



Máster en Estudios Textuales y Culturales en Lengua Inglesa **60704 - Main Trends in Contemporary U.s. fiction**

Course 2011 - 2012

Curso: 1, Semestre: 2, Créditos: 7.5

Basic information

Teachers

- **Francisco Collado Rodríguez** fcollado@unizar.es

Recommendations to attend this course

The main aim of this course is the study and practice of critical and textual analysis in the context of contemporary US fiction and its relation to English-speaking culture. The course will contemplate the ongoing debate on the role of the human being in contemporary US American fiction and globalizing culture, paying more detailed attention to its ideological implications, namely the role of the posthuman being and globalization politics. On a practical basis, the course offers students the possibility to improve their skills in the use of English in a scholarly and critical environment.

This course complements other optional subjects offered in the second semester, especially the ones devoted to literary, film and cultural issues.

Course Schedule and Deadlines

Presentation and discussion of the theoretical approaches included in the program and application of the main tenets of these approaches to the analysis of various types of narrative texts (see course planning). 1:30 hours per week.

Group analysis of a selection of texts from the perspective of the critical approaches and methods presented in the theory sessions (see course planning). 1:30 hours per week.

Presentation of the 3,000 words essay: last day of the second semester.

Home

Learning outcomes that define this course

The student, in order to pass the course, will have to show her/his competence in the following skills:

- 1:** The student can use the basic critical tools to understand and analyze US American texts.
- 2:**

The student is capable of testing the explanatory power of the most relevant critical approaches to texts through their application to a corpus of US American literary and cultural texts in English.

3:

The student is capable of developing skills in the use of English in a scholarly and critical environment.

4:

The student can provide a critical response to USA literary texts and films.

Introduction

Brief presentation of the course

The course offers an introduction to some of the most relevant notions about the US postmodern and posthumanist understanding of the self within the present globalized civilization. Close analysis of a selection of US American texts in English from the various theoretical perspectives presented to the students.

E-learning platform

When registered in the course, students are expected to access and consult, on a regular basis, its webpage at <http://moodle.unizar.es/> From there, students may download additional information about the course program, learning methodologies, headlines and powerpoint presentations for each unit in the course, as well as supplementary bibliography

Competences

General aims of the course

The expected results of the course respond to the following general aims

The main aim of this course is to provide students with an introduction to some of the most relevant approaches and topics that study the role of the individual in contemporary US American society and the new versions of the self brought about by different factors since the 1960s: poststructuralist theory, anthropology, science, technology, and media. Theory will be tested by the close analysis of a selection of literary texts and films in English.

The specific aims of this subject are the following:

- 1) To provide the students with basic critical tools to understand and analyze the selected corpus
- 2) To familiarize the students with the most relevant critical approaches to literary and cultural texts
- 3) To test the explanatory power of these approaches through their application to a corpus of US American texts in English
- 4) To improve the students' skills in the use of English in a scholarly and critical environment
- 5) To reinforce the students' critical response to literary and cultural texts.

Context/Importance of the course for the master degree

"Main trends in contemporary US fiction" belongs into the branch of different courses in the degree that focus their attention in recent fiction written in English by evaluating its response to contemporary ideologies and the problems they generate. More specifically, the course centers on US American fiction and texts and on their influence/response to recent issues referred to globalization and the role and borders of the individual human being.

After completing the course, the student will be competent in the following skills:

1:

Developing and applying original ideas in a professional as well as in a research context, especially related to

the background of USA values and beliefs and globalized culture.

- 2:** Understanding and applying acquired knowledge to solve problems related to professional and social contexts as well as to broader multidisciplinary contexts.
- 3:** Being able to connect and relate knowledge from different subjects
- 4:** Expressing informed critical views and provide conclusions in the form of written essays and oral presentations, in clear and appropriate English, aimed at both specialized and non-specialized audiences.
- 5:** Being able to handle complex information and apply the proper methodology and frameworks
- 6:** Finally, after acquiring the required critical and methodological skills, students are expected to possess the ability to carry out a piece of research in an autonomous way.

