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**Syllabus/Class Overview Template**

**Required Components**

**General Class Information**

Instructor Name and Contact Information: Kenny Marotta

Subject Area and Catalog Number: ISLS 3180

Year and Term:2015 Fall

Class Title: Possessing the Past

Level (Graduate or Undergraduate): Undergraduate

Credit Type: Credit

Class Description (Use the SIS 400 characters from catalog description):

We will study various types of efforts to re-experience the

past, including: 1) treasuring its relics 2) imitation and

replication of environments and events 3) reading prose fiction

and watching movies that portray life in the past. We will look

at similarities and differences among these efforts to re-possess

the past, consider them in psychological, historical, and

cultural contexts, and explore some of the issues raised by these

efforts. A major goal of the course will be to sharpen students'

skills in analytical thinking, discussion, and especially the

writing of academic papers.

Required Text (Include ISBN, specific edition):

Toni Morrison, SONG OF SOLOMON (paperback ISBN-10: 140003342X or ISBN-13: 978-1400033423; you may use another edition, though). Other texts will be downloadable from the Collab course website, except when Web addresses are given.

Learning Outcomes:

In addition to becoming familiar with the

subject matter and issues pertinent to it, the student will be

given an introduction to the critical thinking skills necessary

to success in upper-level academic courses. These skills include

thinking analytically (interpreting rather than reiterating

evidence, detecting hidden assumptions, attentiveness to

complexity and nuance) and constructing a persuasive argument

(devising a thesis, providing and interpreting evidence, engaging

counter-arguments, showing sensitivity to objectivity and bias,

creating a logical structure, drawing significant conclusions).

Assessment Components:

Each revised paper will count as 25% of

the final grade. The reading logs together will count as 10% of

the grade. Class participation will count as 15% of the grade.

Rubrics will be handed out with each assignment, indicating the

criteria for grading. Reading logs will not be given a letter

grade, but must be handed in each week; late submissions will

receive 1/2 credit. Level and quality of participation will be

evaluated by attendance (after one missed class, each additional

class missed--for any reason--will lower this grade by one full

letter grade), active engagement in small-group discussion, and

contributions to large-group discussion.

NOTE ON GRADING OF PAPERS: 1) Failure to submit a draft prior to

a revision will result in the lowering of the grade for the

revised version by one full letter grade. 2) All revised papers

may be revised again after grading, to receive a new grade, as

often as you wish until the last class meeting. 3) NOTE: An average

minimum grade of C on all papers combined is necessary to receive

a final grade of C for the course.

Delivery Mode Expectations (Classroom/Internet and Web-based classes, specify any live (synchronous) meetings, dates, times, and location of delivery):

In-person classes. Note: September 28 class will meet in classroom TBA, and include visit to the Small Library.

Required Technical Resources and Technical Components:

Technical Specifications: Computer Hardware:

Computer with basic audio/video output equipment

Internet access (broadband recommended)

Microsoft Word