

SYLLABUS: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN FICTION
Fall 2005

M-8/29--INTRODUCTION

W-8/31--OVERVIEW

M-9/5--LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

W-9/11-- OVERVIEW & Ralph Ellison, INVISIBLE MAN (1950)

M-9/12-- "

W-9/14-- "

M-9/19--John Barth, THE END OF THE ROAD (1958)

W-9/21-- "

M-9/26-- "

W-9/28-- "

M-10/3--Philip Roth, THE GHOST WRITER (1979)

W-10/5-- "

M-10/10-- "

PAPER DUE!!

W-10/12-- "

M-10/17--**MIDTERM**

W-10/19--Thomas Berger, LITTLE BIG MAN (1964)

M-10/24-- "

W-10/26-- "

M--10/31--Joan Didion, PLAY IT AS IT LAYS (1970)

W-11/2-- "

M-11/7-- "

W-11/9-- "

M-11/14--Thomas Pynchon, THE CRYING OF LOT 49 (1966)

W-11/16-- " **PAPER DUE!!**

M-11/21-- "

W-11/23--HOLIDAY

M-11/28--Marilynne Robinson, HOUSEKEEPING (1984)

W-11/30-- "

M-12/5--

W-12/7--Last day of Instruction

F-12/17--**FINAL EXAM 10:15-12:15** (Bring Blue Book)

INSTRUCTOR--Dave Madden, Calaveras 156, Office Hrs--MW 11-12; Office phone: 278-5623
or Department phone: 278-6586; email: maddendw@csus.edu; website:
<http://www.csus.edu/indiv/m/maddendw>

EXPECTATIONS

*Complete all reading assignments by dates assigned

*Participate in class discussions

*Regular class attendance

Since this is not a correspondence course, attendance is mandatory. A student will be allowed no more than two (2) unexcused absences (and no more than two excused absences). Those who have more than 2 unexcused absences will have one third of a grade deducted from the final grade for each additional absence. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. If a student arrives after attendance has been taken, it is his/her responsibility to see that s/he is recorded as being present. Excused absences will be granted only for extenuating circumstances (neither general malaise nor an assignment in another class will do) and must be cleared no later than the next class period. It is your responsibility to check your attendance; my records are final.

I recommend you date your class notes in order to demonstrate your attendance should there be a conflict in records. Be prepared to show those notes at the time that you inquire about your absences.

With great reluctance I have instituted a tardiness policy. Class begins on the hour; students arriving consistently late by more than 5 minutes will be considered absent for any time missed. The time missed will be calculated as absences which will affect the final grade as explained above.

GRADING

The final course grade will be based on;

1 essay midterm (blue book required)--20% final grade

1 essay--50% final grade

1 essay final exam (blue book required)--30% final grade

quizzes--factored in at no more than 10%

class participation, effort, improvement--swing factors

*To miss any of the assignments above will result in an automatic failure of the course. NO EXCEPTIONS.

GRADING STANDARDS (taken verbatim from 1996-1998 CSUS Catalog, p. 77)

- A Exemplary achievement of the course objectives. In addition to being clearly and significantly above the requirements, the work exhibited is of an independent, creative, contributory nature.
- B Superior achievement of the course objectives. The performance is clearly and significantly above the satisfactory fulfillment of course requirements.
- C Satisfactory achievement of the course objectives. The student is now prepared for advanced work or study.
- D Unsatisfactory achievement toward the course objectives, yet achievement of a sufficient proportion of the objectives so that it is not necessary to repeat the course unless required to do so by the academic department.
- F Ineffective achievement toward the course objectives. The student has made no clearly significant progress.

NB: **I absolutely do not negotiate grades.** If you have questions about your performance on an assignment (not about the grade on same), I will be glad to explain, but I will not barter a grade up or down.

GENERAL POLICIES

LATE PAPERS--in this class they **do not exist**; the date an assignment is due is the date the assignment is due. If there is some clear and compelling reason for a late paper (not great powder at one's favorite ski resort, general malaise, or an assignment in any other class), see or call me in advance of submission. All papers must be submitted in class on date due, not some time that day.

TYPING--mandatory for all papers. Papers should be neat and free of extreme typographical errors. Double-space and use 1" margins. If using a computer or word processor, use no less than and no more than a **12 pt font**. Number pages, beginning with second page, in upper right hand corner, and secure pages only with a staple in the upper left hand corner. On a cover page center the title and put in the lower right hand corner your name, the date the assignment is due, the topic number you are addressing, and my name.

BEHAVIOR--certain fundamental standards of behavior must be observed in this class. Common courtesy and respect is demanded of all enrolled in this class. Therefore you are not to read the newspaper or a textbook for another course once the class meeting has begun. Likewise, no one is to work on assignments for another course in this class. Do not talk or otherwise interrupt me or another student who is speaking, and under no condition will anyone be permitted to sleep during class lectures or discussions. Please turn the cell phones off; no

calls once class begins. Those who cannot or will not follow these obvious rules of behavior will be counted as absent for that class period and may be subject to dismissal from the course.

MISCELLANEOUS--Students must keep abreast of assignments; I will not accept the excuse that because someone misses a class s/he did not know there was a change in the syllabus or an assignment. If there are any changes in the syllabus, they will be announced in class, and students are then responsible for these on dates announced.