Relevance of the skills acquired in the course

The proposed aims of this course are crucial to provide students with a sound theoretical and methodological background that will allow them to conduct research in the field of US American literature and cultural studies successfully. Similarly, the specific aims of this subject are essential skills to carry out the research process (i.e. using critical tools for understanding and analyzing literary and cultural texts in English, applying critical approaches to the selected corpus, and developing a critical response to the corpus).

Such aims will result in the student's ability:

- to develop and apply original ideas in a professional as well as in a research context in the field of English and American Studies.
- to interrelate knowledge from different subjects
- to handle complex information
- to apply the proper methodology and frameworks
- to express a critical view and provide conclusions in both written essays and oral presentations, in clear and appropriate English, aimed at both specialized and non-specialized audiences
- to conduct work (research) in an autonomous way

Evaluation

Assessment tasks

The student will prove that he/she has achieved the expected learning results by means of the following assessment tasks:

- 1:**
 - I. FIRST OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

- A) ONGOING ASSESSMENT:**

Assessment task 1. Students are required to write **short critical essays** on literary works or films, or on linguistic analyses of texts (depending on the subject) and present them orally in the class. In these essays students are expected to understand theoretical concepts and apply them to the texts under analysis. Correct use of academic spoken and written English (at a C1 level) is expected. These activities will credit students' achievement of learning objectives # 1, 2, 3 and 4. Short essays will be graded from 0 to 10, this grade representing **20%** of the final score of the student.

Assessment task 2. Students will also be required to write a **3,000 word essay** in correct academic English

on a specific aspect of the course contents, on a topic previously agreed on with one of the teachers. With this essay the students are expected to demonstrate that they have assimilated the critical approaches presented by the teachers and to prove their ability to use those approaches in the analysis of specific texts. The textual analysis and critical discussion of the readings will credit students' achievement of learning objectives # 1, 2, 3 and 4. This essay will be graded from 0 to 10, this grade representing **80%** of the final score of the student in the course. A pass mark in this essay is a *sine qua non* condition to pass the subject.

Assessment criteria:

Definition of key concepts. Initial hypothesis. Use of a theoretical framework and a methodology. Use of primary sources. Literature review. Argumentation and conclusions = 70%

Independence, originality and critical examination = 10%

Information organization structure of the essay. Layout of the text. Accuracy in the use of language and appropriateness of style = 20%

B) GLOBAL EXAMINATION (to be determined in the academic calendar):

Assessment task 1. Students will be required to write a **3,000 word essay** in correct academic English on a specific aspect of the course contents, on a topic previously agreed on with one of the teachers. In this essay the students are expected to assimilate the critical approaches to literary texts, films or corpus of texts presented by the teachers and to prove their ability to use those approaches in the analysis of those texts. The textual analysis and critical discussion will credit students' achievement of learning objectives # 1, 2, 3 and 4. This essay will be graded from 0 to 10, this grade representing **70%** of the final score of the student in the course. A pass mark in this essay is a *sine qua non* condition to pass the subject.

Assessment task 2. **Interview in English.** The student will debate with the teachers relevant aspects of the analysis and interpretation of the compulsory readings. In the interview, the students are expected to apply the theoretical approaches and the analytical methods studied to the analysis of various types of literary, filmic or linguistic texts. The textual analysis and the critical discussion of the readings will prove that the students have achieved learning objectives # 1, 2, 3 and 4. The interview will be assessed following the established assessment criteria and the established level of exigency. It will be graded from 0 to 10, this grade representing **30%** of the final score of the student in this subject.

Assessment criteria for Global Examination (both for essay and for the interview):

Use a C1 level of English (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to hold one's own, critically and academically, in analyses, explanations and discussions of aspects and issues related to the subject/discipline = 30%

Use relevant theoretical frameworks critically and apply methodological approaches appropriately to a corpus of texts in English = 40%

Provide an effective argument (factual evidence, exemplification, illustrations, citations, etc.) in order to make convincing claims and defend critically one's point of view = 30%

2:

II. SECOND OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

A) ONGOING ASSESSMENT

Assessment task 1. Students are required to write **short critical essays** on literary works or films or on linguistic analyses of texts (depending on the subject) and present them orally in the class. In these essays students are expected to understand theoretical concepts and apply them to the texts under analysis. Correct use of academic spoken and written English (at a C1 level) is expected. These activities will credit students' achievement of learning objectives # 1, 2, 3 and 4. Short essays will be graded from 0 to 10, this grade representing **20%** of the final score of the student.

