# 20th Century American Literature

# Fall 2015

**Professor:** Joe Carrier

**Office Hours:** Rm. 1116 on Thursday from 4pm-6pm or by appointment.

**Text:** Readings distributed by instructor.

**Web:** profjoe.weebly.com

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to give the student an overview of the literary trends of 20th Century American literature. We will also learn to look carefully at stories and try to discover their meanings and how they are made by analyzing narrative voice, characters, settings, plot, and other key components. At the end of the course the student should have a general knowledge of the main movements of the period and the important authors and their works.

**Standard of Assessment:**

* **Final grades** for this class are based on the following: Attendance: 20%; Reading Comprehension Quizzes, 20%; Class participation, homework, and group assignments, 20%; Mid-term Examination, 20%; Final Examination, 20%. The university dictates the use of a bell-curve to calculate final scores relative to other students. A: 30%; B: 40%; C 20%; D+F 10%.
* **Attendance**: 5% will be deducted from the final grade for each absence. Points will not be deducted for absence if the student presents suitable written explanatory documentation (ex. Doctor's note). Late=absent. 5 absences= F.
* **Participation**: You are expected to show up on time, prepared, every day. The classroom is a community in which every member must participate. If you have a comment or question, speak up. Your feedback might be exactly what another student needs to hear at that moment. Your question is probably on the mind of several other people anyway. It is *critical* that you help each other as much as possible. A major portion of your classroom participation grade will be based on your interaction with other students. Needless to say, respect and concern for the welfare of the individuals in this class and the class as a whole is paramount. Also: this class will be conducted entirely in English, although it is ok to explain something to another student in your native language if necessary.
* **Quizes** will be given periodically to insure that the students are reading the assigned selections and listening carefully to the class lectures. These are designed to reinforce concepts from the class itself so it is important to make sure you understand the material presented in class in order to complete them successfully. Written assignments and short essays may also be assigned from time to time.
* **Examinations** will be given at the midterm and in the final week of the class. They will cover all of the material from the class including both the readings and lectures.
* **Class discipline**: I want class to be fun, but it is everyone's personal responsibility to promote a professional and respectful learning environment. Talking in class while ignoring the instructor, talking or texting or playing games on your cell phone, showing disrespect to the other students, violence, or cheating of any kind will result in a complete loss of that day’s participation points and/or being sent out of class pending disciplinary review.

**Course Calendar:**

This coursework schedule is presented as a blueprint for our semester’s work but it may change a little.

* + **Week One**. Syllabus distribution and course introduction.
  + **Week Two**. Introduction to Modernism
  + **Week Three**. “A Rose for Emily” by William Faulkner
  + **Week Four**. continued
  + **Week Five**. “Snows of Kilimanjaro” by Ernest Hemingway
  + **Week Six**. continued
  + **Week Seven**: Modern Poetry
  + **Week Eight: Midterm Examinations**.
  + **Week Nine**. Introduction to Post-modernism
  + **Week Ten**. The Beats. “Howl” by Allan Ginsburg
  + **Week Eleven**. Music in the 20th Century
  + **Week Twelve**. 20th Century Cinema
  + **Week Thirteen**. continued
  + **Week Fourteen**. Charles Bukowski
  + **Week Fifteen.** American Counter-culture
  + **Week Sixteen**: **Final examinations**.