

27838 - American Literature IV

Información del Plan Docente

Academic Year	2016/17
Academic center	103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
Degree	416 - Degree in English
ECTS	6.0
Course	4
Period	First semester
Subject Type	Compulsory
Module	---

1. Basic info

1.1. Recommendations to take this course

1.2. Activities and key dates for the course

2. Initiation

2.1. Learning outcomes that define the subject

2.2. Introduction

3. Context and competences

3.1. Goals

3.2. Context and meaning of the subject in the degree

3.3. Competences

3.4. Importance of learning outcomes

4. Evaluation

5. Activities and resources

5.1. General methodological presentation

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

All class activities will be complemented by group or individual tutorials that form part of the face-to-face teaching and that can also be carried out by e-mail or via Moodle. The learning process is based on the student's active participation and encourages the accurate planning of their autonomous work, which includes the writing of an optional individual essay. The learning process fosters the development of the student's analytical skills and critical thinking, reasoning and argumentation, and involves the reading of the compulsory texts in the light of the recommended bibliography and the in-class teaching.

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English will be the language used in all class activities, tutorials, essays, and exams, and the literary texts shall be read in their original version.

5.2.Learning activities

Guided activities and credit distribution

Guided activities

-Theory sessions (1.2 credits / 30 hours)

Theory sessions which include, for each unit, the study of the historical and cultural context (naturalism, psychological realism, modernism and postmodernism), the main features of the literary production of the second half of the 20 th century, the introduction to authors and texts, and the explanation of relevant critical and methodological approaches. The teacher will introduce these concepts with PowerPoint presentations and other materials available in Moodle. Student participation will be encouraged in these sessions by means of relevant questioning and prior knowledge-activating strategies.

-Practical sessions and group seminars (1.2 credits / 30 hours)

Practical sessions consist in the critical analysis of the compulsory literary texts: a series of poems, short stories and fragments of longer works which constitute a representative selection of key texts of the American literature of the second half of the twentieth century. Previous reading on the part of students is essential for the development of these sessions, which will include guided commentaries with the whole class, small group discussion, or the writing of brief individual or group analyses to be presented orally. Debates, questions, brainstorming or role play for character analysis will also be used in order to activate theoretical and practical knowledge, reinforce basic concepts and develop synthesizing, analyzing, interpreting, relating, and expressing skills as well as attitudes such as cooperation and valuation of the work of others.

Supervised activities

-Individual and group tutorials (0.1 credits / 2.5 hours)

Tutorial attendance (alternatively, e-mail consultations or participation on the Moodle platform) is compulsory for the guided writing of essays, and optional for the rest of issues concerning the course.

Autonomous activities

- Compulsory readings, use of secondary sources and Moodle materials (2.9 credits / 72.5 hours; or 3.5 credits / 87.5 hours for the students who do not write up the optional essay)

The students' independent activities include revising the concepts studied in class, as well as reading and analyzing the compulsory texts, reading secondary sources, and visiting the Moodle page.

- Elaboration of the optional essay (0.6 credits / 15 hours), optional.

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By the 8th week of the semester, students will decide on a topic that will be agreed upon with the teacher. They will work on the development of a working hypothesis that will be presented to the teacher by the 13th week, together with the essay outline and the selected bibliography. The completed essay will be handed in by the day of the exam.

Assessment

- Global exam (0.1 credits / 2.5 hours)

The exam will take place on the day assigned by the Faculty. Students will have 2.5 hours at the most. The type of exam is described in the Assessment section of this guide.

5.3.Program

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1. Syllabus

Basic Contents

1. The 1940s: Modernist narrative or the triumph of History? Literature, society and the echoes of modernism. The effects of the Great Depression: social commitment and experimentation in Steinbeck's fiction.
2. US drama in the post-war period. Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams: on cultural politics and Freudian psychoanalysis. Red or patriot? Official ideology, sexual options and the beginning of the Cold War.
3. Neorealism in the war and post-war period. Negotiating identity and the color black: Ralph Ellison. From tradition and the Torah into existentialism and parody: Saul Bellow.
4. Poetry of dissent: Adrienne Rich and the vindication of the rights of women; Allen Ginsberg, poetry against the status quo; Amiri Baraka and his radical political art.
5. Postmodern fiction in the USA. The struggle against hegemonic narratives: Tim O'Brien and the Vietnam War. Gender, race, and trauma in contemporary fiction: Bharati Mukherjee.

