**CORE106 Fall 2015**

**October 23, 2015**

**Notes**

Don DeLillo, **Libra**

Plot points:  
  
This section is where we see the publicly known events. DeLillo buys in the CIA accomplice theory of the shooting, but he’s using it as a vehicle: Oswald can’t even kill the president correctly.

BIG THEMES: Self-awareness, and of course, deceit, paranoia, chaos.

1. What is the chief lesson about DeLillo’s theory about conspiracies? (p. 440). Things that appear to be outside the conspiracy:  
   1. Lee’s hiring at the book depository
   2. Jack Ruby
   3. We think of conspiracies as a way to soothe our anxiety about chaos.
2. What flaw does Ruby share with all of the other players in the story?
3. What is the meaning of Marina seeing herself on television outside the shop and the description of Lee’s consciousness as he dies? Ruby experiences the same thing.
4. The inevitability of Lee’s fate. Where do we see how doomed Lee really is?
   1. His inability to take care of himself after the shooting.
   2. The movie theater. Wayne Elko was supposed to get him.
   3. The idea that luck is hard work meeting opportunity.
5. Why is Lee so hopeful on Saturday? Because he cannot see himself.

Read aloud’s:

Touches:

* Notice the emphasis that DeLillo gives to Kennedy riding in the “Lincoln”.
* Ferrie’s thought on p. 426: “Ferrie believed panic was an animal action of the body to ensure the species survives. It was far older than logic. He kept on packing, only faster, and hurried down to his car.”
* The Kennedy doubles and the Oswald doubles.
* JFK’s need to show he wasn’t afraid.