

Lit. 7-249RE American Literature and Culture: 20th century - Spring 2014
Friday 14:00-17:00 (Room: 107)

Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou (Office 308E)

Office hours: Monday 14:00 – 16:00; Friday 11:00 – 13:00

Course Objectives

This interdisciplinary course will set to explore some central themes and concepts that define 20th century American literature and culture by shedding light on certain historical and political facts. Topics to be studied include among others: Land, Native Americans, Gender, Urbanism, Technology, Race/African Americans, Politics, Commodity culture, Youth, and 9/11. Texts: literary and cultural texts (speeches, newspaper articles, songs, poems, essays); films and documentaries.

Required Text/Films:

1. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* Vols. C, D, E, 7th Edition.
2. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* Vol. D, 6th Edition.
3. *A New Introduction to American Studies* (On Reserve).
4. *American Culture: An Anthology of Civilization Texts* (On Reserve).
5. *American Cultural Studies: An Introduction to American Culture* (On Reserve).
6. Additional material (check at the Library Circulation Desk).
7. The film noted in the course outline.

Assessment:

1. Final **examination**.
2. **In-class presentations** and a **report** on any of the texts/films to be studied are optional after consultation with the tutor. Score: 10-20%.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is essentially the unacknowledged use of another person's work. It can take the following forms:

1. *The copying (or "quotation") without acknowledgement, of the work of others (including the work of fellow students), published or unpublished, either verbatim or in close paraphrase, including material downloaded from computer files and the Internet.*
2. *Submitting as their own work a piece of work lent to them by a fellow student.*
3. *Learning passages by heart, whether from books or other distributed materials and transcribing them in examination answers without acknowledgement.*

You must not therefore copy the work of others and pass it off as your own. If you are found guilty of plagiarism, you will lose marks or you will be asked to resubmit your work.

Attendance policy:

1. Although attendance is not obligatory, students should realize that **regular presence** in the classroom and **active participation** in class discussions is **required**.
2. It is absolutely essential that students will have **studied** the **assigned material** before the **class**.

Syllabus

Mar. 7 F

Introduction

Studying American Culture

Mar. 14 F

Land

Willa Cather "Introduction," "*Book I. The Shimerdas*," from *My Ántonia* (**Norton Vol.D**).

****Read**** Frederick Jackson Turner "From *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*" (**Norton Vol.C**); **Chapter 6&7** (from *A New Introduction to American Studies*) (on reserve).

Mar. 21 F

Native Americans

Zitkala Ša "Impressions of an Indian Childhood" (I, VII), "The School Days of an Indian Girl" (I), "An Indian Teacher Among Indians" (IV); "The Soft-Hearted Sioux" (**Norton Vol.C**).

****Read**** Listen to Chippewa and Ghost Dance Songs (**Norton Vol.C**); Sherman Alexie "Pawn Shop" (**Norton Vol.E**); **Chapter 1&5** (from *A New Introduction to American Studies*) (on reserve).

Mar. 28 F

Race/African Americans

W.E.B. Du Bois "I. Of our Spiritual Strivings" and "III. Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others" from *The Souls of Black Folk* (**Norton Vol.C**).

****Read**** Listen to various Sorrow Songs; Booker T. Washington "Chapter XIV The Atlanta Exposition Address" (photocopied excerpt); Martin Luther King "I Have a Dream" (from *American Culture*) (photocopy) and **Chapter 4** (from *A New Introduction to American Studies*) (on reserve).

Apr. 4 F

Gender

Sylvia Plath "From *Bell Jar*" (photocopy); Gwendolyn Brooks "the mother" (photocopy); Buffy Sainte-Marie "My Country" (photocopy) (from *American Culture*)

****Read**** Betty Friedan "That Has No Name" and/or Adrienne Rich "Think Through the Body" (from *American Culture*) and **Chapter 14** (from *A New Introduction to American Studies*) (on reserve).

Apr. 11 F

Urbanism

John Dos Passos, "Skyscraper" from *Manhattan Transfer* (photocopy) and Paul Auster, Chapter 8 from *New York Trilogy* (photocopy) (**Norton Vol.D, 6th edition**).

