

Dr. George S. Diamond
Fall, 2011
Noon

Zinzendorf 37 610-861-1391
M-W 3:30-4:30 PM & T & Th 11-
And By Appointment

English 343 Contemporary Fiction

I. The purpose of this course is to read, study, and discuss important works of contemporary fiction published, in the main, since 1950, with an emphasis on living authors. Readings will be set in the context of the great changes that have taken place in Western society, mostly in the United States, since World War II.

II. For appropriate participation, students will read select material, take part in class discussions, lead one class discussion on a short story and one on a novella, take one in-class exam and a final, and write a research paper on a topic approved in advance. For the grade in the course, the first class discussion will be worth 10%, the novella, the in-class exam, and the final will be worth 20%, and the research paper will be worth 30%.

III. All students are expected to view the video **THE SOURCE**, an 89 minute film about The Beat Generation, on Blackboard. Students are also expected to attend the production of **THE BOOK OF GIG** presented by the Moravian College Theatre Company and write a one page evaluation of the production.

IV. Attendance policy for English 343 is based on the attendance statement in the current Moravian College Catalog: read, date, sign, and submit the accompanying paper. **Attendance includes viewing THE SOURCE and THE BOOK OF GIG.**

V. All papers and tests are expected to adhere to a minimum quality of standard English.

VI. All students must adhere to the revised policy on academic honesty that appears in the College Student Handbook and the Moravian College Catalog.

Texts: American Short Stories Since 1945 (2002)
Seven Contemporary Short Novels (1982)

1. M Au 29 Introduction; MULTIMEDIA EXTRAVAGANZA: "We Didn't Start the Fire," B. Joel & An Audio Visual History of American Literature: #9 "Power and Alienation";

- the Influence of Literature and Critical Approaches;
2. W Au 31 A-V History: #10 "Into the Eighties"; Jackson, "The Lottery,"(9) & Singer "The Spinoza of Market Street"(25); Basic Literary Elements.
 3. F Sp 2 Basic Literary Elements. Introduction(1), Olsen "I Stand Here Ironing"(36) & Ellison "Battle Royal"(42)
 4. W Sp 7 Basic Literary Elements; Taylor "The Old Forest"(103) & Yamamoto "Seventeen Syllables"(246)
 5. F Sp 9 **Varieties of Contemporary Fiction 1: *The WASP MAINSTREAM***: Cheever "The Country Husband"(175) & Updike "Separating"(399)
 6. M Sp 12 **Varieties 2: *The Southern Influence***. Welty "Why I live at the P.O."(15) & O'Connor "Revelation"(149)
 7. W Sp 14 **Varieties 3: *Embattled Minorities***: African American, Baldwin "Sonny's Blues"(225) & Hispanic, American, Cisneros "One Holy Night"(779)
 8. F Sp 16 ***Embattled Minorities***, Native American, Silko "Storyteller"(450) & Asian American Tan "Rules of the Game"(635)
 9. M Sp 19 **Varieties 4: *The Jewish-American Influence***; Malamud "The Jewbird"(96) & Ozick "The Shawl"(352)
 10. W Sp 21 **Varieties 5: *Feminism and Queer Theory***: Adams, "Roses, Rhododendron"(461) & Leavitt "A Place I've Never Been"(872)
 11. F Sp 23 **Varieties 6: *The Proletarian Influence***; Paley "An Interest In Life"(53) & Ford "Rock Springs"(643)
 12. M Sp 28 **Varieties 7: *Absurdist/Anti-Fiction & Black Humor***; Barth "Night-Sea Journey"(332) & Coover "The Babysitter"(312)
 13. W Sp 30 Gaines "The Sky Is Gray"(292) & Beattie "Janus"(495)
 14. F Oc 2 Oates "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"(369)& Bamabara "The Lesson"(381)
 15. M Oc 3 Gass "In the Heart of the Heart of the Country"(274) & Carver "What We Talk About, When We Talk About Love"(724)
 16. W Oc 5 Prose "Everyday Disorders"(715) & Vaughn "Able, Baker, Charlie, Dog"(760)
 17. F Oc 7 Apple "The Oranging Of America"(420) & Boyle "Greasy Lake"(557)

