

ENGL 332: American Literature: The Twentieth Century

Trimester 1 2010

1 March to 4 July 2010

20 Points



Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010

Mid-trimester break: 5 April to 18 April 2010

Study week: 7 June to 11 June 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 11 June to 4 July 2010

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course co-ordinator	Anna Jackson (Anna.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz , room VZ 919, extn.6840)
Lecturers	Anna Jackson Charles Ferrall (Charles.Ferrall@vuw.ac.nz , VZ 904, extn. 6804)
Tutors	Erin Scudder (Erin.Scudder@vuw.ac.nz) Daniel Herman (Daniel.Herman@vuw.ac.nz ; VZ 909, extn. 6856)

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures: Mondays and Thursdays, HULT 323, 13.10-14.00

Tutorials:

Weekly tutorials will begin in the second week of term

Times and rooms to be announced

Tutorial lists will be posted on the English notice-board on the 2nd floor foyer, Hugh Mackenzie building, and will also be available on blackboard

Enquiries to Anna Jackson

COURSE DELIVERY

The two lectures a week will provide background information on the writers, their works, and the contexts in which they were writing, to give a context for students' own close reading of texts and further research through the reading of recommended secondary sources. Brief summaries of the lectures will be provided on Blackboard, along with the powerpoint slides shown, which will include all major quotations provided. However Blackboard should not be considered an alternative to lectures, which will include the discussion of audio-visual material.

The tutorials will involve the close reading of select passages from the texts, or the discussion of thematic or stylistic issues that will usually have been announced in advance. Students are expected to have read the primary texts in advance of the tutorials and will usually be asked to bring written notes to class which will be handed in at the end of the session.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information or notices about changes that may have to be made will be posted on Blackboard and announced in lectures.

COURSE CONTENT

This course introduces students to some of the central movements in American literature in the twentieth century, including Modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, the Jazz Age, the Beat period, the L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry movement, and the Minimalist fiction of the 1980s.

Five major works of fiction will be introduced and discussed in lectures and tutorials, in addition to a selection of poetry, which will be made available in class along with other supplementary material.

The fiction texts, in order of teaching, are:

- 1) F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- 2) Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- 3) Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*
- 4) Raymond Carver, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*
- 5) Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In studying a wide selection of writing by American poets, novelists and short story writers, students will gain an understanding both of specific texts and genres and of the historical, social, political and literary contexts in which such writing occurs.

Specifically, students will:

- a) develop skills of attentive and critical reading through the study of selected text
- b) increase their understanding of American culture and of the role of the writer/artist in relation to the some of the shifting values and ideas of American culture;
- c) be familiar with the some of the key literary movements of the Twentieth century
- d) be able to place a range of significant American writers within a literary and cultural context

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for this course is 13 hours a week: that is, 9 hours a week of self-directed study in addition to the class contact hours.

READINGS

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at

www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential texts:

- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*
- Raymond Carver, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*
- Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*

Recommended Reading:

A recommended, but not prescribed, text is (Ed.) Geoffrey Moore, *The Penguin Book of American Verse* (revised edition 1983, Penguin, \$31.95). Also recommended is Tama Janowitz's story collection *Slaves of New York*.

In addition, a reading list of books in our library will be provided. Students are expected to read one or more secondary texts, to provide contextual information for their readings of the primary texts. Guidance for further reading will be given in tutorials but students are also encouraged to talk to their tutor for further assistance.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment will ensure that the student has a broad acquaintance with the set texts, and a close knowledge of at least six authors within a cultural and critical framework. Both the essays and the examination questions will develop and assess the ability to read and write about literary works with attention to detail and context.

Coursework is worth 50%, and is made up of two essays of 2000 words each, each worth 25%. The first assignment is due on **Monday 29 March** and the second assignment is due on **Friday 14 May**.

Both essays are designed to assess how well students are meeting the learning objectives of close and attentive reading skills, and an ability to place American writers in a literary and cultural context. Grading will also take into account the ability to construct a logical argument, the effective use of textual evidence in support of claims made, and writing style. A basic level of literacy is required for an essay to receive a passing grade whether or not the essay otherwise meets the required standards. Essays must conform to the standards and guidelines set out in the SEFTMS Guidelines for Students.

Examination (50%): This is a three hour examination and will consist of three questions, each of equal value. You will be expected to write on at least four authors in the exam. The examination is closed book. The examination will be held during the examination period from Friday 11 June to Saturday 4 July.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

Extensions

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

The final deadline for any written coursework is 4 June. No work will be accepted after this date.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are required to attend lectures and tutorials regularly. At least seven tutorials must be attended as a mandatory requirement for the course, and preparation for the tutorials is essential. **This includes reading the set texts for tutorial discussion, and will usually also involve bringing written notes to the class which will be handed in at the end of the session. Both major assignments must be completed and handed in, and the three-hour final examination must be completed at the end of the course.**

A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K grade for that course, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i.e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

Monday 1 March **Introduction: from the 1920s to the 1980s (AJ)**

Thursday 4 March **From Modernism to Post-modernism (AJ)**

1920s: Modernism and the Jazz Age

Monday 8 March	Gertrude Stein (AJ)
Thursday 11 March	William Carlos Williams (AJ)
Monday 15 March	T.S. Eliot (AJ)
Thursday 18 March	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> (AJ)
Monday 22 March	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> (AJ)
Thursday 25 March	Hemingway (AJ)
Monday 29 March	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> (CF)
Thursday 1 April	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> (CF)

MID-SEMESTER BREAK

1950s: Culture and Counter-culture

Monday 19 April	1950s conformity culture (AJ)
Thursday 22 April	Sylvia Plath (AJ)
Monday 26 April	Allen Ginsberg (AJ)
Thursday 29 April	Beat poetry (AJ)
Monday 3 May	<i>On the Road</i> (AJ)
Thursday 6 May	<i>On the Road</i> (AJ)

1980s: L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E and Realism

Monday 10 May	1980s culture and <i>Slaves of New York</i> (AJ)
Thursday 13 May	Dirty realism: Raymond Carver (AJ)
Monday 17 May	Dirty realism: Raymond Carver and after (AJ)
Thursday 20 May	<i>The Things They Carried</i> (CF)
Monday 24 May	<i>The Things They Carried</i> (CF)
Thursday 27 May	L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry (AJ)
Monday 31 May	L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry (AJ)
Thursday 3 June	Conclusion (AJ)

Study Week: Monday 7 June to Friday 11 June 2010

Examination Period: Friday 11 June – Sunday 4 July 2010