

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 tropes, genres, and cultural forms 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	<i>On the Road</i>	
2	<i>On the Road</i>	
3	Flannery O'Connor Short Stories	
4	<i>White Noise</i>	
5	<i>White Noise</i>	
6	<i>Jazz</i>	
7	<i>Jazz</i>	
8	<i>The Sellout</i>	Draft of Essay Due * Peer Workshop
9	<i>The Sellout</i>	
10	Video Essay Viewing	Video Essay Due
11	Video Essay Viewing	
12	<i>Interior Chinatown</i>	Final Essay Due
13	<i>Interior Chinatown</i>	

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.
Video Essay	10%	You will present a 5 minute video essay that considers a specific topic in post 1945 American Literature and Culture.
Final Exam	50%	You will answer three examination questions. Question 1 will ask you to identify four quotations from a total of eight. 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 on a more general topic, in response to the provided prompt. Question 3 ask you to write an essay in response to one of five more 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

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information.