

ENGL 332 American Literature: Twentieth Century

Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015

20 Points



IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2015
Mid-trimester break:	24 August to 6 September 2015
Study period:	19 to 23 October 2015
Examination/Assessment period:	23 October to 14 November 2015

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

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Mon, Tue 12.00 – 12.50pm Hugh Mackenzie HMLT104

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the ENGL 332 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorial Instructions” and follow the instructions carefully. Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Anna Jackson	Anna.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz	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*

Recommended texts:

Frank Miller, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*

The Penguin Book of American Verse, edited by Geoffrey Moore

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. write attentive critical interpretations of literary texts
2. demonstrate a knowledge of some of the key literary movements of the Twentieth century
3. Write an extended essay using the critical interpretation of literary texts as the basis for developing a coherent argument comparing the literature of two different decades
4. place a range of significant American writers within a literary and cultural context

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)
- 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).

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of these mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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 all assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work). These assignments must be within 200 words of the specified word length.
- Attend at least 7 tutorials out of 11

You are expected 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.**

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).

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of these mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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	1,500 word critical interpretation exercise	15%	1	30 July
2	2,500 word essay	35%	1,2,3, 4	10 September
3	Exam 3 hours (23 October to 14 November 2015)	50%	1,2,3,4	

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

assignments 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 require a comparison between literature of the 1920s and 1950s. **The second assignment will be required to be revised after the first 2,500 word draft is submitted on the due date, taking into account detailed feedback that will be given by your tutor and in class. It will not be graded until the revision work has been completed.** Feedback and assessment will focus on how well the essay demonstrates the close and attentive reading necessary for the critical interpretation of texts; the ability to place American writers in a literary and cultural context; the construction of a logical argument; the effective use of textual evidence in support of claims made; and the student's 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, and at least one literary text from the 1980s. The examination is closed book.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz Level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet 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. 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.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will

inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 16 October 2015.**

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.

SET TEXTS

Miller, Frank. *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*. DC Comics.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Penguin.

Kerouac, Jack. *On the Road*. Penguin.

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

You can order textbooks online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

Recommended readings will be given in lectures and on Blackboard.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Students have generally appreciated the range of audiovisual material presented and the provision of contextual information to support their understanding of the literary texts. The assessment for this course now involves the compulsory revision and resubmission of the second assignment, following student feedback strongly supporting this arrangement.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 13 Jul Introduction, part 1: America in the Twentieth Century
 14 Jul Introduction, part 2: From Modernism to Postmodernism

Week 2 20 Jul Gertrude Stein
 21 Jul Ezra Pound and Imagism

Week 3 27 Jul William Carlos Williams
 28 Jul Hemingway

 First assignment due: Thursday 30 July, 4pm

Week 4 3 Aug *The Great Gatsby*
 4 Aug *The Great Gatsby*

Week 5 10 Aug Introduction to the 1950s
 11 Aug Sylvia Plath

Week 6 17 Aug Beat poetry
 18 Aug Allen Ginsberg

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015

Week 7 7 Sep *On the Road*
 8 Sep *On the Road*

 Essay due: Thursday 10 September, 4pm

Week 8 14 Sep Grace Paley
 15 Sep Introduction to the 1980s: *Slaves of New York*

Week 9 21 Sep Raymond Carver
 22 Sep Raymond Carver

Week 10 28 Sep *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*
 29 Sep *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 332

Week 11 5 Oct L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry
 6 Oct L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry

Week 12 12 Oct The short story after Carver
 13 Oct Conclusion

Study Period: Monday 19 October to Friday 23 October 2015

Examination Period: Friday 23 October to Saturday 14 November 2015