

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LITERATURA NORD-AMERICANA CONTEMPORÀNIA</b>
<b>Code:</b>	<b>28477</b>
<b>Credits:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Groups:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Teacher:</b>	<b>Ted Olson</b>
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### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT:**

In this class, students will survey contemporary American literature through examining works written in a variety of literary genres (including the novel, the short story, the poem, the play, and the creative nonfiction work) since World War II by significant authors representing the full spectrum of the nation's ethnic, racial, religious, regional, socioeconomic, and gendered communities.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Students in this class will be able to:

- analyze the various texts read in class in terms of their literary form, style, and theme;
- characterize the political persona of post-World War II U.S.A., including the changing domestic and international roles of the federal government and of the various state governments;
- articulate the reasons for the disconnect between the dynamism of the American economy and the disequilibrium within American society in terms of the distribution of that wealth;
- discuss the achievements and failures of the late twentieth century American counterculture in attempting to create, in Abraham Lincoln's Civil War-era phrase, "a more perfect Union";
- create a canon of representative literary works from the contemporary U.S. and defend that canon (verbally and/or in writing) in terms of aesthetic and thematic considerations.

### **SYLLABUS**

[A complete syllabus for this class is under preparation.]

Week One: Historical background; discussion of American Regional Literary Scenes.

Week Two: Period 1945-55: Literature of the Atomic Age and the Cold War. Drama of the American Dream: *Death of a Salesman*.  
Week Three: Literature of Black Identity and the American Civil Rights Movement; select hand-outs.  
Week Four: Period 1955-1965: Literature of the Beat Generation: *On the Road*  
Week Five: Period 1965-1975: Literature of the American Counter-culture; select hand-outs  
Week Six: Mid-Term Exam Due; Literature and Gender; select hand-outs  
Week Seven: Native American Literature: *Ceremony*  
Week Eight: Period 1975-present: Recent American Fiction; *Beloved*  
Week Nine: Recent American Poetry; select hand-outs  
Week Ten: Contemporary Creative Nonfiction by U.S. Authors; select hand-outs  
Week Eleven: The Literature of Other American Ethnicities; select hand-outs  
Week Twelve: Class Review

## **ASSESSMENT**

The normal UAB assessment process will be observed for this class.

## **TUTORIALS**

The normal UAB tutorial structure will be observed for this class.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS**

### Primary Texts:

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*  
Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*  
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*  
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*  
Poetry hand-outs  
Short fiction hand-outs  
Creative non-fiction hand-outs

### Secondary Texts:

A list of secondary sources is in preparation.