



English 597:
The Disability Experience in the Contemporary World

Special Topic:
Deaf-World: Global, National, Local Issues

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Office Hours: Mon 10-11am
Wed. 1:30-3
other times by arranged appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To consider the contemporary global, national, and local issues of deaf people and the Deaf community using an integrated perspective that applies knowledge about "Deaf-World" from diverse disciplines and methodologies.
2. To engage in cross-issue analysis and application:
 - to apply global, national, and local issues in Deaf-World to the non-deaf world and vice versa;
 - to apply identity, ethnicity, and "diversity" models to a study of Deaf-World and vice versa
3. To employ, in an interdisciplinary case study model, "deafness" as a disability experience/condition and "Deafness" as a culture and community identity in order to also explore broader issues within the global disability experience.
4. To become aware of the diversity within diversity and difference within difference that marks and makes up contemporary "Deaf-World."
5. To explore the historical, philosophical, linguistic, social, cultural, educational, medical and artistic past, present, and future of deaf/Deaf/hard-of-hearing people.

YOUR OBJECTIVES

Why are you here? What do you hope to accomplish from your own participation in this course? Please take a moment to record a few of your own goals or ideas...

TEXTS:

All 6 books should be available at SBX Bookstore on High Street (5 of the books have been set up on Closed Reserve in the Sullivant Library on High Street):

1. *Inside Deaf Culture*, Carol Padden & Tom Humphries (Harvard UP, 2005)
 2. *The Deaf Way II Anthology: A Literary Collection by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Writers*, Tony M. Stremmler, Editor (Gallaudet UP, 2002)
 3. * *Deaf Hearing Boy: A Memoir*, R.H. Miller (Gallaudet UP, 2004)
 4. *Alone in the Mainstream: A Deaf Woman Remembers Public School*, Gina Oliva (Gallaudet UP, 2004)
 5. *Cry of the Gull*, Emmanuelle Laborit (Gallaudet UP, 1999)
 6. *Deaf in Delhi: A Memoir*, Madan Vasishta (Gallaudet UP, 2006)
 7. *Women and Deafness: Double Vision(s)*, Brenda Jo Brueggemann & Susan Burch (Gallaudet UP, 2006)
- *Deaf Hearing Boy* is not owned by OSU Library and thus, it is not on Reserve.
 - *Women and Deafness* is not due out until Oct. 2006 and thus, will not be on Reserve

Additional Readings:

Some articles/chapters will be available either in print at the Main Library Reserves (2-hour check out) or in PDF files at our Carmen site.

Visual/film material:

Because Deaf-World is a visual world, most weeks there will be an additional "screening" class period during which we will view documentaries around issues of deafness and Deaf-World, historical and contemporary event footage in Deaf-World, and Deaf literature.

Additional events:

There will be several additional events this Fall 2006 quarter that are part of the initiatives surrounding the development of the American Sign Language (ASL) program, a new Deaf Studies minor, and the already existing Disability Studies minor. You should make every effort to attend at least one, if not all, of these events. I will announce them as they are coming up on our Carmen site.

ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, REQUIREMENTS

- **Event/text/artifact report (ETA Report) (approx. 500-1000 words) 15%**
These are due ON CARMEN site during Weeks 7 (groups ABC), Week 8 (Groups DEF), Week 9 (Group GH). I will place a list of ideas for events, texts, artifacts that you might study and write further about on our CARMEN site. You may also use/choose one of your own (after approval from me). I will also ask you to post in advance (during Week 6) what event, text, artifact you will be working with.
- **Deaf-World Quilting Bee (The Final Exam Experience) 15%**

We will engage in a collaborative and individual "quilting" experience that asks you to bring together the major themes, texts, and issues discussed throughout this quarter. This will take place during the time of our scheduled Final Exam period.

- **Post-Its:**

70%

These are in-class writings/quizzes and daily/weekly Carmen small assignments. The bulk of your coursework comes from the daily and weekly writing, responding, and research you will conduct—individually or with your group—throughout this course. If a writing or quiz is conducted in class IT CAN NOT BE "MADE UP." There will be approximately fifteen (15) of these small assignments, each one typically graded on a 10pts. Possible scale, and you can "punt" on two of them without it affecting your overall grade.

