

ENG 215 Introduction to English Studies | Summer 2022Kristine Koyama (they/she) | kakoyama@uwm.eduOffice Hours **TBA** (by email + Zoom)**Milwaukee Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that in Milwaukee we live and work on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, and Menominee homelands along the southwest shores of Michigami, part of North America's largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee, and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin's sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida, and Mohican nations remain present.

Course Description

An introduction to the critical study of literature meant for English majors and non-majors alike. The theme of survival unites the variety of voices represented in our course readings. We will cover authors such as Alice Walker, Zitkála-Šá, Brian Friel, and Tasha Spillett, whose works engage with questions of survival—what it is, and what it means to survive—from various historical periods, national canons, literary styles, and genres. Because we will read stories of survival from an intersectional lens, our readings will engage broadly in the question of how a person's race, gender, class, and national identity influence their experience surviving an environmental or social crisis. In situating texts in their historical and cultural contexts, we will map out the overlapping and universal themes that unite these texts. Through the critical use of imagination and empathy, literature helps us learn about the lives and experiences of others, as well as appreciate our responsibilities to the stories that we read.

Course Readings

~Available through eCampus Bookstore and other online retailers:

- Friel, Brian. *Translations*. (1980) ISBN 978-0-571-1174-0
- Spillett, Tasha. *Surviving the City*. (2018) ISBN 917-1-55379-756-2
- (Optional) Spiegelman, Art. *Maus*. (1986) ISBN 978-0394747231

The readings listed below are provided in a digital format on Canvas.

- Zitkála-Šá, "Impressions of an Indian Childhood" and "The Schooldays of an Indian Girl" (1921)
- Zora Neale Hurston, "Sweat" (1926)
- Jane Johnston Schoolcraft (1800-1840), "To the Pine Tree" and "Lines Written at Castle Island, Lake Superior"
- Frances Watkins Harper, "Songs for the People" (1895)
- Langston Hughes, "Let America be America Again" (1935)
- Alice Walker, "To Change the World Enough" (1980s)

Course Workload

Since our class is asynchronous, your weekly workload will be spent reading the assigned text and course materials (such as Power Point slides and lecture videos), completing discussion board posts and other projects.

- 4 Weekly Discussion Posts (approx. 500 words with approx. 250-word peer responses)
- Major Projects: 2 (6-7 pages each)
- Oral Presentation (approx. 10 mins)

****Meets OWC-B Language Requirements**