Heritage III

Cultural Encounters

Carthage

Spring 1998
At the core of Heritage III are three primary texts: Silence, Snow Falling on Cedars, and a collection of short stories, Japanese Women Writers.

Shusako Endo’s Silence, one of the most highly-regarded novels of the twentieth-century, dramatizes the encounter between European missionaries and traditional Japanese culture during the 17th-century. For many of you it will resonate in surprising ways with Things Fall Apart; and it raises compelling questions about moral choices and individual responsibility that transcend cultural boundaries.

David Guterson’s Snow Falling on Cedars, a recent critical and popular success, is essentially a murder mystery: in 1954, off San Piedra Island in Puget Sound, a local fisherman is found suspiciously drowned, and a Japanese American is charged with his murder. Why is the community so quick to assume that a citizen of Japanese descent is guilty? Guterson tells us the stories of an island haunted by memories of what happened to its Japanese residents during World War II, when an entire community was sent into exile.

The fourteen short stories in Japanese Women Writers, written by some of Japan’s most important twentieth-century authors, represent a wide range of themes and styles. This anthology will allow us to encounter a chorus of interesting Japanese women’s voices, voices that will not easily be reduced to the “typically” Japanese.

Drawing on a range of disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, and psychology, Intercultural Communication: A Reader allows us to be explicit about some of the conceptual implications of Heritage:
what do we mean when we talk about culture?

what are the implications of crossing cultural boundaries?

what are the connections between culture and communication?

Even as the program enters its ninth year, Heritage remains and should remain a work-in-progress, a sequence of courses accommodating diverse teaching and learning styles. And yet we believe that the program must be defined for students and faculty in ways that go beyond fairly broad statements of goals and competencies.

We need to be able to explain with some consistency what students should expect to do in each Heritage course in the sequence, whoever the instructor might be.

These pages continue the process of explanation and invite you into our conversations about identity, community, culture, and learning.

Welcome (or welcome back) to Heritage.


To begin Heritage III, we have attempted to select materials from *Intercultural Communication* through which we can construct helpful frames or lenses through which to encounter culture and the three primary texts.

These sorts of articles will be read and responded to differently than novels or stories. That's part of the point. Some essays serve to introduce broad concepts and need not be analyzed in excruciating detail. Other essays offer opportunities to analyze logical and rhetorical strategies as well as research methods. All articles include substantial bibliographies, encouraging students to pursue independent research. While we have tried to be realistic about the number of assigned articles during Unit One – most articles are quite brief and most need not be analyzed to death despite the important questions they raise – we understand that some experimentation and therefore some flexibility will be appropriate. At the same time, we think it remains important that all Heritage III students encounter a similar level of expectation as well as a common set of readings and concepts.

David H. Krause

*Associate Dean for Academic Enhancement and Director of Heritage Studies*
These courses, taken in sequence by all students, introduce them to higher education at Carthage and help them develop competencies in cultural studies and writing, as well as thinking, reading, speaking, and listening, and cultural and intercultural studies. Heritage provides a common academic culture at Carthage. The Heritage sequence is taught collaboratively by faculty from academic departments across the college and takes an integrated approach to learning. Typically, the three courses are completed during a student's first two years at Carthage.

Heritage I (105): Identity and Culture

This first seminar in the Heritage sequence engages some of the most basic questions of being human: who are we? how do we come to know and understand ourselves? how is self-knowledge constructed, used, and valued? The course also begins to engage questions about the nature and construction of culture itself that will be pursued throughout the sequence: what does it mean to have or belong to a culture? what does it mean to inherit or transmit a cultural legacy, a heritage? Texts will emphasize the traditions of the West; however, students will be challenged to approach the central questions about human identity through multiple intellectual and cultural perspectives. Assignments will emphasize close reading of texts and the writing of narrative and analysis. Offered during the fall term.

Heritage II (106): Community and Culture

The second Heritage seminar, deepening the inquiries of Heritage I, engages questions about the construction, use, and value of community: How and why have men and women, in various times and places, lived together? What are the sources and consequences of social contracts? How do the arrangements for living together enhance or compromise individual identity and values? How do communities promote or inhibit liberty, justice, equality? This seminar examines multiple and sometimes competing models for living with others: for example, as family members, as religious believers, as citizens. Texts will continue to emphasize the traditions of the West; however, students will again be challenged to approach the central questions about human community through multiple intellectual and cultural perspectives. Assignments will emphasize comparative and analytical reading and writing, with attention to argumentation, use of evidence, and independent research. Prerequisite: Heritage I (105). Offered during the spring term.

