

English 102: **Inquiry into Identity and the Power of Representation**

Due to power inequities in economics, race, nationality, and/or gender, many have been dispossessed of the ability to represent themselves. In this class, we will primarily look at twentieth-century texts of colonized peoples, African Americans, and women in order to see how they construct their identities. In examining their diverse representations, we will ask: How do they react to the dominant discourse and stereotypes? Do they create a collective form of identity? Or, is the notion of essential identities inevitably problematic? Assignments include traditional research methods such as ethnographic, historical, and source-based arguments. Readings for the course include major authors such as Jamaica Kincaid, Toni Morrison, and Virginia Woolf among many more.