

SUBJECT: LITERATURA NORD-AMERICANA CONTEMPORÀNIA

Code: 28477

Credits: 6

Semester: 1

Groups: 1

Teacher: Laura Gimeno Pahissa

Tutoria integrada: virtual

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

Contemporary American Literature is a survey course that deals with works by American authors from the 1960s onwards. We will be reading a variety of texts from several American cultural perspectives.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to discuss and analyse the texts through class debates and individual reflection. Some of the main issues addressed in the course will be the concepts of canon, ethnicity and identity in the United States. We will attempt a literary and historical contextualization and an analysis of how American writers depict, understand and construct (American) identity in their texts. The texts to be studied have been chosen from a variety of genres: autobiography, novel, short story, poetry and essay.

SYLLABUS

Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*

Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (excerpts in the reading pack)

Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens* (essay selection in the reading pack)

Toni Morrison, *Beloved**

Sandra Cisneros, short story selection (reading pack)

Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine**

Allen Ginsberg, selected poetry (reading pack)

Charles Bukowski, selected poetry (reading pack)

John Irving, *The World according to Garp**

Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close**

Those texts with an asterisk (*) **should be purchased** by students at Abacus or any other bookstore. Online bookstores are also advisable: especially://www.amazon.co.uk, <http://www.abebooks.co.uk> or <http://www.abebooks.de>

The other texts will be included in the reading pack to be bought at the Servei de Fotocòpies. Texts should be read well in advance to the in-class discussion.

ASSESSMENT**New plan students: Old plan students:**

50% exam 50% exam

30% midterm exam 30% midterm exam

20% 2 tutorials & 15 minute-presentation 20% 15-minute presentation

TUTORIALS

There will be 2 on-going tutorials during the semester.

Tutorial 1: participation in an **online forum** on a topic to be announced.Tutorial 2: preparation for **15 minute-presentation** (discussion of the topic with the teacher & feedback). Students must submit the text of their presentation to the teacher and a bibliography. Topics will be given at the beginning of the semester.**BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS****General reference books:**Bradbury, M. & Ruland, R. *From Puritanism to Postmodernism*, Harmondsworth Penguin, 1992Gray, R., *A History of American Literature*, Oxford Blackwell Publishing, 2004**Specific bibliography*:**Flavin, L., "Louise Erdrich's 'Love Medicine': Loving Over Time and Distance", *Critique*, 31, 1989Flick, H., "Malcolm X: The Destroyer and Creator of Myths", *Journal of Black Studies*, 12:2, 166-181, 1981Krumholz, L., "The Ghosts of Slavery: Historical Recovery in Toni Morrison's 'Beloved'", *African American Review*, 26:3, 395-408, 1992Pérez-Torres, R., "Chicano Ethnicity, Cultural Hybridity and the Mestizo Voice", *American Literature*, 70:1, 153-176, 1998Wilson, R., "The Postmodern Novel: The Example of John Irving's 'The World According to Garp'", *Critique*, 34:1, 49-62, 1992

* other author-specific and detailed bibliographic references will be posted on the campus virtual during the course.

OTHER COMMENTS⌚ **NO papers or presentations will be accepted after the assigned deadline.**⌚ Students who **PLAGIARIZE IN ANY OF THEIR ASSIGNMENTS** will **AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE SUBJECT.**⌚ Please note that **US & ERASMUS students are NOT exempted from these rules. ALL students MUST** follow the requirements as any other **NEW PLAN** student would do.⌚ Students **MUST pass the final exam** in order to pass the course.