18. W Oc 12 Jones "Cold Snap"(817) & Gaitskill "Girl On A Plane"(861)
19. F Oc 14 Williams "Health"(603) & Gardner "Come On Back"(355)
20. M Oc 17 THE BEATS and Their Influence,
21. W Oc 19 Visit from Dr. Joyce Hinnefeld
22. F Oc 21 Stone "Helping"(789) & Dilillo "Videotape"(813)
23. M Oc 24 **Exam I.**
24. W Oc 26 Mason "A New Wave Format"(521) & Mukherjee "The Management of Grief"(611)
25. F Oc 28 Christopher Durang's "Betty's Summer Vacation" by the Moravian College Theatre Company, October 1st to 4th, times and cost to be announced.
- Erdrich "Saint Marie (1934)"(680) & Alexie "This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona"(825)
26. M Oc 31 Chin "The Only Real Day"(690) & Barrett "The Littoral Zone"(855), **Office interview with Research Paper Subject.**
27. W Nv 2 SEVEN, McCullers, "The Ballad of the Sad Café'," 1943 & 1951.
28. F Nv 4 "Ballad of the Sad Café. "
29. M Nv 7 SEVEN, Bellow, "Seize the Day," 1956.
30. W Nv 9 "Seize the Day
31. F Nv 11 SEVEN, Roth, "Goodbye, Columbus," 1959.
32. M Nv 14 "Goodbye, Columbus."
33. W Nv 16 SEVEN, Vonnegut, "Slaughterhouse-Five," 1969.
34. F Nv 18 "Slaughterhouse-Five."
35. M Nv 21 SEVEN, Morrison, "The Bluest Eye," 1970
36. M Nv 28 "The Bluest Eye."
37. W Nv 30 SEVEN, Kosinski, "Being There," 1970;
38. F Nv 2 "Being There".
39. M Dc 5 SEVEN, Atwood, "Surfacing." 1972; **Research Paper Due**
40. W Dc 7 "Surfacing;" Course Evaluation Forms.

OUTCOMES FOR ENGLISH 343 CONTEMPORARY FICTION

At the conclusion of English 343 the student should be able to:

1. Provide a basic definition of contemporary fiction and the forces-historical, cultural, social, philosophical, critical-that contributed to its creation;
2. Understand how and why literary artists of exceptional ability emerged during the post-WWII period;
3. Understand how and why the term ``contemporary`` includes a greater variety of literary artists-men and women, races, religions, cultures-than previous eras of literary creativity;
4. Understand the basic elements of fiction and how an individual work can be interpreted by examining it in terms of these elements;
5. Have a fundamental knowledge of the variety and breadth of critical and philosophical works that define and analyze contemporary fiction.
6. Demonstrate competence in participating in and working well with others in panel presentations, preparing effective oral and written analyses by careful and exact reading and employing the tools of literary analysis and library research.

“Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.” [new statement as of Spring 2008]

In preparation for creating an English Major Portfolio in your senior capstone seminar, please save both digital and hard copies of your work for this class, including drafts with peer and instructor comments.