WHAT ELSE? SOME GENERAL POLICIES...

ATTENDANCE:

Please come to all classes—prepared. If you must miss a class, make your best effort to let me know in advance. I will have a difficult time accepting more than two (2) absences for any reason; more than two "excusable" absences and your final grade will decline by a +/- increment for every absence thereafter. Excusable absences are for the following: documented medical reasons, documented family emergencies/deaths, etc.; documented athletic event participation.

NOTE: If we do an in-class writing or quiz you CAN NOT make this item up.

PLAGIARISM:

There is still so little substantial academic work done to begin with on Deaf-World. Don't repeat it. Contribute something unique. Because this is a "capstone" course, you should all endeavor to fulfill the spirit of an intellectually rich and original capstone experience.

This class will be governed by the university's general policy on intellectual property, academic misconduct, and plagiarism. See the following Office of Academic Affairs, Committee on Academic Misconduct sites for the OSU policy on academic misconduct (including procedures for allegations): <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/code>. See the following link for guidelines and questions about plagiarism in particular: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/prevention/html#plagiarism>

ACCESSIBILITY, ACCOMMODATIONS, ABILITIES:

We all have varying abilities; we all carry various strengths and weaknesses. Some of these might even be "documented" with a place like the OSU Office for Disability Services (ODS). If so, please just let me know. With or without documentation, it is my intent to make our learning experience as accessible as possible. With documentation, I am especially interested in providing any student accommodations that have probably been best determined by the student and an ODS counselor in advance. Please let me know NOW what we can do to maximize *your* learning potential, participation, and general access in this course. I am available to meet with you in person or to discuss such things on email.

The Office for Disability Services is located at 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue, phone 292-3307 (TDD 292-0901). See: <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>



James Castle's "Mona Lisa"

THE SYLLABUS

WEEK 0: ENTERING DEAF-WORLD

Wed. Sept. 20

Introductions and Outline; Group Assignments

ASSN: post brief additional introduction on CARMEN

WEEK 1: MINGLING IN DEAF-WORLD

Mon. Sept. 25 *In the Land of the Deaf*

In-class Screening:

Nicholas Philibert's *In the Land of the Deaf* (English subtitles, 1992)

Check out reviews of the film: <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/IntheLandoftheDeaf-1060115/reviews.php>

ASSN: CARMEN post-it (see prompt) on *In the Land of the Deaf*

Wed. Sept. 27 Mapping the Land
Groups-go-round (introductions)
Discussion of *In the Land of the Deaf*

ASSN: Groups begin research on Deaf Schools in Global regions

WEEK 2: LANGUAGE, COMMUNITY, IDENTITY

Mon. Oct. 2: The American Deaf School/Institution

Reading:

Introduction & Chapters 1 -4 from *Inside Deaf Culture*

ASSN:

Group/individual Research on U.S. state deaf schools

Wed. Oct. 4: Of "Voice" and "Class"

Continue group work on global/state deaf education/schools....

WEEK 3: PERFORMING/CULTURE

Mon. Oct. 9:

Readings:

Inside Deaf Culture Chaps. 5-8 (finish book)

ASSN: In-class or assigned writing activity on CARMEN

Wed. Oct. 11: ASL and/in Drama (Shakespeare) and Poetry

Readings:

1. ASL Shakespeare website <http://www.usfca.edu/fpa/shakespeare/Index.html>
2. Slope (literary magazine) special issue on ASL poetry: <http://slope.org/asl/>

ASSN: posted on CARMEN

WEEK 4: INDIA & AFRICA

Mon. Oct. 16: India to U.S.

