Course Description
Consists of analytical and reflective reading of contemporary (since 1945) American fiction, poetry and drama. Attention to developing techniques for critical reading and writing. Basic course for literature majors and study in humanities and liberal arts.

This is a fully online, eight-week course. We will not meet face-to-face at any time.

Course Prerequisites

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Examine Contemporary Literature by focusing on genre, content, language and symbols.
2. Formulate thorough analysis of literature by constructing writing supported with textual evidence.
3. Discuss the literature’s relationship to its own time and place; to the writer; to the genre; to the social, economic and intellectual environment surrounding its composition.
4. Analyze literature employing a variety of critical approaches to broaden understanding.
5. Discuss contemporary issues expressed in literature through the context of current social issues, historical experience, and professional and intellectual lives.
6. Compare characteristics of Contemporary Literature to that of historical, classical and revered works.
7. Discuss contemporary issues expressed in literature through the context of current social issues, historical experience, and professional and intellectual lives.

Required Text

ISBN: 9780547201801
Course Assignment Descriptions

You will have several opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the principles taught in this course. The primary means of evaluating your work will be through practical application of the material. In the event that you have difficulty completing any of the assignments for this course, please contact your instructor immediately. Please refer to the Weekly Materials section of the cyberclassroom for complete details regarding the activities and assignments for this course. The following is merely a summary.

Discussion contributions (8 @ 20 points per week = 160 points)
(six postings per week @ 20 points per week)

Initial Substantive Posts: Submit an initial response to each of the prompts provided each week by your instructor. Your initial post should be substantive (approximately ½ of a page in length) and must be posted by midnight, Central Time by Wednesday of each week. In your substantive post you are encouraged to use references (you may use your textbook); show evidence of critical thinking as it applies to the concepts or prompt and/or use examples of the application of the concepts to work and life. Proper punctuation, grammar and correct spelling are expected. Please use the spell-check function.

Required Replies: You must reply to at least two different peers per prompt. Your replies should build on the concept discussed, offer a question to consider, or add a differing perspective, etc. Rather than responding with, "Good post," explain why the post is "good" (why it is important, useful, insightful, etc.). Or, if you disagree, respectfully share your alternative perspective. Just saying "I agree" or "Good idea" is not sufficient for the posts you would like graded.

Posting Guidelines: Overall, postings must be submitted on at least two separate days of the week. It is strongly recommended you visit the discussion forum throughout the week to read and respond to your peers’ postings. You are encouraged to post more than the required number of replies.

(Please review the Policies section of Blackboard for further details.)

The Beat Presentation (50 points):
Students will construct a 10 slide visual image PowerPoint presentation depicting the characteristics and impact of the Beat Movement. Students will create their depiction utilizing images (images can be taken from the web or clipart) and animation. Students are also welcome to incorporate music into their presentation. The PowerPoint presentation should contain a clear description of each image, as well as the connection to the characteristics and/or impact of the literature. However, students should not utilize words within the slides; rather all descriptions should be within the "Notes" section of the PowerPoint presentation. Students must include a reference page for all sources used within the PowerPoint presentation.
**Analysis of Legislation and Literature (50 points):**
Construct a two-page analysis discussing the effects of certain legislation on literature. Students will choose one of the three legislation readings to focus on within their analysis. The analysis must consist of an explanation of the legislation, as well as a discussion of at least one literary work created as a result of the legislation or affected by the legislation and one scholarly resource supporting the claim of effect on the literature.

**Contemporary Literature Reading Journal (50 points):**
Construct a four page reading journal documenting their required reading for the week. Dedicate at least one page, of their journal, to each of the four required authors of the week. Select one work by each Plath and Sexton, rather than focus on the two works assigned for each author. The reading journal will detail your impressions, questions, connections, etc., regarding the reading for the week. The journals do not have to be four separate essays, rather a discussion of the ideas expressed by the student will reading the work.

**Confessional Poetry Analysis (50 points):**
Construct a 2-3 page analysis of a confessional poem of choice. Choose a poem not required within this week's reading; you have free choice of poems, as long as it is a confessional poem. The analysis will include a brief summary of the poem, analysis of the major themes and explanation of how the work is a confessional poem. Proper formatting and citation of sources in required.

**Timeline (50 points):**
Prison and ecocriticism literature are genres not unique to the Contemporary Period. As discussed in your text, Hawthorne, Melville and Thoreau all reflected on the prison theme within some of their most revered works, while transcendalist literature focused on the awe-inspiring force that is nature. These movements are not only present in literature, but are common themes found within many areas of media. For this assignment, you will choose to either focus on the themes of prison or ecocriticism. Using research, you will construct a detailed timeline chronicling the beginnings of these movements, as well as the most important "events" that helped to solidify these themes as prominent within our society. Your "events" should include historical events, literature published and media created. You are to have a minimum of 10 events. Construction of the timeline is up to the individual student; however, each event should include a brief explanation (1-2 sentences) and a corresponding image. All sources must be cited using a corresponding reference page.
**Contemporary Literature Review (150 points total)**
The Contemporary Literature Review will consist of a critique of Contemporary Literature and an analysis, complete with research utilizing a minimum of two sources, of the role of the work within Contemporary Literature. The first step in completing this assignment is to choose a work of Contemporary Literature. The chosen work should be at least 150 pages and a work you have not previously read. The final product will be a 4-5 page essay that answers the following questions about the chosen work:

1. What is the title and author of your selection? Provide a brief explanation of the plot and provide any background information of the author and book (historical connection) as needed.
2. What role, do you think, this work has in contemporary literature? What evidence do you have to support these ideas?
3. Is this a quality example of the genre? Why or why not?

