Modern American Literature- ENG 0395
Rosemont College

Professor Katherine Baker, MFA

Office Hours: Lawrence 317
MW, 11:30 to 1:00; Tuesday, 1:30 to 2:30pm
Online office hours: Thursday, 1:30 to 2:30
All other times by appointment; additional times during Drop/Add and Pre-Registration

Required Texts
Hemingway texts and packets.

Fitzgerald texts and packets
The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol E.

All other readings and supplemental materials will be posted online to Moodle.

Course Description:
This seminar will survey American writing between the wars, considering the works but not limited to Frost, Cummings, Stevens, Williams, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and Faulkner. We will aim to identify and study key literary movements and the texts within these movements which help to define “American literature” for years to come. More so, students will critically read and discuss these texts and authors to research the major roles each has played in shaping modern American literature to our current day. In addition, the course attempts to place these writers and their works within the context of the most important literary movements of the time. Students will be able to pinpoint similarities in style, technique, as well as trace literary themes. 3 credits.

This course is administered fully online through Moodle. It is your responsibility as a student to follow along with the course as it is administered fully online.

Course Goals
Students will demonstrate an understanding of the major authors and selected secondary authors within the major period and literary movements. Additionally, students will demonstrate an
understanding of the major genres and sub-genres of literature at an advanced level through fervent discussion and analysis.

**Course Requirements**

All assignments must be completed by the scheduled due dates on the syllabus, as stated on the assignment sheets, posted on the Moodle course page. If changes to the syllabus become necessary for any reason, students are responsible for checking for updates and making sure that Moodle is checked frequently.

Active participation is a key component of this course, most especially because the entirety of this course is online. Pay strict attention to detail and due dates. This course demands an intense reading load - do not “save” save it all for the last minute. Like any other course, it is of great importance to make sure the work is done each and every day.

All assignments are given designated due dates on their separate assignment sheets found on Moodle.

Assignments (TBA- working on this part still and the logistics behind them)- all assignments will have a separate instructional sheet posted with specific directions.

Will be broken down into several categories

Papers (3 papers of varying literary analysis worth)

- **Paper 1** - 5 to 6 pages
- **Paper 2** - 6 to 8 pages
- **Paper 3** - 8 to 10 pages

Other assignments: Digital Annotation project, peer responses/ discussion board/ website project

**Grading**

Class participation / online discussions/ peer responses= 40%
Paper 1: 10%
Paper 2: 15%
Paper 3: 15%
Final Examination Component = 20%

**Missed Work**

All work must be completed according to the schedule. The assignments all have deadlines which are to be adhered. Late assignments will not be taken unless previously discussed with the instructor well in advance.

**Email Communication**

All official email communication will be sent to all students at their “rosemont.edu” address. Students who prefer to receive their email at a personal address can forward their Rosemont email via the instructions found on the iWay. Please know that I will not use any other addresses.

**Emergency Notification, Weather-Related Closings, and Delayed Starts**

Emergency notification, weather-related closings, and delayed starts will be communicated to students via e2campus. Students should register their cell phones and/or email address from the link to e2campus found on the iWay.

**Academic Integrity**

The highest standards of academic ethics are expected in all classes at Rosemont College. Any breach of academic integrity, be it plagiarism or cheating, will be treated very seriously and will affect the grade for the course as well as future recommendations. It is the responsibility of the student to learn how to avoid all forms of plagiarism—intentional and unintentional.

**ADA/504 Accommodations: Students with Disabilities**
If students have been approved for accommodations by Rosemont’s Dean of Students under ADA/504, they should speak with me outside of class so that all accommodations are provided promptly and completely. If they have not yet been approved for accommodations under ADA/504, but believe that they may be entitled to them, they should contact the Dean of Students in the Student Life Office at extension 2400 immediately. They should speak with me as well since temporary arrangements may be made under certain circumstances. Please know that all information is confidential.

**Tentative Reading Schedule (subject to change with the instructor’s discretion). Please always check for updates via email and Moodle. All discussion posts and responses are due by the designated dates (usually a Tuesday at midnight). All other assignments are due as designated.**

Specific pages numbers and links for the readings are found designated by week on the Moodle page. All page numbers are from the *Eighth Edition of the Norton Anthology Vol. E.*

**Specific Assignments still need to be added and detailed.**

**Week 1 Readings and Tentative Work- January 11**

Introduction to the course, lecture video I

- focus on Fitzgerald this week and his role/ texts and selections (will return to him later in the semester)

- focus on E.E. Cummings this week and his role/ texts

- supplemental links for authors

- have students take survey/ complete quiz and response 1

**Week 2 Readings and Tentative Work- January 16**

- lecture notes/ supplemental links and video

- annotation discussion
- focus on Hemingway and his texts this week
- next quiz and response to be completed

Week 3 Readings/Tentative Work- January 23
- continue working with Hemingway and Fitzgerald- introduce Faulkner
  - Fill out survey on Moodle
  - Readings this week: Stanly Kunitz ( “Father and Son,” “After the Last Dynasty,” “Quinnapoxe,” and “The Wellfleet Whale”)
  - Theodore Roethke ( all selections)
  - Quiz / Response to be taken at the end of the readings

Week 4 Readings/ Tentative Work- January 30
- View the notes/ lecture video for this week along with the links to go along with the readings
  - Peer responses should be done
  - Readings to cover this week: Eudora Welty (“Petrified Man”) Charles Olsen, Elizabeth Bishop, and Tennessee Williams
  - Commentary posts and critical reviews this week
  - Quiz and Response to be completed

Week 5 Readings/ Tentative Work- February 6
- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Faulkner and Frost
- authors to focus on this week: Randall Jarrell, John Berryman, Bernard Malamud, Ralph Ellison and Saul Bellow
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed

**Week 6 Readings/ Tentative Work- February 13**
- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- Authors: Arthur Miller, Robert Lowell, Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Duncan, and Richard Wilbur

**Week 7 Readings/ Tentative Work- February 27**
- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- Jack Kerouac- Big Sur and other selections and readings
- Other Beatnick writers this week

**Week 8 Readings/ Tentative Work- March 6**
- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- continuation of Beat writers
**Week 9 Readings/ Tentative Work- March 13**
- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- Authors covered this week: Kurt Vonnegut, Grace Paley, James Dickey
- Review of Post WWII literature

**Week 10 Readings/ tentative Work- March 20**
- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- Postmodernism Manifestos
- James Baldwin
- Flannery O’Connor

**Week 11 Tentative Readings/ Work- March 27**
- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- Robert Creeley, Frank O’Hara, John Ashbery, W.S. Merwin, James Wright, Phillip Levine, John Updike, Philip Roth
Week 12 Readings/ Tentative Work- April 3

- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- Authors covered: Anne Sexton, Adrienne Rich, Ursula Le Guin, Sylvia Plath, Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde, Louise Gluck, Sharon Olds

Week 13 Readings/ Tentative Work- April 10

- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- Authors covered: Amri Baraka, Audre Lorde (continued) Mary Oliver, Lucille Clifton, Thomas Pynchon and Raymond Carver

Week 14 Readings/ Tentative Work- April 17

- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- TBA

Week 15 Readings/ Tentative Work- April 24

- viewing of lecture notes/ supplements links for this week
- Commentary posts to discussion board and critical reviews
- quiz and response to be completed
- TBA