Assessment task 2. Students will also be required to write a **3,000 word essay** in correct academic English on a specific aspect of the course contents, on a topic previously agreed on with one of the teachers. With this essay the students are expected to demonstrate that they have assimilated the critical approaches presented by the teachers and to prove their ability to use those approaches in the analysis of specific texts. The textual

analysis and critical discussion of the readings will credit students' achievement of learning objectives # 1, 2, 3 and 4. This essay will be graded from 0 to 10, this grade representing **80%** of the final score of the student in the course. A pass mark in this essay is a *sine qua non* condition to pass the subject.

Assessment criteria:

Definition of key concepts. Initial hypothesis. Use of a theoretical framework and a methodology. Use of primary sources. Literature review. Argumentation and conclusions = 70%

Independence, originality and critical examination = 10%

Information organization structure of the essay. Layout of the text. Accuracy in the use of language and appropriateness of style = 20%

B) GLOBAL EXAMINATION (to be determined in the academic calendar):

Assessment task 1. Students will be required to write a **3,000 word essay** in correct academic English on a specific aspect of the course contents, on a topic previously agreed on with one of the teachers. In this essay the students are expected to assimilate the critical approaches to literary texts, films or corpus of texts presented by the teachers and to prove their ability to use those approaches in the analysis of those texts. The textual analysis and critical discussion will credit students' achievement of learning objectives # 1, 2, 3 and 4. This essay will be graded from 0 to 10, this grade representing **70%** of the final score of the student in the course. A pass mark in this essay is a *sine qua non* condition to pass the subject.

Assessment task 2. **Interview in English.** The student will debate with the teachers relevant aspects of the analysis and interpretation of the compulsory readings. In the interview, the students are expected to apply the theoretical approaches and the analytical methods studied to the analysis of various types of literary, filmic or linguistic texts. The textual analysis and the critical discussion of the readings will prove that the students have achieved learning objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4. The interview will be assessed following the established assessment criteria and the established level of exigency. It will be graded from 0 to 10, this grade representing **30%** of the final score of the student in this subject.

Assessment criteria for Global Examination (both for essay and for the interview):

Use a C1 level of English (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to hold one's own, critically and academically, in analyses, explanations and discussions of aspects and issues related to the subject/discipline = 30%

Use relevant theoretical frameworks critically and apply methodological approaches appropriately to a corpus of texts in English = 40%

Provide an effective argument (factual evidence, exemplification, illustrations, citations, etc.) in order to make convincing claims and defend critically one's point of view = 30%

Writing the Final Essay

Guidelines for writing the final essay

Guidelines and assessment

Writing an essay in English

1. First, you need to be sure of the topic you want to write about. Your choice should be something that you find "useful," that is to say, an original/innovative approach to some aspects or topics in any given novel or film in the syllabus, something that may discover new perspectives for you and your companions.

2. In order to find a suitable aim for your paper, you need to start thinking about "ways to discover things." That is to say, you have to be sure of the **theoretical frame** or ideological approach you want to follow in your research. You also need to use a **method of textual analysis**; you may find, for instance, that a narratological analysis can help you to discover the existence of certain reiterative themes, topics or obsessions in the story, in the narrator or even in the total implications of the literary or filmic work you are analyzing. Then, you can focus your research analysis on one or two of those topics or

themes or on the use of some specific narrative strategies, etc.

3. When you finally decide to write the paper, the first thing you have to do in it is to specify your critical aims, topic of research, frame, and method of analysis to your readers. You can do it in one or two pages (**Introduction**).

