

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of English
Syllabus

Engl 215
20th Century Literature

3 credit hours
Fall Semester 2015-2016

Instructor's Name: Jasmina Najjar

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Office Hours: 2pm to 3pm MWF

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The literature of the 20th century paints a picture of a world of shifting perspectives, devastating wars and uncertain values. This course is devoted to the study of twentieth century American and British literature. It incorporates works of prose, poetry, and drama, and takes into consideration the issues, movements, intellectual trends, and events that run parallel to developments in 20th century literature. It focuses on two themes that are central to the era: conflict and uncertainty. Throughout the course students will be expected to participate in discussions and engage in critical and thoughtful reading and writing.

This course has elements of gamification. In other words game theory and mechanics have been introduced in a non-game context.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Identify and properly use the appropriate literary terminology and critical approaches.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze literary texts in-depth.
- Understand the ways in which political, cultural and social events in history have shaped 20th-century literature.
- Identify, analyze and discuss key themes of modern and postmodern literature.

- Support interpretive readings with appropriate, coherently presented textual evidence.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Keeping up with the daily reading
- Participating in class discussions and gamification
- Posting required entries in the response journal forum on Moodle
- Final paper

REQUIRED BOOKS

- *The Crying of Lot 49* by Thomas Pynchon
- *Slaughterhouse-5* by Kurt Vonnegut
- *The Real Thing* by Tom Stoppard
- *V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore
- *Buried Child* by Sam Shepard
- *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick
- Other texts are on Moodle or will be shared in class.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Responses.....40%

Mid-term.....15%

Final paper/project.....25%

Class participation (includes mini presentations, gamification and contributing to class discussions.....20%

COURSE POLICY & REGULATIONS

General regulations:

- 60 is the minimum passing grade.
- Students are required to submit all assignments on time.

- Students must take all scheduled tests. Make-up tests are given only at the my discretion if you present a valid excuse for your absence from the test within one week of the missed test.

Attendance regulations:

- Attendance should be a requirement. According to FAS policy, students may not miss more than 1/5th of the class sessions throughout the semester; if they miss more than 1/5th of the class sessions before 10 weeks have passed, they will automatically be dropped. For MWF classes, this means: no more than 6 absences prior to 10-week mark, and no more than 9 absences total. For TR classes: no more than 4 absences prior to 10-week mark, and no more than 6 absences total.
- Excused Absences: If you must miss class due to an illness and wish to be excused, you must provide me with a medical report and/or professional opinion issued by a qualified AUB employee, AUBMC doctor, or by University Health Services. Students who seek excused absences for university-sanctioned events must provide an official letter from the sponsoring organization notifying me of the absence at least one week before the event. Students are expected to complete assignments on time, actively participate in other class sessions, and to make up work missed as agreed with the faculty member.
- No common exams or labs are to be scheduled that conflict with students' other scheduled classes. Faculty cannot assume that students are obligated to show up for an exam if the exam is scheduled at a time that conflicts with another regularly scheduled course. Students who absent themselves from an exam to attend their regularly scheduled English class will be excused; the teacher assigning the exam should be asked to set up a make-up exam for the excused students.
- Being tardy to class has consequences. Every two "lates" will be considered one absence.

Academic Integrity:

In this course, academic honesty means the following:

- Documenting all proprietary information that is received from outside sources, including books, articles, websites, lectures, interviews, television, radio, and etc.
- Putting quotation marks around the words that were written or spoken by someone other than oneself.
- Applying this standard to all assignments.

In all writing, ideas and words taken from any source should be documented (the same applies to oral presentations- sources must be mentioned). Failure to credit ideas or material taken from secondary sources constitutes plagiarism, a violation of the University's academic regulations, and is subject to disciplinary action.

Students should be aware that engaging in any of the following activities constitutes plagiarism:

- Submitting a paper written by another student
- Requesting or paying someone to complete an assignment for you
- Deliberately taking material from secondary sources without proper documentation
- Copying, word for word, someone else's writing without putting that passage in quotation marks and identifying the source
- Taking someone else's writing, changing some of the words, and not identifying the source
- Taking someone else's ideas or organization of ideas, putting them into his/her words, and not identifying the source
- Having someone else change your writing – a tutor, friend, or relative, for instance – and creating the impression that this writing is your own work.
- Purchasing or downloading papers or passages from the Web.
- Using facts, data, graphs, charts, or other information without acknowledging the source with a footnote or reference. Borrowed facts or information obtained in one's research or reading must be acknowledged unless they are "common knowledge." Students should check with me regarding what can be viewed as "common knowledge" within a specific field or assignment, but often the student will have to make the final judgment. When in doubt, footnotes or references should be used.