Readings:

Madan Vasishta, *Deaf in Delhi: A Memoir*

ASSN: posted on CARMEN

Wed. April 18: Africa

Readings:

1. Sotonwa Opeoluwa, "Victim of the Silent Void" from Stremmler's *Deaf-Way II* collection (pp. 90-120)

ASSN: posted on CARMEN

WEEK 5: FRANCE & GERMANY

Mon. Oct. 23: France

Readings:

1. Emmanuelle Laborit's *Cry of the Gull*

Clips from her films...

ASSN: in-class writing and/or CARMEN post

Wed. Oct. 25: Germany

Readings:

(posted on CARMEN) Selection from *Deaf People in Hitler's Europe*, "Hungarian Deaf Jews and the Holocaust" and "Survivor Testimonies" John Schuchman

Lecture on the Nazi T-4 Program....

ASSN: in-class writing or CARMEN post

WEEK 6: AMERICAN DEAF EDUCATION

Mon. Oct. 30: The Mainstream and More...

Readings:

1. Gina Oliva's *Alone in the Mainstream: A Deaf Woman Remembers Public School*

ASSN: in-class writing or CARMEN post

Wed. Nov. 1: Sound and Fury...

Readings:

1. Sound and Fury website (PBS): <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/soundandfury/>

Screening Josh Aronson's *Sound and Fury*

ASSN: Stakeholders exercise...

WEEK 7: AMERICAN INFLUENCE (HEARD ROUND THE WORLD?)

Mon. Nov. 6: Deaf President Now!

See websites on CARMEN
Screen documentary about DPN

ASSN: posted on CARMEN

Wed. Nov. 8: American to/and Japan

Readings:

1. Selection from Karen Nakuruma, *Deaf in Japan* (PDF posted on CARMEN)

ASSN: posted on CARMEN or in-class

ETA Reports Due: Groups ABC

WEEK 8: AMERICAN DEAF DIVERSITY & DEAFNESS

Mon. Nov. 13: Women and Deafness

Readings:

1. Peruse the History Through Deaf Eyes Exhibit website:
<http://depts.gallaudet.edu/deafeyes/>
2. Selections from Brueggemann & Burch, *Women and Deafness* (posted on CARMEN in PDF)

ASSN: Posted on CARMEN or in-class

Wed. Nov. 15: History Through Deaf Eyes and Multiple Lens **Guest Lecture: Prof. Susan Burch (History, Gallaudet University)**

Readings:

Chapters from *Unspeakable* by Susan Burch and Hannah Joyner (posted on CARMEN)

ETA Reports Due: Groups DEF

WEEK 9: Local Lives

Mon. Nov. 20: CODA Time

Readings:

1. All of R.H. Miller, *Deaf Hearing Boy*

ASSN: in-class or posted on CARMEN

Wed. May 22: Down Time: Catch up Day

ETA Reports Due: Groups GH

WEEK 10: Deaf Literature and Art

Mon. Nov.27: (Deaf) Literature around the World

ALL READ: Christopher Jon Heuer, "Listening for the Same Thing" (38-57) (DWII Anthology)

Each small group should focus on a certain set of readings from the *Deaf Way II Anthology* and, after a small group discussion in class, be prepared to present on the style and substance of note in your readings to the whole class:

Group A: Kristi Meriweather, 3 poems, (143-47)

Group B: Raymond Luczak, 2 pieces (149-63)

Group C: Curtis Robbins, 6 poems (4-10)

Group D: Melissa Whalen, "The Noisy House" (12-28)

Group E: Christopher Jon Heuer, 5 poems (30-37)

Group F: Carmen Christiu, 3 poems (59-61) & Justine Vogenthaler, 3 poems (165-69)

Group G: Willy Corley, "Every Man Must Fall" and 3 poems (171-88)

Group H: Pamela Wright-Meinhardt, 2 poems (131-38) & Douglas Bullard, "Yet: Jack Can Hear!" (122-29)

Screen:

Deaf Way II: A Visual Anthology

Wed. Nov. 29: Deaf Art

Lecture on The Allen Sisters Photography & James Castle

WEEK 11: Deaf-World Quilting Bee

Mon. Dec. 4 11:30-3:30: Quilting Time. Bring paper and writing utensils