****Read**** **Chapter 6** (from *American Cultural Studies*) (on reserve)

<p>Apr. 12th 2014– Apr. 27th, 2014 – EASTER BREAK– NO CLASSES</p>
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May 2nd F

Youth, Glamour, Success

Bright Lights, Big City (1988)

****Read**** Chapter 8 (from *American Cultural Studies*) (on reserve)

May 9th F

Technology

Henry Adams “Chapter XXV. The Dynamo and the Virgin” (**Norton Vol.C**); Don DeLillo “from *The Airborne Toxic Event*” (from *White Noise*) (photocopy).

****Read** Chapter 9** (from *A New Introduction to American Studies*) (on reserve).

May 16th F

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Catching up with presentation and reading material and/or writing activities and/or documentary screening.

May 23rd F

Politics

Kurt Vonnegut “Fates Worse Than Death” (**Norton Vol.D 6th edition**).

****Read**** Lyndon B. Johnson “American Policy in Viet-nam” (1965) (photocopy); George Bush “The Launch of Attack on Iraq” (1991) (photocopy); E.L. Doctorow “Open Letter to the President” (from *American Culture*) (photocopy) and **Chapter 13** (from *A New Introduction to American Studies*) (on reserve).

May 30th F

9/11

Jay McInerney “Brightness Falls” and Ian McEwan “Beyond Belief” (*Guardian*, Newspaper articles) (photocopy); John Updike “[Comment] from *The New Yorker*” (**Norton Vol.E**); Kimiko Hahn “Her very Eyes” and/or Naomi Shihab Nye “Shoulders” (**Norton Vol.E**).

****Read** Chapter 16** (from *A New Introduction to American Studies*) (on reserve).

Jun. 6th F

EXAM REVISION

Books On Reserve

Bilton, Alan. *An Introduction to Contemporary American Fiction* (2002).

Bradbury, Malcolm, and Howard Temperley. *Introduction to American Studies* (1998).

Breidlid, Anders, et. Al. *American Culture: An Anthology of Civilization Texts* (2004).

Denzin, Norman K. *Reading Race: Hollywood and the Cinema of Racial Violence* (2002).

Jarab, Josef, et al. *America in the Course of Human Events* (2006).

Ruland, Richard and Malcolm Bradbury. *From Puritanism to Postmodernism* (1991).

Gill, Jo. *The Cambridge Introduction to Sylvia Plath* (2008).

Gurr, Ted Robert. *Violence in America* (1989).

Graham, Maryemma. *The Cambridge Companion to African American Novel* (2004).

Hodges, Adam, and Chad Nilep. *Discourse, War and Terrorism* (2007).

Hofstadter, Richard and Michael Wallace. *American Violence: A documentary history* (1970).

- Homberger, Eric. *New York City: A Cultural and Literary Companion* (2002).
 Kolodny, Annette. *The Land Before Her* (1984).
 Klinkowitz, Jerome. *The Vonnegut Effect* (2004).
 Lee, Martyn J. *The Consumer Society Reader* (2000).
 Lentricchia, Frank. *New Essays on the White Noise* (1991).
 Lynn, Kenneth Schuyler. *The Dream of success* (1972).
 Nabokov, Peter. *Native American Testimony: A Chronicle of Indian-White Relations from Prophecy to the Present 1492-2000* (1999).
 Massood, Paula J. *Black City Cinema: African American Urban Experiences in Film* (2003).
 O' Brien, Sharon. *Willa Cather: the Emerging Voice* (1987).
 Porter, Joy. *The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature* (2005).
 Pursell, Carroll W. *The Machine in America: A Social History of Technology* (2007).
 Scully, Vincent. *American Architecture and Urbanism* (1988).
 Temperley, Howard and Christopher Bigsby. *A New Introduction to American Studies* (2006).

On-Line Sources

JSTOR - You can access them from the School Library Terminals from the link "Searching AUTH Resources."

American Studies Resource Portal - You can access it directly from <http://www.asrp.gr>

****HAVE A GOOD SEMESTER****