

# ENGL 332 American Literature: Twentieth Century

**Trimester 1 2012**

5 March to 4 July 2012

20 Points



## TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6 to 22 April 2012

Study week: 11 to 15 June 2012

Examination/Assessment period: 15 June to 4 July 2012

**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

<b>Course co-ordinator</b>	Anna Jackson <a href="mailto:Anna.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz">Anna.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz</a> , room VZ 919, extn.6840)
<b>Lecturers</b>	Anna Jackson Charles Ferrall ( <a href="mailto:Charles.Ferrall@vuw.ac.nz">Charles.Ferrall@vuw.ac.nz</a> , VZ 904, extn. 6804)

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Monday, Wednesday                      4:10pm – 5:00pm    Hunter Lecture Theatre 220 (HULT220)

### Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the ENGL 332 site on Blackboard: go to “Frequently Asked Questions” on the left, select “Tutorials” and then follow the instructions under the “Signing Up for a Tutorial” link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the bulletin board outside HMLT206

## 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.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

## COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course will be concerned with studying the developments in American Literature, in prose and poetry, from the turn of the 20th century to the present. The course considers the impact of major literary movements of the 20th century, including Modernism, the Beats, Minimalism or "Dirty Realism", and the L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry movement of the 1980s.

## COURSE CONTENT

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 texts;
- b) increase their understanding of American culture and of the role of the writer/artist in relation to 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

### 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.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 13 February to 16 March 2012, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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.

### ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment will ensure that the student has a broad acquaintance with the set texts, and a close knowledge of at least six literary works within a cultural and critical framework. Both the in-term essays and the examination essays are designed to 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 of which is worth 25%. The first assignment is due on **Wednesday April 4, by 4pm**, and the second assignment is due on **Wednesday May 16, by 4pm**.

Both essays are designed to assess how well students are meeting the learning objectives of close and attentive reading, 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. Students are advised to read a range of critical writing and examples of successful student essays on blackboard so as to have a good understanding of the kind of critical writing appropriate to the discipline.

A basic level of literacy (grammatical sentence construction, correct spelling and punctuation, appropriate paragraphing and proper quotation) is required for an essay to receive a passing grade whether or not the essay otherwise meets the required standards. Talk to your tutor early in the course if you have any uncertainty about your mastery of these skills. **Essays must conform to the standards and guidelines set out in the SEFTMS Student Handbook (available on Blackboard).**

The examination is worth 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. Students will be allowed to take into the examination room an A4 sheet of paper with notes on it they will have prepared in advance.

### 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.

### EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

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.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

### 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. Where handwritten work

is required you are expected to write clearly. If this 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>

## WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study).

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

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ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 332

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1    5 March    From Modernism to Post-modernism  
              7 March    Gertrude Stein

Week 2    12 March    William Carlos Williams  
              14 March    T S Eliot

Week 3    19 March    Ezra Pound, Imagism, Amygism  
              21 March    Hemingway

Week 4    26 March    *The Great Gatsby*  
              28 March    *The Great Gatsby*

Week 5    2 April      *Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
              4 April      *Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
  
**First assignment due 4 April, by 4pm**

**Mid Trimester Break:**    Friday 6 April to Sunday 22 April 2012

Week 6    23 April    1950s conformity culture  
              25 April    **Anzac day – no class**

Week 7    30 April    Sylvia Plath  
              2 May      Beat poetry

Week 8    7 May      *On the Road*  
              9 May      *On the Road*

Week 9    14 May    1980s Culture and *Slaves of New York*  
              16 May    Dirty Realism: Raymond Carver  
  
**Second assignment due 16 May, by 4pm**

Week 10    21 May    *The Things They Carried*

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	23 May	<i>The Things They Carried</i>
Week 11	28 May	L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry
	30 May	L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry
Week 12	4 June	<b>Queen's birthday – no class</b>
	6 June	<b>Conclusion</b>

**Study Week:** Monday 11 June to Friday 15 June 2012

**Examination Period:** Friday 15 June to Wednesday 4 July 2012