20<sup>th</sup> Century American Fiction: 56:352:522

Barbarese Syllabus Spring 2006 Phone: 856-225-6556 Office: Armitage 421 Barbares@crab.rutgers.edu

### Required Texts:

Truman Capote, Breakfast at Tiffany's

Don DeLillo, Libra

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* 

William Faulkner, t.b.a.

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* 

Ernest Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises

Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

Nella Larsen, Passing

Jay MacInerny, Bright Lights, Big City

Norman Mailer, The Armies of the Night

Vladimir Nabokov, Lolita

Flannery O'Connor, selected stories

Thomas Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49

Philip Roth, The Plot against America

Gertrude Stein, Three Lives

Edith Wharton, Ethan Frome

# Opening Webposts:

T.S. Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent," "Ulysses, Order, and Myth"

Henry James, "The Art of Fiction"

Virginia Woolf, "An Essay in Criticism"

Dwight McDonald, "Ernest Hemingway"

Edith Wharton, "Roman Fever"

Assignments: You will be required to produce three papers and one brief snyopsis of your seminar paper.

- The papers: a written version of your seminar report (4-5 keyboarded pages) (20%), a short (7-9 page) paper (20%), and a final (15–20 page) research paper (50%). The final paper may be an amplified and extensively revised version of your seminar report and should concentrate on at least one of the principal texts or authors we encounter. Of your three papers, one should be a detailed stylistic analysis of one of the texts or an application of a specific theoretical position or approach to a specific text; the second short paper should be a close reading and analysis of one or more passages from any of the assigned texts, supported, where appropriate, by research.
- The seminar synopsis (10%): a 2-3 page abstract due on the evening of your report. You may either distribute it in hard copy to the workshop or twenty-four hours in advance, through the class listserv: <a href="mailto:grad-am-novel@camden.rutgers.edu">grad-am-novel@camden.rutgers.edu</a>
- All papers and synopses must be delivered to me in printed and electronic form. Electronic copies should be sent to barbares@camden.rutgers.edu.

Readings: The workload is designed for reasonable coverage of works and periods. In the case of significant texts not incorporated into class sessions, we will rely on the collective curiosity and energy of the group and on individual contributions.

<u>Seminar Papers</u>. Be ready to distribute individual xeroxed or dittoed copies of your reports for each member of the class for circulation at the time of your report. This work must be typed, always double-spaced, and must be prepared for distribution on the evening of your presentation. We will post these seminar reports on the class website for a brief period of time to ensure that the entire class has the opportunity to read and critique each of them. My preference is that seminar reports be available to the class with sufficient lead-time to permit perusal and printing out of copies before the next meeting—but this is a preference only.

<u>WEB POSTINGS</u> and E-HANDOUTS are primary and secondary texts of handout length that are available as downloads in Adobe Acrobat<sup>©</sup> or Microsoft Word<sup>©</sup> format from <a href="http://crab.rutgers.edu/~barbares/20th%20C%20Fiction/20th C Fiction index.html">http://crab.rutgers.edu/~barbares/20th%20C%20Fiction/20th C Fiction index.html</a>. This resource will grow during the semester, and I may occasionally also distribute texts, often the same ones, through the course listserv address.

### Additional expectations and procedures

- <u>Copying</u>: You are responsible for the distribution of your seminar reports prior to your presentation. If for any reason you are unable to distribute your report electronically, come prepared with enough hard copies.
- <u>Lateness</u>. Late work may be penalized.
- <u>Attendance</u> is expected at all sessions. Significant absences will undoubtedly affect your grade in the course. Please come prepared to participate.
- Academic Honesty. The strictures governing plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be in effect and strictly observed.
- <u>Special Note on copying</u>: The RUC's listserv address for our course is as follows: <u>grad-am-novel@camden.rutgers.edu</u>

Anything requiring gang-distribution to the entire workshop may be sent through the listserv address as an attached file or a message-embodied text; it may also be posted on the website. Caveat: try not to push deadlines when using this resource since many of us may not have access at critical moments, may only be able to access email from home, or may simply not remember to check. All e-texts, therefore, should be sent and downloadable at least twenty-four hours before we meet, i.e. by the afternoon of the Tuesday before our class.

- Texts to be emailed to <u>barbares@camden.rutgers.edu</u>:
  - 1. Your two short essays, your final paper, and your synopsis.
- Texts for general electronic distribution to grad-am-novel@camden.rutgers.edu:
  - 1. Seminar synopses
  - 2. Bulletins, announcements, notices of changes, and handouts.

Though the syllabus reflects as accurately as possible projected expectations and assignments, these expectations and assignments may be amended, extended or modified; so keep your syllabus handy.