The completion of this project will take place in the following steps:
- Week 1: Book Proposal (20 points)
- Week 6: Peer Review (30 points)
- Week 8: Final paper (100 points)

**Course Schedule At-A-Glance***
Please refer to the Term Calendar in our cyberclassroom for specifics regarding dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Activities</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
<th>Date/Time Due**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 | • Week 1 Lecture Notes  
  • Selected works and articles as outlined in the weekly materials of the Blackboard classroom. | • Course Discussion  
  • Contemporary Literature Review: Book Proposal | • Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
  • Sunday at midnight |
| Week 2 | • Week 2 Lecture Notes  
  • Selected works and articles as outlined in the weekly materials of the Blackboard classroom. | • Course Discussion  
  • The Beat Presentation | • Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
  • Sunday at midnight |
| Week 3 | • Week 3 Lecture Notes  
  • Selected works and articles as outlined in the weekly materials of the Blackboard classroom. | • Course Discussion  
  • Analysis of Legislation and Literature | • Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
  • Sunday at midnight |
| Week 4 | • Week 4 Lecture Notes  
  • Selected works and articles as outlined in the weekly materials of the Blackboard classroom. | • Course Discussion  
  • Contemporary Literature Journal | • Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
  • Sunday at midnight |
| Week 5 | • Week 5 Lecture Notes  
  • Selected works and articles as outlined in the weekly materials of the Blackboard classroom. | • Course Discussion  
  • Confessional Poetry Analysis | • Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
  • Sunday at midnight |
Week 6
- Week 6 Lecture Notes
- Selected works and articles as outlined in the weekly materials of the Blackboard classroom.
- Course Discussion
- Contemporary Literature Review: Peer Review
- Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.
- Sunday at midnight

Week 7
- Week 7 Lecture Notes
- Selected works and articles as outlined in the weekly materials of the Blackboard classroom.
- Course Discussion
- Timeline
- Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.
- Sunday at midnight

Week 8
- Week 8 Lecture Notes
- Selected works and articles as outlined in the weekly materials of the Blackboard classroom.
- Course Discussion
- Contemporary Literature Review
- Midnight CT on Weds/Sat.
- Saturday at midnight

* All online weeks run from Monday to Sunday, except the last week, which ends on Saturday.
** All assignments are due at midnight Central Time. (All submissions to the Blackboard system are date/time stamped in Central Time).

Assignments At-A-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 1-8: Discussion</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20 per week</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Beat Presentation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of Legislation and Literature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Literature Journal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confessional Poetry Analysis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8: Research Paper and Presentation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>560</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Please refer to the Policies menu for more information about our Course Discussions.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
<td>504-560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
<td>448-503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
<td>392-447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
<td>336-391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>&lt; 335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To access your scores, click on Grades in the Student Tools area in Blackboard.

Important Policies
All course-specific policies for this course are spelled out here in this syllabus. However, additional university policies are located in the Policies section of Blackboard. You are responsible for reading and understanding all of these policies. All of them are important. Failure to understand or abide by them could have negative consequences for your experience in this course.
Editorial Format for Written Papers
All written assignments are to follow the APA writing style guidelines for grammar, spelling, and punctuation. This online course includes information regarding the APA style under “Writing and Research Resources” in the Resource Room on the course menu in Blackboard.

Ottawa Online Late Policy
With instructor approval, assignments may be accepted for up to one week after the due date, but a minimum automatic deduction of 10% of the points will be assessed. The instructor also has the option of increasing this deduction percentage up to a maximum of 20%. Extenuating circumstances may be determined on rare occasions and an extension allowed without a deduction, but only at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Discussion board postings will not be accepted for credit when posted after the close of the discussion week. There are no exceptions to this rule; however, solely at the discretion of the instructor, the student may be allowed to submit an alternative assignment to make up for the points under extenuating circumstances. If granted, this should be an exception to the rule.

No assignments will be accepted after the last day of the course (end of term) unless arrangements have been made and “approved” by the instructor at least one week in advance.

Saving Work
It is recommended that you save all of your work from this course on your own computer or flash drive. The capstone course you take at the end of your program may require you to have access to this work for culminating assignments and/or reflections.

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated at any level on any assignment. The reality of cyberspace has made academic dishonesty even more tempting for some, but be advised that technology can and will be used to help uncover those engaging in deception. If you ever have a question about the legitimacy of a source or a procedure you are considering using, ask your instructor. As the University Academic Council approved on May 29, 2003, “The penalty for plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will be failure in the course in which the academic dishonesty occurred. Students who commit academic dishonesty can be dismissed from the university by the provost/director.”
Please refer to Academic Honesty in the Policies section of the online course menu for important information about Ottawa University’s policies regarding plagiarism and cheating, including examples and explanations of these issues.

Student Handbook
Please refer to your student handbook for all university regulations. The Resource Room on the course menu in Blackboard contains information about where to find the student handbook online for your campus.

Please see Policies in Blackboard for additional university policies.
**Blackboard Technical Support**
The Resource Room in Blackboard contains links to student tutorials for learning to use Blackboard as well as information about whom to contact for technical support. Ottawa University offers technical support from 8 a.m. to midnight Central Time for all students, staff, and faculty at no cost. See [www.ottawa.edu/ouhelp](http://www.ottawa.edu/ouhelp) for contact information.

**Ottawa University Mission Statement**
The mission of Ottawa University is to provide the highest quality liberal arts and professional education in a caring, Christ-centered community of grace which integrates faith, learning and life. The University serves students of traditional age, adult learners and organizations through undergraduate and graduate programs.