

ENGL 332 American Literature: Twentieth Century

Trimester 2 2016

11 July to 13 November 2016

20 Points



IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	11 July to 16 October 2016
Mid-trimester break:	22 August to 4 September 2016
Study period:	17 – 20 October 2016
Examination/Assessment period:	21 October to 12 November 2016

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.

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If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Mon, Wed 3.10 – 4.00pm Hunter HULT323

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the ENGL 332 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorial instructions” and then follow the instructions carefully. Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference. Tutorial rooms will be listed on myAllocator, Blackboard and on the noticeboard in the Level 3 corridor of the Hugh Mackenzie Building.

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
Ashlee Nelson	Ashlee.Nelson@vuw.ac.nz	463 6676	vZ 805	
Andrew Raba	Andrew.Raba@vuw.ac.nz		vZ 914	

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 LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. demonstrate a knowledge of some of the key literary movements of the Twentieth century

2. 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
3. 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 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 10

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	1,200 word critical interpretation exercise	15	1	29 July
2	3000 word essay	35	1, 2, 3	19 August
3	3 hour examination (21 October to 12 November 2016)	50	1,3	

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.

A draft of between 2500 and 3000 words of the essay needs to be submitted by the due date. Late penalties apply after this date. A later revision of the essay is required to take into account detailed feedback that will be given by your tutor and in class. The revision is expected to take place between the eighth and ninth weeks of the trimester, with a due date of 23 September. The essay 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 and one from the 2010s.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office, Level 8 Von Zedlitz. 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 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.

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 11 November 2016**

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

ENGL 332 Student Notes

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

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

Plath, Sylvia. *The Bell Jar*. Faber and Faber.

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

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

Lerner, Ben. *Leaving the Atocha Station*. Granta

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.

RECOMMENDED READING

You are expected to support your readings of texts with appropriate critical material. A recommended list of readings from the library holdings is given on blackboard. Discussion of appropriate reading each week will be held in tutorials and lectures.

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

Students have asked for a coursebook to be reintroduced and this has been added to the set texts. Material from the coursebook is also available on blackboard. Students have found the revision process for the essay very helpful.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism*
- *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*
- *Special passes: refer to the Assessment Handbook, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf*
- *Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy*

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- *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
- *Subject Librarians:* <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- *Terms and conditions:* www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- *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

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	11 Jul	Introduction
	13 Jul	Modernist Poetry
Week 2	18 Jul	Modernist Poetry
	20 Jul	Hemingway
Week 3	25 Jul	F. Scott Fitzgerald: <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
	27 Jul	F. Scott Fitzgerald: <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
First assignment due: Friday 29 July, 4pm		
Week 4	1 Aug	Introduction to the 1950s
	3 Aug	Sylvia Plath: <i>The Bell Jar</i>
Week 5	8 Aug	Sylvia Plath: <i>The Bell Jar</i>
	10 Aug	Beat Poetry
Week 6	15 Aug	<i>On the Road</i>
	17 Aug	Grace Paley
Essay draft due Friday 19 August, 4pm		

Mid-Trimester Break: 22 August to 4 September

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Week 7	5 Sep	Introduction to the 1980s: Tama Janowitz: <i>Slaves of New York</i>
	7 Sep	Tama Janowitz: <i>Slaves of New York</i>

Week 8	12 Sep	Raymond Carver
	14 Sep	L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E Poetry

Week 9	19 Sep	Frank Miller: <i>Batman: The Dark Knight Returns</i>
	21 Sep	Frank Miller: <i>Batman: The Dark Knight Returns</i>

Revised essay due: Friday 23 September, 4pm

Week 10	26 Sep	2010s: short stories
	28 Sep	2010s: short stories

Week 11	3 Oct	Ben Lerner: <i>Leaving the Atocha Station</i>
	5 Oct	Ben Lerner: <i>Leaving the Atocha Station</i>

Week 12	10 Oct	Contemporary poetry
	12 Oct	Conclusion

Study Period: Monday 17 to Thursday 20 October 2016

Examination Period: Friday 21 October to Saturday 12 November 2016