SYLLABUS

Required Course Texts
- Stephen Crane, Maggie, A Girl of the Streets, and Other New York Writings, (1893; Random House Modern Library rpt. 2001)
- Ken Kasey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest (1962; Penguin rpt. 1976)

* Have your reading assignments completed by their corresponding date on the syllabus. The importance of completing these readings by their lecture date cannot be overemphasized. Otherwise you will get significantly less context and comprehension from the lectures, a key and stone-cold fact to consider if your goal is to score high on the course exams. Check several classes ahead to prepare for longer readings. BRING THE APPROPRIATE TEXT OR TEXTS TO BOTH LECTURE & DISC. SECTION. *

All films or film footage will be subject to examinations the same as written texts. Prepare to see all films in class, as pertinent discussions and lecture notes will accompany their viewing. All handouts are considered texts as well and therefore subject to exam questions.

Course Prerequisites: Completion of at least 27 semester hours of coursework, including Rhetoric and Composition 306 or the equivalent, and a passing score on the reading section of the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) test (or an appropriate assessment test).

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodation from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Grading Percentages
25% — Exam 1 [Tuesday, 2/16] Rearrange any plans you might have for all 3 fixed exam dates.  
25% — Exam 2 [Thursday, 3/25]  
35% — Final Exam/Exam 3 [Wed., 5/12; location TBA]  
15% — Discussion Section Performance: pop quiz average (2-3 grades will be dropped, must be present in Section to take quizzes; no make-ups), attendance, and general participation. No final course grades of plus or minus grades will be given in this course.

JANUARY  
19  T:  FIRST CLASS: INTRODUCTION: Intro to instructor and TAs; course focus, description, and aims. Bio cards. Syllabus & Course Policy handout.  
21  Th:  Puritans/Calvinists/Colonialists/Early American Lit: The year is 1620. Read William Bradford, author bio & essay “Of Plymouth Plantation,” pp. 46-47, pp. 53-58. [We will seat discussion sections at the beginning of class today.]

FEBRUARY
4  Th:  American Renaissance: Ralph Waldo Emerson [no outside Emerson reading assignment, handout in class]; Herman Melville, bio & “Bartleby, the Scrivener…,” pp. 661-690.

9  T:  Walt Whitman, bio & Song of Myself, pp. 1032-1033 & poem sections 1-7, 11, 17-24, 30-32, 46, 48-52 (check text for page numbers).

16  T:  EXAM 1. NO EXCEPTIONS OR MAKE-UPS.


MARCH
4  Th:  Maggie.
9  T:  Maggie.

16  T:  SPRING BREAK. Back after this brief break . . . . Enjoy; be safe.
18  Th:  SPRING BREAK. The fun continues.

23  T:  Flannery O’Connor’s bio & story “A Good Man is Hard to Find” [Note: this reading is not in your anthology; click on the link or copy & paste the web address listed for this item under Blackboard Course Documents]. EXAM 2 NEXT CLASS: NO EXCEPTIONS, NO MAKE-UPS.
25  Th:  EXAM 2. NO EXCEPTIONS. [No Discussion Sections meet next week.]
30  T:  Handouts: Allen Ginsberg poems “A Supermarket in California” and “America.”

APRIL
6 T: Ken Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest [separate text], Part 1, pp. 3-138. Begin feature film in class.

8 Th: Cuckoo’s Nest, Part 2, pp. 141-to 311 [end]. Film in class.

13 T: Finish Cuckoo’s Nest film in class.


20 T: Second half [to end] of In the Lake of the Woods.

22 Th: Finish discussing Lake.

27 T: Cormac McCarthy, The Road [separate text], pp. 1-108.

29 Th: The Road, pp. 109-to end.

MAY

5 T: Finish The Road.

7 Th: LAST CLASS DAY. Wrap-up and review; in-class handout/reading of Donald Barthelme’s story “The School.” If time permits, a reading of Berry’s story “Human Sexuality” (from Literary Austin, 2007).

12 W: FINAL EXAM/EXAM 3, May 12th, 2-5 pm. Be on time. Final Exam times are scheduled by a university administrative mandate and allow no exceptions. The Final Exam will be given to all students on this date and time only. Arriving more than 20 minutes late may result in the forfeiture of your right to take this exam. No extra time will be given. No exceptions to these university enforced mandates. The exam location will be available and can be accessed online approximately 3 weeks before the end of the semester. This exam will cover readings, lectures, class meetings, & handouts that come after Exam 2 but may refer to previous readings (only in a general way) for essay questions.

• Attendance rolls will be taken at the beginning of each class.
• Consult Course Policy Statement for many further details about general class comportment and format.
• Please—do your absolute best to avoid late arrivals or early exits—a distraction to all concerned.
• All cell phones must be put away from lecture’s beginning to end; this includes sight checking messages or texting.

* The instructor retains the right to vary readings on this syllabus as needed. *

TO A GREAT SEMESTER!