Heritage III (205) Cultural Encounters

This third and final Heritage seminar focuses on encounters between individuals and communities from different cultures. Examining what it means to have a cultural legacy—a heritage—within a complex global community, students are challenged to make personal and intellectual sense of one or more cultures beyond the borders of the West. The course intends to foster global thinking, problem-solving, understanding, and communication, by engaging questions of individuality and community, tradition and innovation, order and change, rationality and spirituality, conflict and cooperation. Texts will represent multiple world cultures. Assignments will emphasize complex analysis and synthesis, with attention to sustained independent research. Prerequisites: Heritage I (105) and II (106). Offered both fall and spring terms.
Competencies and Goals

In this year of continuing curriculum renewal, the Heritage faculty reaffirms its commitment to five competencies that have been central to Heritage since 1989: Cultural Studies and Writing, as well as Reading, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking.

A. Our Cultural Studies goals for Heritage III (205) include:

1. That students continue to practice recognizing, analyzing, explaining, judging, and questioning multiple historical and cultural perspectives; that they continue to analyze continuities and discontinuities between our own positions and those of other times and places.

2. That students increase their awareness of global human conditions; that they be challenged to think critically about these conditions and to take thoughtful, responsible, moral stances on issues of global significance.

3. That students prepare themselves for entering global communities by examining how cultures work and interact.

4. That students deepen their recognition and respect for the pluralism of society within the United States; that they cultivate some of the competencies necessary for full civic participation within pluralistic societies and organizations, including cross-cultural communication, interdependence, collaboration, and consensus decision-making.

B. Our Writing goals for Heritage III (205) include:

1. That students practice strategies for discovering and formulating the points and judgments they want to make.

2. That students practice tightening and amplifying focus in their writing by generating both short and extended essays.

3. That students develop strategies for supporting, illustrating, analyzing, and testing their judgments, including techniques for conducting and incorporating the results of independent research (for example, the discovery and use of appropriate sources).

4. That students gain experience in evaluating their own processes of writing; that they assess and re-assess their own successes in saying what they want to say; that they practice judging how well their writing fulfills their own intentions and their audience's needs.
C. Our Reading goals for Heritage III (205) include:

1. That students recognize that different authors, different genres, different periods, different cultures expect readers to approach texts in different ways.

2. That students will develop competence and understanding in strategies through which active learners make sense of texts by recognizing, analyzing, and engaging historical, social, political, intellectual, and other contexts for particular texts.

3. That students continue to discover that learning to read in different ways allows them to enjoy a wider range of texts and to gain new perspectives on their cultural assumptions.

4. That students practice explaining and supporting the ways in which they make sense of texts; that they practice assessing for themselves the accuracy and appropriateness of their own interpretations of texts, as well as those of others.

D. Our Oral Communication goals for Heritage III (205) include:

1. That students practice strategies for speaking extemporaneously, developing an argument orally, presenting information and ideas through panel discussions, debating, and assessing themselves and each other through mutually agreed upon criteria.

2. That students practice making judgments about credibility and authenticity in various oral communication contexts.

3. That students practice strategies for collaboration through interactive speaking and listening techniques.

E. Our Thinking goals for Heritage III (205) include:

1. That students practice viewing situations empathetically from different perspectives.

2. That students practice distinguishing between fact and opinion, between what we know and what we believe.

3. That students practice strategies for exploring the implications and consequences of ideas, actions, values, and beliefs.

4. That students distinguish how and when to think for themselves; how to maintain a healthy sense of skepticism, while recognizing and respecting appropriate kinds of tradition and authority.
Writing in Heritage III (205): Opportunities, Assignments, and Portfolios

In Heritage 205, as in Heritage 105 and 106, students will write frequently, both in and out of class. Over the course of the term, students will generate a considerable body of written work. The processes by which students generate their writing matters as much as their products. Student writing will be assessed on the basis of how well it exemplifies purposeful, reasoned, and imaginative inquiry.

Norms
For a more detailed statement of expectations for writing in Heritage II, see pages 13 and 14 of this booklet.

Students will maintain a complete record of their written work in a folder called a process portfolio. At the end of the term, students will organize their essays, along with the response writing and drafts that led up to them, in an exemplary portfolio. They will also construct a self-assessment of their writing processes. This Heritage portfolio provides students and teachers with a continuing record of progress throughout the sequence. See page 15 for checklist.

Heritage III (205) students will continue practicing strategies for clarifying and testing their responses to texts and experiences through writing. Writing assignments will include opportunities to record observations, express reactions, make connections, develop summary statements, and question.

