

English 3620: American Literature and Culture: Toward the
Now – Later 20th and Early 21st Century
(Half-year course)

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Delivery Mode: Lecture/Seminar
*3(3-0-0) Prerequisite: 6 credits of junior English

Calendar Description: Selected works from the American context, 1945 to the present.

Course Description: In this course we will look at the intersections of race, class, gender, language, and political formations in contemporary American literature. We will examine politics of location and inclusion alongside the American literary canon, but will also examine so called “minority” American literature and politics of exclusion. The course will also examine significant moments of American political and popular culture, and their representations in texts.

Required Texts & Resources:

Including but not limited to

Maxine Hong Kingston. The Woman Warrior

Toni Morrison. Beloved

Leslie Marmon Silko. Gardens in the Dunes.

Louise Erdrich. Love Medicine.

Don DeLillo. White Noise.

Tony Kushner. Angels in American.

Cherie Moraga. Heros & Saints and other Plays.

Coursepack of selections including but not limited to:

Allen Ginsberg, Henry Louis Gates, Arthur Miller, Flannery O’Conner, Sylvia Plath, Ralph Ellison, Martin Luther King Jr., Alice Walker, Adrienne Rich, Rudolfo Anaya, Ishmael Reed, Amy Tan, Audre Lorde, Kathy Acker, Thomas Pynchon, Sandra Cisneros, Bharati Mukerjee, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Laura Mulvey, Hortense Spillers, Teresa De Lauretis, W.E.B. DuBois, Gloria Anzaldua, Rey Chow, Susan Sontag, Jack Kerouac, Joan Didion, Bob Dylan, Raymond Carver, Stephen King, Donald Barhelme, Raymond Carver, Paul Bowles, Judith Butler, Maya Angelou, Issac Asimov, Ursula LeGuin, bell hooks, Noam Chomsky and Buff St. Marie.

Evaluation:

Participation 10%

Presentation 20%

Essay One 15%

Essay Two 25%

Final 30%