

BOSTON COLLEGE

S U M M E R S E S S I O N

ENGL 214301: American Literary History III

Boston College Summer Session 2019

Session 2; 6/25/2019-8/1/2019; T/Th 6:00 PM – 9:15 PM

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Office Hours: TTh 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description

This course provides an introductory overview of literature written in the United States from World War I to the early 21st century. We will look at the ways writers of this period have experimented idiosyncratically and in dialogue with one another as modernism turned postmodern, as canons collided and collapsed, as movies and music albums, as well as graphic literature displaced some of literature's more traditional forms. The course is largely conversational, but structurally supported with student oral presentations. Required texts may include fiction by William Faulkner, Willa Cather, Toni Morrison, Maxine Hong Kingston, Sherman Alexie, and Junot Diaz; graphic literature by Art Spiegelman and Thi Bui. Requirements for the course include an oral presentation, two critical essays, two section exams, and a final exam.

Textbooks & Readings (Required)

- Ann Petry, *The Street: A Novel*.
- Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*.
- Junot Diaz, *Drown*.
- Thi Bui, *The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir*.

Other texts will be posted on *Canvas*—students are required to print them out, annotate them, and bring them to class for discussion.

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click [here](#).

Course Objectives

1. The student will demonstrate ability to close-read, interpret, and analyze modernist and postmodernist texts.
2. The students will show ability to write clear, coherent, organized, grammatically correct and stylistically competent prose.
3. The student will demonstrate awareness of literary genres and terminology.
4. The student will demonstrate knowledge across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age in American society as evidenced by the student's analysis of these issues in the writing assignments.
5. The student will demonstrate ethical knowledge pertaining to American society and culture as evidenced by the student's application of this knowledge to contemporary social issues depicted in the literary texts.

Grading

The undergraduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67)
 B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67) C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67) D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
 F (.00)

The graduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67) B+ (3.33), B (3.00) B- (2.67)
 C (2.00)

F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the [Office of Student Services](#).

Deadlines and Late Work

You are expected to submit assignments on time.

If you are going to need an extension, get in touch with me at least 24 hours before the paper is due, explain the circumstances, and we can work out a suitable arrangement. If you simply do not turn in the paper without notifying me, I will allow a brief grace period to elapse and then assign a failing grade.

Course Assignments

It is expected that you will spend 8 hours per week on out-of-class writing and reading assignments. These are listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester.

Papers. You will write 2 papers during the semester: one short (4-5 pp), and one slightly longer paper (involving work with a critical essay) (5-7 pp.).

Papers must be posted on Canvas AND I will also ask you to submit a hard copy in class. The papers must be word processed, double-spaced, page-numbered, titled, and proofread—not just spellchecked—for spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Put your name on the papers, too.

Quizzes & Reading Responses: There will be quizzes on assigned readings; quizzes may be announced or unannounced. Reading Responses are informal writings (about 1-2 pp) in response to specific readings in class.

Course Schedule

Date/Week	Topic	Reading/Assignments	Due Date
Week 1 6/25	Orientation Modernism: Historical Context		
6/28		William Faulkner: "A Rose for Emily"; "Barn Burning"; Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"	Discussion Starter
Week 2 7/2		Willa Cather, "Neighbor Rosicky"; Susan Glaspell, <i>Trifles</i>	Discussion Starter
Week 3 7/9		Anne Petry, <i>The Street</i>	Discussion Starter
7/11		Anne Petry, <i>The Street</i>	Discussion Starter
Week 4 7/16	Postmodernism: Historical Context	The Beat Generation Literary Analysis Paper 1	7/16 – Post on Canvas
7/18		Excerpts from Art Spiegelman, <i>Maus</i> ; Vladimir Nabokov, "That in Aleppo Once . . .";	Discussion Starter
Week 5 7/23		Tim O'Brien, <i>The Things They Carried</i>	Discussion Starter
7/25		Spike Lee, <i>Do the Right Thing</i> (film)	
Week 6 7/30		Junot Diaz, <i>Drown</i>	Discussion Starter
8/1		Thi Bui, <i>The Best We Could Do</i> Literary Analysis Paper 2	Discussion Starter 8/1 – Submit hard copy in class AND post on Canvas
TBA		FINAL EXAM	

Written Work

Summer Session students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor's requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the [Connors Family Learning Center](#).

Attendance

Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class.

A very regular class attendance is required. I have a **three-cut maximum**. You are expected to be at all class meetings, having done all the assigned reading, viewing, and writing, prepared to think and work. Classroom citizenship means being prepared to take responsibility for your share of the discussion and speaking up when you have something to say.

I know that work, family, and illness sometimes interfere with even the most dedicated scholar's commitments; let me know if that happens to you. For some reason, people often think that if they do not turn in a paper on time it is a good idea to stay away from class until they do turn in the paper; this is, in fact, a bad idea.

Consistent with BC's commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

Accommodation and Accessibility

Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities.

Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Summer Session courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- **The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC)** coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- **The Disabilities Services Office (DSO)** coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC's commitment to accessibility at www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility.

Scholarship and Academic Integrity

Students in Summer Session courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student's work. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](#) for more information.