Students will also practice:

- discovering and trusting their own voices in a variety of writing situations;
- engaging texts through careful, disciplined reading and inquiry, often accompanied by informal writing;
- making, explaining, supporting, and testing judgments through writing;
- discovering, interpreting, and incorporating the results of independent research;
- focusing, developing, and sustaining inquiry through writing;
- editing and revising their own writing;
- recognizing, explaining, and assessing their own writing processes.

Students in Heritage 205 will also be expected to give focused attention to basic composition skills, as necessary. Teachers will help students become comfortable with using Hacker’s *A Writer’s Reference* to help avoid errors and enhance their style. Resources available through the Writing Center will be explained to students.

Through their response and process writing, all Heritage III (205) students should shape the equivalent of two sustained, distinct essays, each approximately 8 pages long (word-processed).

Both of these essays should show evidence of serious attention to one or more of the major texts and/or themes of the course.
Ordinarily, the first essay should be completed by the week of March 9, and the second by the week of May 4.

Once deadlines have been established, students have a responsibility to their classmates, their teacher, and themselves to meet them.

In addition, all students in Heritage III (205) will be expected to write an essay final examination during the assigned period. In some meaningful ways, this examination should be comprehensive, giving students opportunities to engage texts they have not dealt with at length in other writing, and to make connections.

**Oral Communication in Heritage III (205):**

Most importantly, Heritage 205 continues to foster listening and speaking skills that enable students to participate responsibly on a range of subjects.

In addition, each student should expect at least two formal speaking opportunities (usually at least 10 minutes each).

Many of the same strategies practiced in writing should be cultivated and valued in speaking.

Students should be challenged both to plan what they want to say and to be extemporaneous, which is why some instructors suggest that notes for certain kinds of speaking assignments be limited to one 3x5 index card.

Ordinarily, at least one of these speaking opportunities should be individualized; a panel discussion or other group presentation is entirely appropriate for the other opportunity, as long as each student is expected to be a full and active participant.
Collaborating

“Learning is enhanced when it is more like a team effort than a solo race. Good learning, like good work, is collaborative and social, not competitive and isolated. Working with others often increases involvement in learning. Sharing one’s own ideas and responding to others’ reactions improves thinking and deepens understanding.”

“Learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much just sitting in classes listening to teachers, memorizing pre-packaged assignments, and spitting out answers. They must talk about what they are learning, write about it, relate it to past experiences, and apply it to their daily lives. They must make what they learn part of themselves.”

—Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education

Your Heritage seminars remain deeply committed to these two fundamental principles for good practice in teaching/learning from The Wingspread Journal. Full participation includes in-class writing, speaking, and workshops, conversations based on course materials, and occasional out-of-class programs and activities. No notes, handouts, or make-up work can adequately compensate for your absence. This means, then, that each of you carries certain responsibilities to class:

1. To attend class regularly:
   Attendance is necessary and assumed.
   (Students who miss class frequently, or who do not prepare and participate fully, may fail the course.)

2. To come to class well prepared;

3. To listen;

4. To question;

5. To converse openly and with a sense of purpose;

6. To help create a learning environment in which you and other students feel encouraged and challenged to cooperate;

7. To respect the idea that each of you has unique talents, unique ways of learning, and unique perspectives to share;

8. To respect each other’s differences in culture, ethnicity, gender, beliefs, values.
A Note on Assessment

Please don't mistake a letter grade for full or final assessment of your work. Because we all may be conditioned to see a letter grade as a stamp of approval or disapproval that marks the completion of a task, your teacher may be reluctant to shut down or short-circuit your process of critical inquiry by assigning such a grade prematurely.

However, you should expect your teacher to:

respond directly and in detail to the strengths and limits of your work;

suggest strategies for improvement;

give you a clear sense of just how effectively you are progressing toward achieving the goals of a particular assignment and of the course as a whole.

A Note on Academic Integrity

Since we are, in fact, interested in what you think and why you think it, be sure to emerge from all your course preparations and research with ideas and ways of expressing them that are recognizably your own. So that you will learn when, how, and why to cite sources, we will pay attention to the principles and styles of documentation in oral and written communication. Read the section "Academic Honesty Guidelines" in the Student Community Code Book.

Heritage Scholarships

To recognize the accomplishments of disciplined and imaginative students, and to encourage and celebrate the ideas of Heritage, the College established a scholarship program in the spring of 1991. This scholarship program is administered by the Heritage faculty in cooperation with the Vice President for Enrollment. Watch for an announcement of procedures and deadlines. The criteria for selection, determined and articulated by Heritage faculty for 1998-1999 awards, will reflect the philosophy, purposes, and practices of the Heritage Program.