Session	1:	17	January

- Introductions
- What Modernism (Said It) Was
- The Styles of Twentieth Century Fiction
- Reading: T.S. Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" and "Ulysses, Order, and Myth" (*Webpost*)
- "Tradition" and its Meanings

### Session 2: 24 January Early Modernism

- Reading: Edith Wharton, Ethan Frome
- Reading: Wharton, "Roman Fever" (Webpost)
- Reading: Henry James on the novel (*Webpost*)
- Seminar Paper

## Session 3: 31 January "Experimental" or "Classic" Modernism

- Reading: Stein, "The Good Anna," in *Three Lives*
- Reading: Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises
- Secondary Reading: Virginia Woof, "An Essay in Criticism" (Webpost)
- Secondary Reading: Dwight McDonald, "Ernest Hemingway" (Webpost)
- Suggested Topic: Woolf Unfair to Hemingway?
- Seminar Paper\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Session 4:7 February Romanced Modernism

- Reading: Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- Topic: Why Eliot Loved Fitzgerald: "Mythopoesis" and Modernism
- Seminar Paper\_

### Session 5: 14 February Home-Grown Modernism

- Reading: Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God
- Reading: Nella Larsen, *Passing* or Toomer, stories (*t.b.a.*)\*
- Suggested Topic: Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance
- Seminar Paper

### Session 6: 21 February Home-Grown II: Faulkner's South

- Reading: Faulkner, *t.b.a.*
- Reading: Faulkner, stories (*t.b.a.*)
- Seminar Paper\_\_\_\_\_

Session 7: 28 February Mature or Mid-Cer
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<sup>\*</sup> Depending on availability.

20 <sup>th</sup> Century American Fiction: 56:352:522 Spring	ıg 2006	Barbarese
<ul> <li>Reading: Ellison, <i>Invisible Man</i></li> <li>Suggested topics: Ellison and "Mythic Meth</li> <li>Seminar Paper</li> </ul>	nod"; Bellow's	Seize the Day
Session 8: 7 March: The More or Less Conventional  Reading: Capote, <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> Reading: A selection of short stories ( <i>t.b.a.</i> )  Seminar Paper	ı	
*** 11-19 March – Spring B	Break ***	
Session 9: 21 March: Style Triumphant  Reading: Vladimir Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i> Seminar Paper  Seminar round-table: Research Paper topic of	discussion	
Session 10: 28 March: Post-Modernism: The Tr  Reading: Pynchon, <i>The Crying of Lot 49</i> Reading: Pynchon, "Entropy" ( <i>Webpost</i> ) Suggested topics: What is Post-Modernism? Seminar Paper		<b>∍</b> ?
<ul> <li>Session 11: 4 April: Truthiness</li> <li>Reading: Michael Herr, excerpt from Disparation</li> <li>Reading: Mailer, The Armies of the Night</li> <li>Suggested topics: Post-Modern Journalism, Journalism</li> <li>Seminar Paper</li></ul>		
Session 12: 11 April Intersections  Reading: MacInerny, Bright Lights, Big City Suggested Topics: Extending the boundaries Seminar Paper		aptations
Session 13: 18 April "All Plots Tend Deathward": Do  Reading: DeLillo, <i>Libra</i> Reading: Frank Lentricchia, "Don DeLillo"  Suggested topic: The Novel as History  Seminar Paper		
Session 14: 25April  Reading: Watchmen (on library reserve).  Reading: Roth The Plot against America		

Last class. Summations.

Seminar Paper\_\_\_\_\_

Session and Date	Assignments Due	Reading	Report / PR#	
1. 17 January	Introductions			
2. 24 January	Early Modernism	Wharton, James		
3. 31 January	Experimental Modernism	Stein, Hemingway		
4. 7 February	Romanced Modernism	Fitzgerald		
5. 14 February	Home Grown Modernism	Hurston, Toomer		
6. 21 February	Home Grown II	Faulkner		
7. 28 February	Mid-Century Modernism	Ellison		
8. 7 March	Conventional Modernism	Nabokov, Capote		
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9. 21 March Style Nabokov Seminar round-table: Research topic discussion 10. 28 March Pynchon Post-Modernism 11. 4 April "Truthiness" Mailer, Herr 12. 11 April Intersections MacInerny, O'Brian 13. 18 April Deathward DeLillo 14. 25 April Last Class. Final Project Report Proofreader's Marks

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MARK	EXAMPLE	Meaning
MAKK		Wieaming
	# # :\fsat afa\uma	Divide the grounds on
# \#	infact, ofcourse alot, eventhough	Divide the words or
V	aiot, eventhough	syllables where the mark
		appears.
$\mathcal{S}$	thier, seperate	The word is misspelled.
	I believe in Love.	Lower the case.
	-	
6	Although (he is tall	Pull the punctuation mark.
>	He returned back home.	Delete the word.
1 1	double talk, well groomed	Insert a hyphen.
m or n	and, ∧ if you can believe it∧, he	Insert dashes (each is two
	and, will you can selle ve lov, he	hyphens wide).
	$\sim$	nyphens wide).
/ 🗸	to holdy go where no man	Transpose elements.
Ta		•
	It is a universally acknowledged truth	
_	<u>i_hate quiche.</u>	Upper-case the underlined letter.
$\blacksquare$	Tom's most well, now, and got	Make a new paragraph here.
II	his bullet around his neck	Make a new paragraph nere.
	During the whole of a dull AdarkA	Insert punctuation.
/,	and soundless day	
N.S., logic.		Non Sequitur:
logic is off		
W.W., W.C.		Wrong word, word choice,
N.S.W., diction		No such word, diction
	The film was good, however, the Grimms'	
CS Frag	version was far better.	Comma splice
Frag	Although, it was a good movie and I enjoye	d it. Fragment

### Things to remember:

- 1. No title pages in essays. No covers.
- 2. Avoid using "vs." or "versus" in titles (e.g., "Cinderella vs. Snow White")
- 3. Avoid **boldfacing**.
- 4. Always double-space printer output.
- 5. Use a colon to introduce lists, quotations or citations.
- 6. *Italics* for titles of novels, long poems, plays. Quotations for short titles.
- 7. Paginate your work