2. Compulsory Films and Texts

Novels, plays and film adaptations:

1. John Steinbeck: "The Pearl" (1947)
2. Arthur Miller: *The Crucible* (1953) (script and film adaptation)
3. Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955) (script and film adaptation)

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4. Saul Bellow: *Henderson the Rain King* (1959)

Shorter texts (poems, short stories):

A selection of shorter compulsory texts by Ralph Ellison, Adrienne Rich, Allen Ginsberg, Amiri Baraka, Tim O'Brien, and Bharati Mukherjee are available at Reprografía.

Films (Film copies are available at SEMETA, Biblioteca María Moliner):

1. John Ford, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940)

2. Stanley Kubrick, *Dr. Strangelove* (1963)

3. Milos Forman, *Hair* (1983)

5.4.Planning and scheduling

Face-to-face teaching and schedule for essays

Theoretical and practical sessions (critical analysis of the compulsory literary texts) will take place in two weekly sessions, following the official schedule. Three to four weeks will be necessary for the presentation and discussion of each unit.

Group and individual tutorials will follow the schedule provided by the teacher, taking into account the students' class hours.

Students can write up an optional individual essay guided by the teacher taking into account the following key dates:

- Deadline for notifying the choice of subject: week 8.
- Deadline for submitting the detailed draft and the bibliography: week 13.
- Deadline for submitting the essays: during the first final exam.

The first final exam includes the submission of the optional essay and will take place on the official date assigned by the University.

5.5.Bibliography and recommended resources

The bibliography of the current academic year is kept updated and can be checked on the library's website (search for recommended bibliography on biblioteca.unizar.es)

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- Manzanas Calvo. "I, too, Sing America". La narrativa étnica". En: Historia crítica de la novela norteamericana / editor-coordinador José Antonio Gurpegui Palacios Salamanca : Almar, D.L. 2001, p. 321-387
- BB** Bigsby, C.W.E.. A critical introduction to twentieth-century American drama. 2, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee / C.W.E. Bigsby . - 1st pub. [2nd] repr. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1987
- BB** Bigsby, C.W.E.. A critical introduction to twentieth-century American drama. 3, Beyond Broadway / C.W.E. Bigsby . - 1st pub. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1985
- BB** Bradbury, Malcolm. The modern American novel / Malcolm Bradbury Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1992
- BB** Columbia literary history of the United States / Emory Elliott, general editor ; associate editors Martha Banta ... [et al.] ; advisory editors, Houston A. Baker ... New York ; Guildford : Columbia University Press, 1988
- BB** Fiction & ethnicity in northamerica : problems of history, genre and assimilation / edited by Aitor Ibarrola . [Bilbao] : Uncilla Press, 1995
- BB** Harvard Guide to Contemporary American Writing / Daniel Hoffman, editor ; with essays by Leo Braudy...[et al.] Cambridge, Mass. [etc.] : Harvard University Press, 198
- BB** Hinchliffe, Arnold P.. The absurd / Arnold P. Hinchliffe . - 1st ed., repr. [London] : Methuen, 1977
- BB** Hutcheon, Linda. A poetics of postmodernism : history, theory, fiction / Linda Hutcheon . - 1st pub., repr. New York ; London : Routledge, 1989
- BB** John Steinbeck : the contemporary reviews / edited by Joseph R. McElrath, Jr., Jesse S. Crisler, Susan Shillinglaw . - 1st ed. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1996
- BB** Limon, John. Writing after war : American war fiction from realism to postmodernism / John Limon . New York : Oxford University Press, 1994
- BB** Ruland, Richard. From Puritanism to Postmodernism : a history of American literature / Richard Ruland and Malcolm Bradbury London : Routledge, 1991
- BB** The Columbia history of the American novel / Emory Elliott, general editor

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BB

Columbia : University press, 1990
The Norton Anthology of American
Literature / [edited by Nina Baym... et al.] .
4th ed. New York ; London : W.W. Norton,
cop. 1994