

OXFORD COLLEGE of Emory University

COURSE OUTLINE

**English 348Q – Contemporary Literature (INQ, WR)**

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Fall 2012 Semester (12:00-1:05 PM MWF)

**I. Objectives of the Course**

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, objective tests, two formal essays (1500 words), a midterm examination, and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To identify and examine the major themes, styles and movements which define 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 misses quizzes.
- B. Several in-class writing assignments. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- C. Two critical essays (1500 words each) 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 observed.

**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 two (2) 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 | 20% |
| Two formal essays            | 40% |
| Midterm exam                 | 15% |
| Final exam                   | 20% |

#### V. **Textbooks:**

On The Road, by Jack Kerouac

Riddley Walker, by Thomas Hoban

The Crying of Lot 49, by Thomas Pynchon

Catch 22, by Joseph Heller

Mumbo Jumbo, by Ishmael Reed

Song of Solomon, by Toni Morrison

Blood Meridian, by Cormac McCarthy

The Things They Carried, by Tim O' Brien

White Noise, by Don De Lillo

**Failure to have the appropriate text in class will count as an absence.**

#### VI. **Weekly Outline of Topics to the Covered**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Aug 29-31  | Background   |
| Sept 4-7   | <u>On The Road</u>                                       |
| Sept 10-14 | <u>Crying of Lot 49</u>                                  |
| Sept 17-21 | <u>Riddley Walker</u>                                    |
| Sept 24-28 | <u>Riddley Walker</u><br><b>1<sup>st</sup> Essay Due</b> |

**VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to the Covered (continued)**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Oct 1-5              | <u>Mumbo Jumbo</u>  |
| Oct 8-12             | <u>Mumbo Jumbo</u><br><b>Midterm Exam</b>                         |
| Oct 15-16            | Fall Break  |
| Oct 17-19            | <u>Song of Solomon</u>  |
| Oct 22-26            | <u>Song of Solomon</u> / <u>Blood Meridian</u>                    |
| Oct 29-Nov 2         | <u>Blood Meridian</u> / <u>Catch 22</u>                           |
| Nov 5-9              | <u>Catch 22</u>   |
| Nov 12-16            | <u>The Things They Carried</u>                                    |
| Nov 19-20            | <u>The Things They Carried</u><br><b>2<sup>nd</sup> essay due</b> |
| Nov 21-23            | Thanksgiving Recess   |
| Nov 26-30            | <u>White Noise</u>  |
| Dec 2-7              | <u>White Noise</u>  |
| Dec 10               | Last Class  |
| Dec 14, 2:00-5:00 pm | <b>FINAL EXAM</b>   |

**VII. Office Hours**

My office is located in Seney Hall, Room 115B, and my office hours are the following:

Monday through Friday 2:00-3:00 PM

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.

**VIII. Honor Code:**

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what **plagiarism** is.

**IX. Digital Devices**

- Cell phones must be off and out of sight during class.
- A laptop can be used only when directed to do so.

**Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.**