Therefore, **all writing you do for this course must be your own and must be exclusively for this course**, unless I stipulate differently. Please pay special attention to the quotes, paraphrases, and documentation practices you use in your assignments. Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment in question and a Dean's Warning. (Please refer to the AUB Student Handbook, "Academic Integrity" section, or go to <http://www.aub.edu.lb/pnp/generaluniversitypolicies/Documents/StudentCodeConduct/StudentCodeConduct.pdf>).

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTED CONDUCT

Moodle: You are required to log in on a regular basis and stay up-to-date on readings, announcements, and assignments. Some assignments will be submitted via Moodle. Some assignments must be submitted to Turnitin (via Moodle) for plagiarism detection.

Readings: You are expected to read the assigned material and prepare the assignments as delineated on your class schedule prior to class. You are expected to be prepared to participate in class discussions and activities. Preparation and class participation will affect your course grade.

Class Etiquette: Students are expected to respect their classmates' presence in the classroom and online environments and not to infringe on their rights to acquiring knowledge and maximizing opportunities for productive interaction and active listening. They must abide by netiquette and refrain from side conversations, avoid use of mobile phones, etc. This is all in the spirit of promoting excellence of instruction and learning.

Email: You may use the Moodle messaging tool, general questions forum or regular email to send short queries and notifications or to make appointments. Please do not send your assignments by email [as email attachments or otherwise].

HELP & RESOURCES

Writing Center:

The Writing Center offers free, one-hour consultations for AUB writers at Ada Dodge Hall, 2nd floor balcony; West Hall 336; or Jafet Library, second floor reading room. Check the Writing Center webpage on the AUB website. Make an appointment by walking in or by logging on to <http://www.rich75.com/aub>

Library Information Services:

Reference librarians and information specialists in the AUB libraries can support you individually with finding academic sources for your research. Jafet information librarians can be contacted in person in their office in the Jafet Library lobby, by email at libinfo@aub.edu.lb, or by phone, extension 2629.

Counseling Center, Student Affairs:

The center offers counsel and help to students with a range of academic and non-academic problems. If anything happening in your life is causing you distress and influencing your academic performance, and you feel you could benefit from professional help, contact Dr. Antoine Khabbaz. Ext. 3178. ak28@aub.edu.lb or Dr. Nay Khatcherian. Ext. 3158. nk63@aub.edu.lb. West Hall 210.

Schedule

Week	Course Content
Week 1	-Introduction to the course, course policy, and attendance regulations
Sept 2-4	
(Drop & Add Sept 3-8)	-Introduction to 20th Century literature

Week 2 Sept 7-11	-Introduction to 20th Century literature continued -T.S. Eliot: "The Lovesong of J Alfred Prufrock" -Sam Shepard: The Buried Child
Week 3 Sept 14-18	- Sam Shepard: The Buried Child
Week 4 Sept 21-25 Adha Sept 23-25	<i>Response</i>
Week 5 Sept 28-Oct 2	-Thomas Pynchon: The Crying of Lot 49
Week 6 Oct 5-9	-Thomas Pynchon: The Crying of Lot 49 <i>Response</i>
Week 7 Oct 12-16 Hijra Oct 15	-Kurt Vonnegut: Slaughterhouse-5
Week 8 Oct 19-23	-Kurt Vonnegut: Slaughterhouse-5

Week 9 Oct 26-30	<i>Mid-term (in class)</i> -Philip K. Dick: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
Week 10 Nov 2-6	-Philip K. Dick: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? <i>Response</i>
Week 11 Nov 9-13	-Alan Moore: V for Vendetta by Alan Moore
Week 12 Nov 16-20	-Alan Moore: V for Vendetta by Alan Moore
Week 13 Nov 23-27	-Tom Stoppard: The Real Thing
Week 14 Nov 30- Dec 4	-Tom Stoppard: The Real Thing
Week 15 Dec 7 (Reading Period Dec 8-10)	Wrapping up the semester -Final Paper Due