

English 3398—Contemporary American Fiction  
University of Texas, Pan American  
Fall 2011. MW 4:00-5:15 COAS 247  
Professor Eric Miles Williamson  
Phone: 660-909-3605

## Contemporary American Fiction

### Course Description

In English 3398—Contemporary American Fiction, students will study short fiction and novels by contemporary American authors in the context of American literary history with an emphasis on critical analysis.

### Required Texts

McCarthy, Cormac. *Blood Meridian*  
Robinson, Marilynne. *Housekeeping*  
Sukenick, Ronald. *Narralogues*  
Gardner, John. *On Moral Fiction*  
Melville, Herman. *Moby Dick*  
Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
Hemingway, Ernest. *The Sun Also Rises*  
Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury*  
Anderson, Sherwood. *Winesburg, Ohio*  
Williams, George. *Degenerate*  
Rodriguez, Tony R. *When I Followed the Elephant*  
Cooper, Ron. *Purple Jesus*  
Burgin, Richard. *The Identity Club*

### Optional Text

Williamson, Eric Miles. *Say It Hot: Essays on American Writers Living, Dying, and Dead*

### Outcomes (as dictated by the university and the department):

#### Student Learning Outcomes for English (SLO's)

SLO 1—Students will be able to interpret and analyze a text using different approaches from literary, rhetorical and/or linguistic theories.

SLO 2— Students in certification tracks will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the areas of writing, literature, reading, oral communication, media literacy, and English language arts pedagogy.

SLO 3—Recent graduates who majored in English will demonstrate satisfaction with the programs in the English Department.

Course goals:

1. Students will learn various methods of analyzing texts (SLO 1, 2, 3)
2. All students will work on reading and writing skills through analysis of texts (SLO 2)
3. demonstrate enhanced appreciation of the study and discussion of literary works (SLO 1, 2, 3)
4. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts and terms in the major areas of English Language Arts (SLO 2)
5. write an effectively developed analytical essay on one or more short literary texts (SLO 1, 2)

## **Grade Distribution**

Mid-term paper	50%
Final paper	50%

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## Syllabus

### August

- 29 Course Introduction
- 31 The State of Contemporary American Fiction

### September

- 5 LABOR DAY: NO CLASS
- 7 Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- 12 Herman Melville: *Moby Dick*
- 14 Herman Melville: *Moby Dick*
- 19 Sherwood Anderson: *Winesburg, Ohio*
- 21 Sherwood Anderson: *Winesburg, Ohio*\*
- 26 Ernest Hemingway: *The Sun Also Rises*\*
- 28 Ernest Hemingway: *The Sun Also Rises*

### October

- 3 William Faulkner: *The Sound and the Fury*
- 5 William Faulkner: *The Sound and the Fury*
- 10 John Gardner: *On Moral Fiction*
- 12 John Gardner: *On Moral Fiction*
- 17 Ronald Sukenick: *Narralogues*
- 19 Ronald Sukenick: *Narralogues*

- 24 George Williams: *Degenerate*  
26 George Williams: *Degenerate*  
31 MID-TERM PAPERS DUE. Cormac McCarthy: *Blood Meridian*

November

- 2 Cormac McCarthy: *Blood Meridian*  
7 Marilynne Robinson: *Housekeeping*  
9 Marilynne Robinson: *Housekeeping*  
14 Richard Burgin: *The Identity Club*  
16 Richard Burgin: *The Identity Club*  
21 Ron Cooper: *Purple Jesus*  
23 Ron Cooper: *Purple Jesus*  
28 Tony R. Rodriguez: *When I Followed the Elephant*  
30 Final Paper Q&A

December

- 2 Distribution of Reading List  
7 Final Papers Due  
10-16 Finals Week