4. The following step is to develop your analysis in a detailed way (**discussion** of your hypothesis). Along this part of the essay, you will probably need to mention other critics' ideas and you do **NOT** want to be a plagiarist. Therefore, you will clearly specify every time you use somebody else's ideas. You can do it **either** by means of introducing, between quotation marks or in indented lines, passages from your original source, followed by the name of the critic and the year of publication of his/her work (between brackets) **or** by using your own words but introducing phrases of the type "as Newton wrote in his *Principia*, there is no ... (year and page number)."

5. Once you have progressed gradually in the discussion of your thesis, you need to reach a conclusion or results that may occupy twenty or thirty lines, approximately (it can be longer or shorter, it is up to you).

6. You can always see, as a model for writing a paper, the structure used in the essays written by other critics that you can find in your recommended bibliography list.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR RATING ESSAYS
From 0 to 7 points Key concepts • Are the key concepts defined appropriately? • Are the key concepts applied appropriately relative to the field in which the writer is working? Thesis statement or research aims • Is the <i>thesis statement</i> stated? • Is the research question answered? ◦ Is the research question (leading to a hypothesis) justified by its importance either in practice or in the research bibliography? Theoretical framework or critical approach • Is a theoretical framework used (and justified)? • Are the analytical categories defined clearly, non-overlapping, and related to sources in the bibliography? • Where appropriate, are the central analytical categories problematized? Methodology • Is the method adequately described? • Is the method used appropriate to the field in which the writer is working? Material (primary sources -i.e. texts analyzed) • Is the material relevant? • Is the material used appropriately to answer the research questions? Literature review (bibliography) • Are the bibliographic sources used relevant to the research question or aims? • Does the bibliography demonstrate that the student has understood the relevant secondary material? • Is the bibliography referred to in accordance with academic conventions for attribution in general (properly attributing the work of others) and citation in particular (quoting and paraphrasing)? • Is the secondary material used appropriate to support the analysis and results? • Are the relevant sources compared, contrasted, and synthesized? Argumentation or discussion • Is the argumentation effective? If applicable, are possible counterarguments or alternative interpretations of evidence brought up and, if so, is the claim made in the essay convincingly defended against those counterarguments? Conclusion or results • Are the results clearly stated? Do they follow logically from the evidence that has been presented in the essay? • Are the implications of the findings discussed and connected to a wider context?
From 0 to 1 point Independence, originality and critical examination • Has the student worked independently, showing high level of initiative in both reading and research? • Has the student been able to contribute novel or original ideas (such as improved methodology; creative analysis; new findings) that are of value to the research community? • Has the student been able to critically examine the various aspects of the study (such as secondary sources, the material, methods, conclusions drawn)?

From 0 to 2 points**Information structure and organization of essay**

- Is the information structured appropriately such that the essay is both coherent and cohesive? Is the paper well-structured both at sentence and paragraph level?
- Is the essay organized in a clear and logical manner? Are the expected components present (presentation of background; statement of aims; description of method and material; presentation and analysis of results; and conclusion)?

Formatting

- Have the appropriate formatting and referencing conventions been followed consistently?

Language and style

- Is the language correct with respect to spelling, punctuation, and grammar?
- Is the style appropriate for an academic text?

Guidelines

"Documento de referencia para la elaboración del ensayo"/"Guidelines for writing the essay"

1. Use a C1 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to hold one's own, critically and academically.
2. Define appropriate key concepts and apply them adequately to the field of research.
3. Prepare the literature review (i.e. what other scholars have stated about the topic of the essay, or about related topics). Make sure that the literature review is sufficient in scope and relevant regarding the topic under investigation.
4. Define a thesis statement / Define the research questions.
5. State and justify the theoretical framework.
6. Define clearly the analytical categories (where appropriate, indicating overlapping or problematisation of those categories).
7. Describe the analytical methodology used for the study of the topic of the essay.
8. Provide an effective argument (factual evidence, exemplification, illustration, citations, etc.) in order to make convincing claims.
9. State a conclusion in accordance with your arguments and relate it to a wider context
10. Show independence in reading and researching, originality and critical examination.
11. Follow the information and style conventions of the subdisciplinary field (literature, film studies, cultural studies or linguistics).
12. Participants are expected to use a C1 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to hold one's own, critically and academically.

