Goals of course: This course will introduce students to currents in contemporary literature written in English. The main goals are to foster students' appreciation and understanding of literary strategies and forms within a range of genres (poems, novels, plays, graphic novels) and to explore the ways that contemporary literature is an ethical practice that responds to, engages with, and helps us comprehend our rapidly changing global society.

Texts: Gwendolyn Brooks, *Selected Poems*
Adrienne Kennedy, *Funnyhouse of a Negro*
Julia Alvarez, *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*
Tony Kushner, *Angels in America, Part One*
Ruth Ozeki, *All Over Creation*
Helon Habiba, *Oil on Water*
Derek Kirk Kim, *Same Difference*

Requirements:
Class attendance is mandatory. Discussion is a major part of the course so your presence and participation are important! Everyone is allowed three unexcused absences. Unexcused absences after that may affect your grade. Please come to class having read the work listed for that day. It is extremely important that you keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to talk about it. You MUST bring the book we’re on to class so you can refer to it throughout the discussion. (Participation counts for 5% of final grade). All written work should be double spaced, in 12 pt. font. Writing requirements and other projects are as follows:

1) Three unannounced reading quizzes over the course of the term (10%).
2) A 2-page close reading exercise (15%). April 15th.
3) A 3-4-page creative point-of-view exercise (15%). May 6th.
4) A 1-2-page response to one Ruth Ozeki event (10%). May 17th.
5) A 3-page page final essay rough draft (not graded--5%). May 31st.
6) 5-6-page final essay on topic of your choice, due during finals week (No final exam) (40%). June 11th.

Reading and Topic Schedule:
The Black Arts Movement—New Forms in Social Context
Monday, April 1st—Introductions
Wednesday, April 3rd—10 poems in “A Street in Bronzeville,”
8 poems from “Gay Chaps at the Bar” (Brooks, *Selected Poems*).
Friday, April 5th—Brooks, “Anniad,” “We Real Cool,” “A Bronzeville Mother…,”
“The Last Quatrain.”

Wednesday, April 10th—Kennedy, *Funnyhouse of a Negro.*

Friday, April 12th—Kennedy, continued.

Monday, April 15th—Kennedy, continued. **2-page Close Reading due.**

Wednesday, April 17th—Kennedy, continued.

Friday, April 19th—Begin Alvarez, *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*

**Writing Immigration and Identity**

Monday, April 22nd—Alvarez, continued.

Wednesday, April 24th—Alvarez, continued.

Friday, April 26th—Alvarez, continued.

**Writing in the Age of Global Capitalism--Food**

Monday, April 29th—Ozeki, *All Over Creation*

Wednesday May 1st—Ozeki, continued

Friday, May 3rd—Ozeki, continued

Monday, May 6th—Ozeki continued. **3-4-page POV essay due.**

Wednesday, May 8th—Ozeki continued.

Friday, May 10th—Begin Kushner, *Angels in America*

**RUTH OZEKI EVENTS ON CAMPUS AND AT EUGENE LIBRARY, MAY 9TH-11TH**

**Reimagining America at the End of the Twentieth Century**

Monday, May 13th—Kushner, continued

Wednesday, May 15th—Kushner, continued

Friday, May 17th—Film of *Angels in America.* **1-2-page Ozeki response due.**

**Writing in the Age of Global Capitalism--Oil**

Monday, May 20th—Film of *Angels* continued.


Friday, May 24th—Habiba continued

Monday, May 27th—Memorial Day. No class.

Wednesday, May 29th—Habiba continued.

Friday, May 31st—Habiba continued. **3-page rough draft due.**

**Twenty-first Century Forms: the Graphic Novel**

Monday, June 3rd—Kim, *Same Difference.*

Wednesday, June 5th—Kim, continued.

Friday, June 7th—Kim, continued. Conclusions.

**Final Essay due Tuesday, June 11th, 6 p.m., under my office door, 445 PLC**