

**Instructor: Michael Tavel Clarke**  
**Fall 2020**  
**TTh 9:30-10:45**  
**Web-based Course**

**Course Web Page: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>**  
**Remote Office Hours: Th 15:15-16:15**  
**and by appointment**  
**Email: [mcla@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mcla@ucalgary.ca)**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**465: AMERICAN LITERATURE SINCE THE MID-1900s**

Course Description

This course offers a broad survey of American literature and culture since the middle of the twentieth century. We will read both canonical and lesser-known works, remaining attentive to the historical contexts in which texts were written. Although this list is by no means exhaustive and will expand according to student interests, I expect some of the issues addressed in this course will include the following: postmodernism—its historical context and its relationship to modernism; changing and competing notions of individual and national identity in modern America; the relationships between the dominant national culture and minority cultures and the role of multiculturalism in negotiating those relationships; literary movements such as the Black Arts Movement and the Native American Renaissance; the global role of U.S. culture, as well as the role of nationalism and cosmopolitanism in American literature; the changing ideologies of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality in the United States; the role of literature in negotiating cultural conflict and change; and meditations on the environment and the Anthropocene in contemporary American literature.

Required Texts

Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*  
Toni Morrison, *Sula*  
N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*  
David Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross*  
Mohsin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*  
Juliana Spahr, *While Then There Now* (Ebook Available through D2L)  
Poems and Essays Available through D2L  
Course Pack at Bound and Copied

Course Requirements

Percentage of Final Grade

Essay 1 (5 pages) .....	25%
Research Paper (8-10 pages).....	40%
Reading Responses .....	20%
Presentation/Discussion Facilitation.....	15%

There will be no registrar-scheduled exam for this course.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will learn about current scholarly debates surrounding the characteristics of contemporary American literature, and they will learn about the historical, cultural, and economic forces influencing U.S. literary production since World War II. Students will also learn about artistic, social, and intellectual movements influencing contemporary U.S. literature, including postmodernism, the Black Arts Movement, second-wave feminism, the Native American Renaissance, multiculturalism, globalization, and environmentalism. Students will use this knowledge to analyze assigned texts.
- Students will practice close reading through essays, informal written reflections, and class discussions.
- Students will utilize their training in literary theory to analyze contemporary literature.

- Working in groups to develop a presentation on a text of their choice, students will practice learning through teaching, managing collective labor, and developing web-based presentations.
- Students will learn independently and generate original scholarship by preparing a research paper on a topic and text(s) of their choice.

### Web-based Course

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To succeed and benefit from the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, may not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

Synchronous Zoom sessions will take place on the registrar-scheduled course days and times, but those sessions may be shorter than the scheduled times or canceled as some components, like lecture, are shifted to asynchronous delivery. I will update the class on canceled sessions through the News feature in D2L. Zoom sessions will be recorded for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class, such as allowing review of the session for students who are unable to attend. Recordings will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity, and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. You will be advised when you are expected to turn on your webcam, such as during student presentations. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. The instructor can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g., Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms.

### Learning Technologies and Requirements

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials. In order to successfully engage in this course, students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- a computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates, antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- a current and updated web browser;
- webcam (built-in or external);
- microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- broadband internet connection.

### Grading System

You must complete all written work to qualify for a passing grade.

Grade conversions on the University of Calgary's 4-point system are as follows:

A+/A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
A- = 3.7	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7	F = 0

B+ = 3.3

C+ = 2.3

D+ = 1.3

### About Reading Responses

You will contribute to an ongoing, on-line discussion of our readings for three of the assigned readings. Reading responses must be posted to the discussion section of D2L by noon the day before class discussion. You may choose which of the eligible readings you wish to respond to. Contributions may take several forms: 2-3 thought-provoking questions to spark discussion; a response to a posted question; a response to or elaboration on a previous response; an analysis of an assigned text; a summary and/or critique of a published analysis of an assigned text; a personal response; or some combination of the above. With the exception of the first kind (the questions), reading responses should be about 300 words in length. More information about reading responses is available on D2L.

### About Class Presentations

Working in groups of six, you will be responsible for presenting on assigned readings or leading class discussion. Presentations or discussions may take many forms. You may present historical and contextual material on our readings, summarize published scholarship, offer your own analysis of a text(s), ask questions and lead discussion, design a group activity, or combine several of these things. I will circulate a sign-up sheet on the first day of class so that you may choose the readings you wish to help facilitate. More information is available on D2L.

### Late Papers

You have the option of turning in one written assignment up to a week late without penalty. This policy applies to the first essay and the reading responses. Class presentations may not be completed late, and the research paper may be turned in late only with permission. If you turn in an assignment more than a week late, or if you turn in a second assignment late, your grade on the work will be lowered by a third of a grade for each late day (i.e., an A paper that is one day late will receive an A-, two days late a B+, and so on; weekend days and holidays are counted in this total). There's no need to notify me that you are turning in an assignment late; I will keep track of your late assignments.

### Turning in Assignments

Assignments should be submitted through the digital dropbox on D2L. Papers may not be delivered by email without prior permission.

### Students with Disabilities

I will be happy to make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Please contact me during my office hours and coordinate with Student Accessibility Services (220-8237) if you have a disability that requires some modification of evaluation or other class requirements. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Please make requests for accommodation within fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course. A link to Student Accessibility Services is provided below.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

### **Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

### **Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing

through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

### **English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

### **Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### **Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboym@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboym@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

### **Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**



### **Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

### **Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

### **Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

### **Student Accommodations:**

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

[ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

**\*RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

**\*INSTRUCTOR’S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**\*FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students’ assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

**\*COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

**\*MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

### **\*Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

### **\*Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

### **\*Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

## **\*OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

## **Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference – please participate in USRI Surveys."

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in

which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
  - a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
  - b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
  - c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
  - d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.