"Documento de referencia para el análisis y la discusión de las lecturas obligatorias" / "Guidelines for the analysis and discussion of compulsory readings"

1. The theoretical part of the seminar, taught by the teacher will provide an active learning environment in which students can develop the ability to read/view/analyse critically and conceptually and, therefore, to speak and write in the classroom.
2. The seminar will provide general introductions to theoretical frameworks or an application of a given research methodology/framework to a selection of texts.
3. Students should bring to the seminar a draft or notes on the text or film under analysis and participate actively in the classroom discussion.
4. Questions can be posed to improve the quality of the discussion.
5. Assignment of formal presentations and critical comment may also be requested for stimulating discussion.
6. Participants are expected to use a C1 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to hold one's own, critically and academically.

(Adapted from www.oid.ucla.edu/students/cutf/cutfguidelines.doc)

"Documento de referencia para el desarrollo de los seminarios teóricos y analíticos" / "Guidelines for the development of theoretical and analytical seminars"

1. Use a C1 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to hold one's own, critically and academically, in analyses, explanations and discussions of aspects and issues related to the subject/discipline.
2. Deal effectively with the most relevant critical approaches through their application to a corpus of texts in English.
3. Address and apply critical theories and methodologies relevant to the analysis of texts in English.
4. Provide an effective argument (factual evidence, exemplification, illustration, citations, etc.) in order to make convincing claims.
5. Approach the analysis of different texts critically.

"Documento de referencia para el desarrollo de entrevistas" / "Guidelines for interviews"

1. Use a C1 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to hold one's own, critically and academically, in analyses, explanations and discussions of aspects and issues related to the subject/discipline.
2. Deal effectively with the most relevant critical approaches through their application to a corpus of texts in English.
3. Address and apply critical theories and methodologies relevant to the analysis of texts in English.

4. Provide an effective argument (factual evidence, exemplification, illustration, citations, etc.) in order to make convincing claims.
 5. Approach the analysis of different texts critically.
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Activities and resources

Course methodology

The learning process that has been designed for this course is based on the following activities:

This course has been specifically designed to train researchers in criticism and theory in the field of US American Studies and evaluate the impact American society and its present values have on our contemporary globalized lives at the beginning of the new millennium. For this reason, the learning process is based on a number of activities. Namely, the analysis of narrative texts and films by means of critical tools, and the comments on, presentation of, and reflections on these analyses from various theoretical perspectives. These activities are aimed at the application of the fundamental principles of the most relevant critical and theoretical approaches to the analysis of the selected American topics in the program.

The course is organized in three stages: 1. the revision of the critical approaches and analytical tools. 2. The application of critical concepts through the analysis and collective discussion of the selected texts in the program. 3. Writing of an individual essay, applying the theoretical approaches and methods learned on the selected topic of research.

Outline of the Programme

The programme offered to the students to help them achieve the learning results includes the following activities :

1:
Learning Schedule

The course is structured in three parts. The first one consists of a brief theoretical introduction of the notions of postmodernism and the resulting understanding of the human subject, together with an analysis of some of the most important historical events since the 1970s in the USA and the resulting globalization impulse. The second section deals with the ideological response offered by the contemporary US American novel; special emphasis is given to the role of science, metafiction and the notion of the human self in the works of some influential US American novelists. The third part of the course centers on the concepts of posthumanism, posthumanity, the blurring of barriers in narrative genres, and the cultural role of the novel in its relation to informatics, the cinema and audiovisual culture, with special emphasis on the creation of new values that disrupt the traditional understanding of the humanist, enlightened, and liberal self.

