

**Instructor: Michael Tavel Clarke**  
**Winter 2015**  
**TTh 2:00-3:15**  
**ST 64**  
**Course Web Page: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>**

**Office: Social Sciences 1016**  
**Office Phone: (403) 220-4677**  
**Office Hours: TTh 3:15-4:15 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; the global role of U.S. culture; the impact of 9/11 on American literature and culture; the impact of literary movements such as the Black Arts Movement and the Native American Renaissance on the production of U.S. literature; the role of literature in negotiating cultural change; and the changing ideologies of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality in the United States. Prerequisites: ENGL 302 & either 240 or 340.

Required Texts

Donald Barthelme, *Snow White*  
Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*  
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*  
N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*  
David Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross*  
Mohsin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*  
Course Pack

Course Requirements

Percentage of Final Grade

Essay 1 (5 pages) .....	20%
Essay 2 (8-10 pages) .....	40%
Reading Responses .....	10%
Presentation/Discussion Facilitation .....	10%
Registrar-scheduled Final Exam .....	20%

Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (April 18-29, 2015).

Grading System

You must complete all written work and the final exam 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 three or four, 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. Student-led presentations will last approximately 30 minutes. I will pass around 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.

### About Class Participation

Because this is a class that will demand considerable participation, your effort and involvement are essential to a successful learning experience (not only for you, but for your classmates). You should come to class with all necessary materials and prepared to take part in workshops, to participate actively in small- and large-group discussions, to offer considered responses to assigned readings, and to respond respectfully and thoughtfully to other students' ideas. A good way to gauge your level of participation is to ask yourself, "How would this class function if everyone participated exactly as much as I do?"

### 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 final essay 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).

### Turning in Assignments

Assignments should be submitted through the digital dropbox on D2L. If this is not possible, you may deliver your assignment to Social Sciences 1152 and put it in the drop box, where your work will be date-stamped and placed in my mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss. Papers cannot be returned by staff in the department office. 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 (220-6019) if you have a disability that requires some modification of seating, evaluation, or other class requirements. Students who have not registered with 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/access>

### 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>

### Student's Guide to the Presentation of Essays

The English Department offers useful information about expectations for student essays at the following website:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/eduweb/grammar/guide.htm>

### English Department Website

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website below.

<http://english.ucalgary.ca>

### 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 below.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

### Guidelines on E-mail Etiquette

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

### 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: [maboymd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboymd@ucalgary.ca)

Find *The English Pages* research guide here:

<http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

### 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. If you are concerned about the possibility of plagiarism in any work you do in this class, talk to me before handing it in and/or consult *The MLA Handbook*. Plagiarism is both easy to commit and easy to avoid.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

### 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, you must complete an Application of Deferment of Term Work form. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. For further information, see the following Calendar links:

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

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.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. The Club strives to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction among students, faculty, and the community through social, cultural, and academic events.

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

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

### 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 (403) 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. More information on the Safewalk Program is available at the following link.

<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 them at (403) 220-3580, or email them at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website below; it has detailed information on common academic concerns.

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), fee payment, and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

### Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

### Contact for Student Ombuds Office

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

### 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://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

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

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University *Calendar*, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.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.