

ENG 392
crn 16553
Prof. Wonham
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ANS 195: 12:00-1:20
Office Hours: M, W, 1:30-3:00
PLC 274

20th Century American Novel

Course Description: Together with ENG 391 (19th Century American Novel), ENG 392 (20th Century American Novel) forms a chronological upper-division survey of the American novel from 1800-2000. These courses can be taken as a sequence, or they can be taken individually. No prerequisites are required, but students should be capable of advanced university-level work in literary studies. Although readings focus on a specific period, both courses challenge students to locate American fiction within broadly conceived historical, social, and political contexts. As concentrated surveys of major American fiction, both courses satisfy the university's Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category. This particular section of ENG 392 will focus on the following five major novels of the 20th century, all of which are available at the Duck Store:

Charles W. Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)
Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (1918)
Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (1925)
Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (1966)
Cormac McCarthy, *Blood Meridian* (1985)

Papers, Exams: Students will write two formal essays (4-5 pp. each) in this course. The first will be due in class on Monday, October 23 (Week 5). The second essay will be due in class on Wednesday, November 29 (Week 10). There will be a final exam at 10:15 am, Monday, December 4.

Grading: Each essay will be worth 30% of the final grade. The final exam will also be worth 30%. The remaining 10% of the course grade will reflect performance on reading quizzes (of which there will be several) and oral class participation.

Plagiarism: Students who hand in written material that is not their own will receive an F for the course, and a report will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards to determine if additional sanctions should be imposed.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and to have completed the assigned reading **before** arriving in class. Two absences will be permitted. Each additional absence will result in a 1/3 reduction of the final course grade (i.e. an A- becomes a B+).

Learning Outcomes: Students in the course will improve their skills in the following areas:

1) they will read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with

an understanding of their conventions;

2) they will draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;

3) they will perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;

4) they will write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;

5) they will employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;

6) they will employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

Schedule of Assigned Readings

Week 1

Mon., Sept. 25: Introduction to the Course

The Marrow of Tradition, ch. 1-5

Wed., Sept. 27: *The Marrow of Tradition*, ch. 6-15

Week 2

Mon., Oct. 2: *The Marrow of Tradition*, ch. 16-24

Wed., Oct. 4: *The Marrow of Tradition*, ch. 25-37

Week 3

Mon., Oct. 9: *My Antonia*, Book 1

Wed., Oct. 11: *My Antonia*, Book 2

Week 4

Mon., Oct. 16: *My Antonia*, Book 3

Wed., Oct. 18: *My Antonia*, Books 4-5

Week 5

Mon., Oct. 23: *The Sun Also Rises*, ch. 1-6

Essay #1 due in class

Wed., Oct. 25: *The Sun Also Rises*, ch. 7-12

Week 6

Mon., Oct. 30: *The Sun Also Rises*, ch. 13-17

Wed., Nov. 1: *The Sun Also Rises*, ch. 18-19

Week 7

Mon., Nov. 6: *The Crying of Lot 49*, ch. 1-2

Wed., Nov. 8: *The Crying of Lot 49*, ch. 3

Week 8

Mon., Nov. 13: *The Crying of Lot 49*, ch. 4

Wed., Nov. 15: *The Crying of Lot 49*, ch. 5-6

Week 9

Mon., Nov. 20: *Blood Meridian*, ch. 1-6

Wed., Nov. 22: *Blood Meridian*, ch. 7-11

Week 10

Mon., Nov. 27: *Blood Meridian*, ch. 12-18

Wed., Nov. 29: *Blood Meridian*, ch. 19-23

Essay #2 due in class

Final Exam: 10:15 am, Monday, December 4