2:
The course syllabus is structured as follows:

a) Theoretical and analytical seminars (30 hours / 20 sessions. 1.2 credits): Exposition in class of general and methodological aspects for each one of the program topics and illustration with the analysis of a selection of texts related to those topics. These are the main teaching lines for this part of the course:

I- Introduction: the concept of the self and the postmodern condition:

1. The notion of the self: from Humanism to the postmodern condition
2. Jacques Derrida and the quest for the original Logos
3. Jacques Lacan and the formation of the self
4. Michel Foucault and the notions of power and knowledge

II-The postmodern novel in the USA: From the counter-culture to the roles of science and metafiction in the post-war US novel:

1. The contemporary US novel and the textualization of relativity and quantum analysis: Newton, Einstein, Heisenberg, and Borg or the perceptual difficulties of the new science.

2. The literary anticipation of scientific fashion: From the second law of thermodynamics to contemporary chaotics, or the limits between myth and discriminating language.
3. Postmodern reality and its representation in a new type of realism: Science, nostalgia, identity, and metafiction.

III-From prosthetic cyborgs in written fiction to the power of the audiovisual media. Blurred cultural frontiers at the turn of the millennium. The notion of the posthuman:

1. Science Fiction re-writes it again: cyberpunk looping narratives as dystopia, and the construction of the simulated posthuman.
2. Looping upon loops: or the novel about "the novel about the novel." The (lack of) limits between historiography and metafiction, man and woman, chaos and order, or how postmodern can you be?
3. Techno-ideology and contemporary US film: human or post-human? Artificial Intelligence vs. human power or the creation of the cyborg: From movie "classics" to Star Trek, horror remakes, and the ultimate intertextual mix. Globalization, conspiracy theory, and the bleak future for the Age of Aquarius.

b) Tasks/Class activities (30 hours / 20 sessions. 1.2 credits): Class analysis and guided tutorials of a selection of short texts and films from the perspective of the theoretical approaches, methods, and contexts explained in the theory sessions. The list of texts and films is published in the annual syllabus of the course. The reading / viewing of this corpus is compulsory.

c) Assessment tasks/activities, self-assessment of classroom work, and preparation of individual essay (40 hours. 1.6 credits): Tutorials, both individual and in group, as well as participation in practical sessions, will be used to help the students to prepare their essays and to assess their learning process.

d) Individual work (87,5 hours. 3.5 credits): Revision of the concepts explained in the theory sessions and individual analysis of the texts commented on in the practical sessions. Preparation of essay. Individual reading / viewing in library and in the course's web-page (at <http://moodle.unizar.es/>).

Course planning

Calendar of actual sessions and presentation of works

The first ten sessions in the course will comprise only theoretical and analytical seminars centered on providing students with the necessary critical and methodological tools to approach the different units in the syllabus.

Sessions 11 to 30 will alternate theoretical seminars with class analysis of the most relevant literary texts and films in the syllabus.

Sessions 31 to 40 will be dedicated to class analysis and tutorials with the aim of helping students to prepare their essays and to assess their learning process.

The 3.000 word essay has to be submitted before the end of the course (first week in June).

Bibliographical Resources

Corpus

Compulsory Texts and Films

Part I:

Baudrillard, Jean. 1988. "Simulacra and Simulations," in *Jean Baudrillard: Selected Writings*. Ed. Mark Poster. Cambridge: Polity Press. 166-84.

Derrida, Jacques. 1967. *De la Gramatologie*. Paris: Minuit.

Hendin, Josephine. 1978. *Vulnerable People: A View of American Fiction since 1945*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hutcheon, Linda. 1991. "Discourse, Power, Ideology: Humanism and Postmodernism," in *Postmodernism and Contemporary Fiction*. Ed. Edmund Smyth. London: Batsford. 105-22.

Klinkowitz, Jerome. 1992. *Structuring the Void: The Struggle for Subject in Contemporary American Fiction*. Durham: Duke

University Press.

Lyotard, Jean-François. 1986. *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Sarup, Madan. 1993. *An Introductory Guide to Postmodernism and Poststructuralism*. 2^a ed. London: Harvester/Wheatsheaf.

White, Hayden. 1987. "The Value of Narrativity in the Representation of Reality". In *The Content of the Form: Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1-25.

