

Instructor: Michael Tavel Clarke
Fall 2014
Thursday 10-12:45
Social Sciences 1015
Course Web Page: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

Office: Social Sciences 1016
Office Phone: (403) 220-4677
Office Hours: Thurs 1:30-2:30 and by
appointment
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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE SYLLABUS
609.38-01: AMERICAN MODERNISM

Course Description

This course offers a general survey of American modernism and the historical, political, and cultural contexts out of which it arose. It will acquaint students with some of the key modernist literary texts, some less canonical work, and some of the corresponding artistic developments in painting and photography. Although we will focus on the period of high modernism (roughly 1913 to 1930), we will consider the ambivalent responses to modernism in Depression-era texts and postmodernist literature. The course will also offer an overview of recent developments and enduring debates in modernist studies through selected excerpts from scholarship in the field.

Required Texts

Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*
 Jean Toomer, *Cane*
 Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*
 N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*
 William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!*
 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
 Muriel Rukeyser, *U.S. 1*
 Course Pack (available at Campus Bookstore)

Course Requirements

Percentage of Final Grade

Research Paper (20 pp.)	50%
Teaching Essay or Book Review (5 pp.).....	20%
D2L Discussion Contributions.....	15%
Class Facilitation.....	10%
Class Participation	5%

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

Grading System

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

Grades are calculated according to the 4 point scale used in the *Graduate Calendar*:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-e-1.html>

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance showing comprehensive

		understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted towards Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

Please note: A B- is considered a minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

About Teaching Essays

If you choose to write a teaching essay, you will identify an assigned text of your choice and explain how you might teach it. Here are some questions to consider in your essay. In what kinds of courses might you teach this text? How might you situate the text in the course(s) (i.e., in relation to what other works or topics)? How might you lecture on it—on what issues or topics would you focus? How might you lead discussion on it (i.e., what sorts of questions might you ask about it and why)? What assignment(s) might you create around it? If you're looking for models for this essay, you might read entries in an MLA teaching guide (we'll read one such essay from *Approaches to Teaching Eliot's Poetry and Plays*). You may turn in the teaching essay any time during the semester up to Dec. 7. You may not duplicate your class facilitation for this assignment. Please submit teaching essays to the Dropbox on D2L.

About Book Reviews

There are several virtues to writing book reviews. Writing reviews can help you get acquainted with current developments in your field, for example, and it can be a useful way to start building your CV for the job market. Choosing to write a book review may help you generate at least one publication from this course. Writing a review can also be a valuable component of research such as that required for your final paper for this course. For this assignment, choose an academic book related to American modernism published in the past 2 or 3 years and write a 1,000-word review. A list of potential books is available on D2L; you can locate more possibilities in the library catalogue, on the library stacks, or on the web. There is also a link on D2L with very useful tips and guidelines for writing academic book reviews. You may turn in the teaching essay any time during the semester up to Dec. 7. Please submit book reviews to the appropriate forum in the D2L discussion area.

About D2L Discussion Contributions

For six of the eligible class sessions of your choice, you will post one discussion question on D2L the day before we meet. These questions should address the week's assigned readings or enduring questions in the

course. Questions should be well-considered and provocative; they should also allow for multiple responses. Posted questions may be used to assist student-led class facilitations. In addition, for one of the weeks of your choice (excluding the week on Little Magazines, which has its own required reading response), you will post a 600-word response to the assigned readings. Responses may take several forms: analyses or critiques of the assigned texts, comparisons between assigned texts, discussion of outside readings applicable to the assigned texts (e.g., discussion of a published essay on *The Great Gatsby*), responses to questions posted by classmates, or discussion of persisting questions in the course. These 600-word reading responses should be delivered to me in hard copy during class as well as posted the day before class on D2L. Discussion questions are not required on the week you facilitate class, but you may post a reading response that week as long as it doesn't duplicate material you've presented in class.

About Class Facilitations

You will be responsible for facilitating class discussion one day during the semester. Facilitators should be prepared to lead the class for roughly half the session; I will lead the remainder of the class. I will pass around a sign-up sheet on the first day that will allow you to choose the reading you wish to help facilitate. The schedule will be posted on D2L. I will provide more information about the facilitations on the first day of class.

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.

Late Assignments

You have the option of submitting one of the D2L contributions up to three days late without penalty. Other assignments may be submitted late only with permission. My general policy for late assignments is to lower the grade by a third 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).

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-2-1.html>

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/graduate>. 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: maboyd@ucalgary.ca
Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact the Graduate Office at 403 220 5484 or visit us in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact the Graduate Program Administrator at enggrad@ucalgary.ca to make an appointment with Dr. Aruna Srivastava, Graduate Program Director.

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>.

Academic Accommodation:

I will be happy to make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Please contact me during my office hours and coordinate with the Student Accessibility Services (403-220-6019) 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. More information about academic accommodations can be found at

www.ucalgary.ca/access.

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/>

Contact for the Graduate Student Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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.