

# ENGL 332 American Literature: Twentieth Century

**Trimester 2 2013**

15 July to 17 November 2013

**20 Points**

## TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	15 July to 18 October 2013
Mid-Trimester break:	26 August to 8 September 2013
Study week:	21 to 25 October 2013
Examination/Assessment period:	25 October to 16 November 2013

**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

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Wed, Fri 12.00-12.50pm Hugh MacKenzie LT002

### Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the ENGL 332 site on Blackboard: go to "Tutorials" and then follow the instructions under the "SCubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions" link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the bulletin board in the Level 3 corridor of the Hugh Mackenzie Building.

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Anna Jackson	<a href="mailto:Anna.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz">Anna.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6840	vZ 919	Wed, Fri, 10-11

## 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.

## 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

Three 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 major fiction texts, in order of teaching, are:

- 1) F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- 2) Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*
- 3) Raymond Carver, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

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 be able to:

- 1) develop skills of attentive and critical reading through the study of selected texts;
- 2) 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;
- 3) be familiar with the some of the key literary movements of the Twentieth century;
- 4) place a range of significant American writers within a literary and cultural context

## TEACHING FORMAT

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.

### MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit the essays on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Sit the examination
- Attend at least 7 tutorials

**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).

### 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.

### ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay 1 (2,000 words)	25%	1,2,& 3	19/08/13
2	Essay 2 (2,000 words)	25%	1,2, & 3	23/09/13
3	Exam (3 hours)	50%	1,2,3 & 4	TBA

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. The first assignment will focus on the Modernist period, and the second assignment will focus on the literature of the 1950s. The exam will allow students to write on further texts from one or both of these periods, and all students will, in addition, be expected to write about at least one author from the 1980s.

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 Monday 19 August, and the second is due on Monday 23 September.

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.

### **SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK**

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

Hard-copy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

## PENALTIES

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.

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. 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.

## SET TEXTS

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Penguin);

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (Penguin);

Raymond Carver, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (Havill/Random)

The ENGL 332 Students Notes are also required reading and will need to be brought along to every lecture and tutorial.

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).

## RECOMMENDED READING

Ed Geoffrey Moore, *The Penguin Book of American Verse* (revised edition 1983, Penguin);

Tama Janowitz, *Slaves of New York* (Washington Square Press).

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

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.

You may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

**Class Rep name and email address for this course:**

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

## COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	17 Jul	Introduction, part 1: American in the Twentieth Century
	19 Jul	Introduction, part 2: From Modernism to Postmodernism
Week 2	24 Jul	Gertrude Stein
	26 Jul	Ezra Pound and Imagism
Week 3	31 Jul	William Carlos Williams
	2 Aug	T S Eliot
Week 4	7 Aug	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
	9 Aug	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
Week 5	14 Aug	Hemingway
	16 Aug	Introduction to the 1950s
Week 6	21 Aug	Sylvia Plath
	23 Aug	Beat poetry
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013		
Week 7	11 Sep	Allen Ginsberg
	13 Sep	<i>On the Road</i>
Week 8	18 Sep	<i>On the Road</i>
	20 Sep	Grace Paley
Week 9	25 Sep	Introduction to the 1980s: <i>Slaves of New York</i>
	27 Sep	Raymond Carver
Week 10	2 Oct	Raymond Carver
	4 Oct	L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry
Week 11	9 Oct	L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry
	11 Oct	The short story after Carver

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Week 12	16 Oct	The short story after Carver
	18 Oct	Conclusion

**Study Week:** Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2013

**Examination Period:** Friday 25 October to Saturday 16 November 2013