Part II:

Bercovitch, Sacvan, ed. 1999. *The Cambridge History of American Literature. Volume 7: Prose Writing 1940-1990*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Campbell, Joseph. 1968. *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*. 2nd. ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Collado Rodríguez, Francisco. 2001. "Sobre caos, realismo y metaficción: novela y postmodernismo en los EE.UU.," in *Historia crítica de la novela norteamericana*, José A. Gurpegui, et al. Salamanca: Ediciones Almar. 271-320.

Copestake, Ian D. 2003. *American Postmodernity: Essays on the recent fiction of Thomas Pynchon*. Oxford: Peter Lang.

Cowart, David. 1982. *Thomas Pynchon: The Art of Allusion*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press.

Elliott, Emory, et al., eds. 1988. *Columbia Literary History of the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Elliott, Emory, et al., eds. 1991. *The Columbia History of the American Novel*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Hayles, N. Katherine, ed. 1991. *Chaos and Order: Complex Dynamics in Literature and Science*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Hayles, N. Katherine. 1999. *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Hutcheon, Linda. 1988. *A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction*. London: Routledge.

Ickstadt, Heinz. 1988. "Contemporary American Novel: Between Post-Modernism and Neo-Realism," in *Actas del XII Congreso Nacional de AEDEAN*. Alicante: Universidad de Alicante, 1988. 99-109.

Jackson, Rosemary. 1981. *Fantasy: The Literature of Subversion*. London: Methuen.

Klinkowitz, Jerome. 1982. *Kurt Vonnegut*. London: Methuen.

Klinkowitz, Jerome. 1992. *Structuring the Void: The Struggle for Subject in Contemporary American Fiction*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Kraft, Eric. 2002. <www.EricKraft.com>

McHale, Brian. 1992. *Constructing Postmodernism*. New York: Routledge.

McLuhan, Marshall. 1964. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*. London: Routledge-Ark, 1987.

Nadeau, Robert. 1981. *Readings from the new book on nature: physics and metaphysics in the modern novel*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press.

O'Donnell, Patrick, ed. 1991. *New Essays on The Crying of Lot 49*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

SHATT, Stanley. 1976. *Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.* Boston: Twayne.

Part III:

Badmington, Neil, ed. 2000. *Readers in Cultural Criticism: Posthumanism*. Houndmills: Palgrave.

Collado Rodríguez, Francisco. 1995. "Naming Female Multiplicity: An Interview with Bharati Mukherjee." *Atlantis*, vol. XVII.1-2: 293-306. Available in electronic format.

Collado Rodríguez, Francisco. 2000. "Facing the Other: Bharati Mukherjee's Holder of the World." *Postmodern Studies 29: 'New' Exoticisms. Changing Patterns in the Construction of Otherness*. Isabel Santaolalla, ed. Amsterdam & Atlanta: Rodopi.

217-28.

Collado Rodríguez, Francisco and Sergio SALVADOR. 1998. "Post-human: the cultural limits of 'cyberpunk' (including an Electronic Conversation with Bruce Sterling, and his own Selected List of Cyberpunk Readings)." *Miscelánea*, vol. 19: 21-37. Available in electronic format.

Davies, Paul and John Gribbin. 1991. *The Matter Myth: Beyond Chaos and Complexity*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Fetherstone, Mike and Roger BURROWS, eds. 1995. *Cyberspace, Cyberbodies, Cyberpunk: Cultures of Technological Embodiment*. London: Sage Publications.

Haraqay, Donna. 1990. "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s," in *Feminism/Postmodernism*. Ed. Linda Nicholson. London: Routledge. Reprinted in BADMINGTON 2000: 69-84.

Hayles, N. Katherine, ed. 1991. *Chaos and Order: Complex Dynamics in Literature and Science*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Hayles, N. Katherine. 1999. *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Wicke, Jennifer. 1996. "Fin de Siècle and the Technological Sublime," in *Centuries' Ends, Narrative Means*. Ed. Robert Newman. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Students are also encouraged to consult web pages about the writers and film directors analyzed in the course.

Bibliographic references of the recommended readings