SELECTED RESOURCE MATERIAL - POST WORLD WAR II FICTION

- Abney, Lisa. Twenty-first-century American Novelists. Farmington Hills, MI: Thomson/Gale, 2004
- Aldridge, John W. Classics and Contemporaries. Columbia: U. of MO, 1992.
- Baker, Houston A. Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature: vernacular theory. Chicago, U. of Chicago, 1984
- Bell, Bernard W. The Contemporary African American Novel: its folk roots and modern literary branches. Amherst: U. of MA., 2004.
- Bellamy, Joe David. The New Fiction: Interviews with Innovative American Writers. Urbana, U. of IL, 1974.
- Beuka, Robert. SuburbiaNation: reading suburban landscape in twentieth-century fiction and film. N.Y., Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.
- Bradbury, Malcolm. The Modern American Novel. N.Y.: Oxford U., 1984.
- Champion, Laurie. Contemporary American Fiction Writers: an A-to-Z guide. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2002
- Cook, Bruce. The Beat Generation. N.Y.: Scribners, 1971
- Disch, Thomas. On SF. Ann Arbor: U. of MI, 2005.
- Fisher, Philip. Hard Facts: setting and form in the American novel. N.Y.: Oxford U., 1985.
- Hassan, Ihab. The Postmodern turn: Essays in postmodernist theory and culture. Columbus: Ohio State U., 1987
- Hume, Kathryn. American Dream, American Nightmare: fiction since 1960. Urbana: U of IL, 2000.
- Jurca, Catherine. White Diaspora: the suburb and the twentieth-century American novel. Princeton, NJ: Princeton, U., 2001
- Kibler, James E. American Novelists since World War II; second series. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Co., 1980.
- Messent, Peter B. New Readings of the American Novel: narrative theory and application. N.Y.: St. Martin's, 1990
- Millard, Kenneth. Contemporary American Fiction. N.Y. Oxford U., 2000.
- Moses, Cathy. Dissenting Fictions: identity and resistance in the contemporary American novel. N.Y.: Garland, 2000.
- Nagel, James. The Contemporary American Short Story Cycle: the ethnic resonance of genre. Baton Rouge:LA State, 2001.
- Olster, Stacey Michele. Reminiscence and re-creation in Contemporary American fiction. N.Y.: Cambridge U., 1989.
- Reynolds, Guy. Twentieth-century American women's fiction: a critical introduction. N.Y.: St. Martin's, 1999
- Tanner, Tony. City of words: American fiction, 1950-1970. N.Y.: Harper & Row, 1971.
- Wheeler, Elizabeth A. Uncontained: urban fiction in postwar

America. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers U., 2001.
Zamora, Lois Parkinson. Magic realism: theory, history, community. Durham, NC : Duke U., 1995

SELECTED RESOURCE MATERIAL - CRITICAL BIOGRAPHIES

Carson McCullers

Carr, Virginia Spencer. The Lonely Hunter: a biography of Carson McCullers. N.Y.: Carroll & Graf, 1985
Graver, Lawrence. Carson McCullers. Minneapolis: U of MN, 1969
Savigneau, Josyane. Carson McCullers: a life. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 2001

Saul Bellow

Atlas, James. Bellow: a biography. N.Y.: Random House, 2000.
Bradbury, Malcolm, Saul Bellow. London, N.Y.: Methuen, 1982.
Miller, Ruth. Saul Bellow: a biography of the imagination. N.Y.: St. Martin's, 1991

Philip Roth

Posnock, Ross. Philip Roth's Rude Truth: the art of immaturity. Princeton, NJ, Princeton U., 2006.
Rogers, Bernard F. Philip Roth. Boston: Twayne, 1978.
Shostak, Debra B. Philip Roth: Countertexts, Counterlives. Columbia: U. of SC, 2004.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Klinkowitz, Jerome. Kurt Vonnegut. London, N.Y., Methuen, 1982.
Morse, Donald E. The Novels of Kurt Vonnegut: imagine being an American. Westport, CT, 2003
Schott, Stanley. Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Boston, Twayne, 1976.

Toni Morrison

Carmean, Koren. Toni Morrison's World of Fiction. Troy, NY: Winston, 1993.
Otten, Terry. The Crime of Innocence in the Fiction of Toni Morrison. Columbia: U of MO, 1989.
Peach, Linden. Toni Morrison. N.Y.: St. Martin's, 1993.

Jerzy Kosinski

Lavers, Norman. Jerzy Kosinski. Boston: Twayne, 1982.
Lupack, Barbara Tapa, Plays of Passion, Games of Chance: Jerzy Kosinski and his fiction. Bristol, IN: Wyndham Hall, 1988.
Sloan, James Park. Jerzy Kosinski: a biography. N.Y.: Dutton, 1996.

Margaret Atwood

Cooke, Nathalie. Margaret Atwood: a biography. Toronto, Ont:

ECW, 1998.
Howells, Coral Ann. Margaret Atwood. N.Y.: Palgrave McMillan,
2005.
Rosenberg, Jerome H. Margaret Atwood. Boston, Twayne, 1984.