HL2030
Post 1945 American Literature and Culture
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Course Aims
This course aims to broaden and deepen your knowledge of post 1945 American literature. You will gain a clearer understanding of the relationship between literary texts and the social, political, and religious ideals that underpin U.S. culture post-1945.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, you will be able to:
1. Compare and contrast major movements in post-1945 century literature and culture.
2. Explain how certain literary techniques and genres respond to political and social developments in the post-1945 United States.
3. Evaluate relevant contextual sources and use them to strengthen your literary analysis.
4. Raise critically and contextually informed questions (either in class discussion, or in an essay) that can sustain an extended analysis of Post 1945 American Literature.
5. Appraise texts and concepts with academic integrity.
6. Develop arguments based on close textual analysis and contextual evidence.

Primary Texts
On the Road, Jack Kerouac (1955) – pdf posted on NTULearn
Selected Short Stories, Flannery O'Connor (1965) – pdf posted to NTULearn
White Noise, Don DeLillo (1985) – at NTU Bookstore
Jazz, Toni Morrison (1992) – at NTU Bookstore
The Sellout, Paul Beatty (2015) – at NTU Bookstore
Interior Chinatown, Charles Yu (2020) – at NTU Bookstore

Tentative Schedule

Week	Reading	Assignments
1 18 Jan	*Introduction*	

2 25 Jan	The Beats *On the Road*	Presentation 1
3 1 Feb	*On the Road*	Presentation 2
4 8 Feb	Southern Gothic Flannery O'Connor Short Stories	Presentation 3
5 15 Feb	Postmodern *White Noise*	Presentation 4 *Online
6 22 Feb	*White Noise*	Presentation 5
7 29 Feb	African American Experience *Jazz*	Presentation 6
	BREAK	
8 14 Mar	*Jazz*	Presentation 7
9 21 Mar	*Peer Workshop*	**Draft of Essay Due**
10 28 Mar	A non-post racial America *The Sellout*	Presentation 8
11 **4 April**	*The Sellout*	**Final Essay Due**
12 11 Apr	Asian American Experience *Interior Chinatown*	Presentation 9
13 18 Apr	*Interior Chinatown*	Presentation 10

Assessment

Essay	30%	You will develop a coherent and complex argument about one of the primary texts on our syllabus using period, genre, historical, or cultural contexts for your argument.
Presentation and Discussion Starter – 10 minutes	10%	In a group of 3, present on the scenes that you find most interesting in the novel of that day. If you go the first week, you will present on the first half of the novel. If you go the second week, you will present on the second half of the novel. Each person in the group should talk for about 3 to 4 minutes.
Final Exam	50%	You will answer three examination questions. Question 1 will ask you to identify five quotations from a total of seven. For each quotation, you will be asked to name the author and title of the work, and explain the relevance of the passage for the work as a whole. Question 2 will ask you to write an essay in response to the provided general prompt. Question 3 ask you to write an essay in response to one of 3 specific prompts.

Participation/ Preparation	10%	You will be evaluated on your contribution to in-class discussion, group work, and peer workshop contributions.

Attendance

Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and GenAI

Plagiarism, which is using the words or ideas of another without acknowledging your source, compromises the integrity of your work and you as a writer. I encourage you to upload your essay draft to Turnitin on NTULearn before it is due, so you can make sure that you have paraphrased and cited properly. If there is poor paraphrasing or uncited references in your essay, points will be deducted. If the plagiarism is found to be serious, the essay will receive an F.

As an English major, you are expected to generate your own writing. This is the skill that you are honing through your degree. Therefore, GenAI of any sort will not be acceptable for the writing of your essay.