Required Heritage III Texts

Spring 1997 - 1998


*Silence*, Shusaku Endo

*Japanese Women Writers*, translated and edited by Noriko Mizuta Lippit and Kyoko Iriye Selden

*Snow Falling on Cedars*, David Guterson

*A Writer's Reference*, Marilyn Hacker

(students should have retained text from Heritage I)
Heritage III (205): Cultural Encounters
Reading Calendar

February

Identity and Community and Beyond

Heritage as Cultural Encounter
Margaret Mead: An Observer Observed
(documentary)

Unit One (Intercultural Communication)

Margaret Mead: An Observer Observed
(documentary)
Porter & Samovar, “An Introduction to Intercultural Communication,” IC 1-26

W/11: Margaret Mead: An Observer Observed
(documentary)

Margaret Mead: An Observer Observed
(documentary)

Collier, “Cultural Identity and Intercultural Communication,” IC 36-44; Kim, “Intercultural Personhood: An Integration of Eastern and Western Perspectives,” IC 434-447


Unit Two (Silence)

March

M/2: Shusaku Endo, Silence, Prologue, pages 1-12

W/4: Silence, Chapters 1-3, pages 13-46

F/6: Silence, Chapter 4, pages 47-78

M/9: Silence, Chapters 5 and 6, pages 79-120

FIRST ESSAY DUE THIS WEEK

W/11: Silence: text and contexts

F/13: Silence, Chapters 7 and 8, pages 121-171

Spring Break: March 14 - 22

M/23: Silence, Chapters 9 and 10 and Appendix, pages 173-201

W/25: Silence: text and contexts

F/27: Silence: text and contexts
April

W/1: story [your instructors will determine an appropriate sequence of stories]

F/3: story

M/6: story

W/8: story

F/10: Good Friday

M/13: Easter Monday

W/15: story

F/17: story

M/20: story

W/22: story

Unit Four (Snow Falling on Cedars)

F/24: *Snow Falling on Cedars*, Chapters 1-4, pages 3-45

M/27: *Snow Falling on Cedars*, Chapters 5-7, pages 46-93

W/29: *Snow Falling on Cedars*, Chapters 8-11, pages 94-169

May

F/1: *Snow Falling on Cedars*, Chapters 12-18, pages 170-269

M/4: *Snow Falling on Cedars*, Chapters 19-22, pages 270-326

SECOND ESSAY DUE THIS WEEK

F/8: *Snow Falling on Cedars*, Chapters 26-32, pages 369-460 (conclusion)

M/11: *Snow Falling on Cedars*: Text and Contexts

M/18: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Final Examination for sections meeting MWF 9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Final Examination for sections meeting MWF 2:30 p.m.

M/20: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Final Examination for sections meeting MWF 11:00 a.m.

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Final Examination for sections meeting MWF 1:15 p.m.
Highly Recommended Additional Readings

from Samovar & Porter, *Intercultural Communication*:

During Unit One:

Janzen, “Five Paradigms of Ethnic Relations,” 63-70

Sauceda, “Aesthetics as a Bridge to Multicultural Understanding,” 417-426

Cleveland, The Limits to Cultural Diversity,” 431-433

During Unit Two: (Silence)

Dolphin, “Variables in Use of Personal Space in Intercultural Transactions,” 266-276

Hall, “Monochronic and Polychronic Time,” 277-283

During Unit Three: *(Japanese Women Writers)*

Wood, “Gender, Communication, and Culture,” 164-173

During Unit Four: *(Snow Falling on Cedars)*

Stefani, Samovar & Hellweg, “Culture and Its Impact on Negotiation,” 307-316

Ting-Tomay, “Managing Intercultural Conflicts Effectively,” 392-403

Kim, “Adapting to a New Culture,” 404-416

Additional Readings Suitable for Student Reports and Independent or Group Work:

Martin, “Understanding Whiteness in the United States,” 54-62

Ribeau, Baldwin & Hecht, “An African American Communication Perspective,” 147-153

Lieberman, “Culture Problem Solving, and Pedagogical Style,” 191-206

Orbe, “Utilizing an Inductive Approach to Studying African American Male Communications,” 227-334

