

OXFORD COLLEGE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

English 348 - Contemporary Literature

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Spring 1991 Semester

I. Objectives of the Course

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, objective tests, two formal essays (3-5 typed pages), a midterm examination, and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

A. To identify and examine the major themes and styles characteristic of contemporary literature.

B. To recognize and define the various literary-historical backgrounds against which contemporary literature appears.

C. To establish and explore the "timeless" concerns of the literature to be read in the course and how those concerns speak directly to the contemporary reader.

II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course

A. Brief quizzes which will precede the discussion of assigned literary works. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.

B. Several in-class writing assignments. There are no make-ups for these assignments.

C. Two formal essays (3-5 typed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.

D. Midterm examination composed of factual and essay questions devoted to the literature covered in the first half of the course.

E. A comprehensive final examination composed of factual and essay questions.

F. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

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### III. Attendance Policy

A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After three (3) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.

B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

### IV. Grading Practices

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation -	5%
Quizzes and in-class writing -	15%
Two formal essays -	40%
Midterm exam -	15%
Final exam -	25%

### V. Textbooks

The Air-Conditioned Nightmare, by Henry Miller  
Travels With Charley, by John Steinbeck  
On the Road, by Jack Kerouac  
The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, by Tom Wolfe  
The Last Gentleman, by Walker Percy  
Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, by Robert Pirsig  
Even Cowgirls Get the Blues, by Tom Robbins  
Blue Highways, by William Least Heat Moon

### VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

January 14-18	Background
January 21-25	<u>The Air-Conditioned Nightmare</u>
January 28-February 1	<u>Travels With Charley</u>
February 4-8	<u>On the Road</u>
February 11-15	<u>On the Road</u>
February 18-22	<u>The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test</u> 1st Essay Due
February 25-March 1	<u>The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test</u> Midterm Exam

March 4-8	<u>The Last Gentleman</u>
March 11-15	Spring Recess
March 18-22	<u>The Last Gentleman</u>
March 25-29	<u>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</u>
April 1-5	<u>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</u>
April 8-12	<u>Even Cowgirls Get the Blues</u>
April 15-19	<u>Even Cowgirls Get the Blues</u> 2nd Essay Due
April 22-26	<u>Blue Highways</u>
April 29-30	<u>Blue Highways</u>
May 2, 3, 6-8	Final Examination

#### VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are the following:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday: 2-3 p.m.

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.