
- M 2/25: *The Woman Who Had Two Navel* (2<sup>nd</sup> 1/3)
- W 2/27: *The Woman Who Had Two Navels* (Last 1/3)

#### Week 9-10: Gendered Memory and Geographies

- M 3/4: *Dogeaters* (1<sup>st</sup> 1/3)
- W 3/6: *Dogeaters* (2<sup>nd</sup> 1/3)
- M 3/11: *Dogeaters* (Last 1/3)
- W 3/13: \*Reyes, Barbara Jane. Selected poems from *Poeta en San Francisco*

**FINAL PAPER DUE MON 3/18 @ NOON**