Stefani, “The Influence of Culture on Classroom Communication,” 349-362

Kale, “Peace as an Ethic for Intercultural Communication,” 448-453
Superior researched essays will be distinguished by the writer's ability to take a stand on a specific point or judgment on an issue raised explicitly or implicitly by the course materials. This judgment will be richly supported by sound reasoning and a pattern of evidence drawn from sources beyond classroom texts. In selecting such sources, the student will have demonstrated the ability to locate appropriate evidence, to evaluate it critically, to incorporate it successfully into his or her work, and to document it with accurate citations. Superior essays will devote considerable attention to analysis of this evidence, rather than simply transmitting it, and the best work will not only engage a point that is genuinely debatable (that is, a point that could legitimately provoke an alternative or opposing judgment) but will articulate and sustain a logical argument. The very best essays in this category may incorporate elements of other writing styles, such as narrative (for example, a clear, confident point of view) or textual analysis (using an example from the reading to support or illustrate the judgment).

Superior examples of sustained text-based analysis will demonstrate the writer's ability to develop a focused, sustained, and perceptive interpretation of some significant feature of a major text (or, even better, will integrate this sort of sustained inquiry through two or more texts). The most successful kinds of analysis will usually show the student's willingness to "dig in" to some specific theme or aspect running through a text or texts, with the explicit purpose of showing what it means and why it matters. They often respond to such questions as: "How do perceptions of the "other" shape the contours of both Silence and Snow Falling on Cedars?" or "Do Hatsue Miyamoto and the protagonist in "Smile of a Mountain Witch" support or undermine the stereotypical images of Japanese women?" The best textual analyses will use specific and apt references, risk drawing out reasonable and original inferences, and remain free of plot summary that is not immediately relevant to the point being made. Superior interpretations move beyond description or summary toward judgment.

Superior examples of process writing will clearly document the student's understanding, in principle and practice, that writing is a process, that an effective essay emerges through carefully sequenced and rigorously developed stages of inquiry and composition. Typically, superior process writing will begin with a relatively informal record of observations, reactions, questions, or connections in response to a "text." This initial response will then be extended, amplified, narrowed, or tested through focused, guided revision. Further informed by suggestions from the instructor and/or peers, revision continues as ideas and judgments come into focus and shape through continuing amplification or "burrowing." The best examples of papers generated through process writing will include one or two full drafts, thoroughly revised and edited (but not just edited), leading up to the final product.
Heritage III Portfolios:  
Criteria for reading completed course portfolios  
Spring 1997-1998

5: Superior  
The most accomplished portfolios will contain two distinct, well-conceived, and well-organized essays (totaling approximately 15 word-processed pages). Multiple drafts and related short pieces will be included to illustrate careful processes of writing and rewriting; there will be clear and ample evidence of planning, revising, and editing. These superior portfolios need not be without minor flaws, and both pieces need not be equally successful. However, each essay must address the assignment fully and explore the issues thoughtfully. On balance, the best portfolios must convincingly demonstrate the writer’s ability to control the conventions of effective composition (including word choice, sentence structure, paragraph development, transitions) with confidence and grace. Superior portfolios will typically document the writer’s progress toward increasingly mature insights and style(s). This documentation will include the writer’s self-evaluation of the writing represented in the portfolio. Variety and creativity will be rewarded.

4: Good  
These portfolios contain all the components described in category 5, and will also clearly address all assignments responsibly and with considerable success. There will be evidence of some depth and complexity of thought, but less consistently than in the “5” portfolios. In general, each piece is effectively organized, fairly well-developed. These portfolios demonstrate the writer’s ability to express ideas clearly, but with somewhat less maturity, sophistication, subtlety, elegance, or style.

3: Competent  
Typically, these portfolios will suggest some potential for the successes evident in “Good” or even, occasionally, “Superior” portfolios. However, they will be limited by superficiality or unevenness. One or both pieces may be too brief, underdeveloped, or lacking preliminary writing and drafts. The reader may want “more” to be convinced fully of the writer’s ability to handle the various writing assignments successfully and to use language effectively. On balance, the thinking or expression may seem pedestrian (that is, ordinary or “uninspired”).

2: Below Average  
Weaknesses clearly predominate over strengths. One or both of the pieces may be too short, too abstract, too vague, or too disorganized or misguided. The writing tends to be simplistic or clumsy. Some of the writing may seem relatively clear and focused, even without glaring mechanical errors; nonetheless, these portfolios remain thin in substance, underdeveloped, and undistinguished in style. There may be mostly generalizations without supporting detail or detail without generalizations. Instead of genuine textual analysis, for example, these portfolios may contain only plot summary.

1: Marginal  
These portfolios compound inadequacies in one or more of the areas noted in characterizing the “Competent” or “Below Average” portfolios.