

AJ45011 American Literature (20th Century)

Autumn 2017, G31, Fridays 15.50-17.20, 6 credits

Instructors: Mgr. Martina Horáková, Ph.D., Mgr. Katarína Havranová, Mgr. Tomáš Varga

Syllabus:

Session 1, Oct 6th: **American Historical Novel** (Martina Horáková)

Readings: David Guterson, *Snow Falling on Cedars* (1994)

Assignment: response paper (submit in ELF)

Session 2, Oct 20th: **American Drama** (Tomáš Varga)

Readings: Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)

Assignment: response paper

Session 3, Nov 3rd: **Mexican American (Chicano) Literature** (Katarína Havranová)

Readings: Sandra Cisneros, *House on Mango Street* (1984)

Assignment: response paper

Session 4, Dec 1st: **African American Novel** (Martina Horáková)

Readings: Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987)

Assignment: response paper

Session 5, Dec 15th: **Native American Storytelling** (Martina Horáková)

Readings: Louise Erdrich, *Tracks* (1988)

Assignment: response paper

List of books for final essays:

Jonathan Safran Foer, *Everything is Illuminated* (2002)

Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain* (1997)

E. L. Doctorow, *Ragtime* (1975)

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)

David Mamet, *American Buffalo* (1975)
Sam Shepard, *True West* (1980)
Rodolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima* (1972)
Zora Neal Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
Alice Walker, *Colour Purple* (1982)
Ernest J. Gaines, *A Gathering of Old Men* (1983)
N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn* (1969)
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977)
Sherman Alexie, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* (1993)

Assignments and Guidelines:

Readings and attendance: students must come to classes prepared, having read ALL assigned materials in advance; they should participate actively in both group and class discussions; attendance in ALL five sessions is compulsory, the only exception being illness in which case a certificate from a doctor should be handed in the study department;

Response papers: throughout the semester, students will write 5 short response papers; these are critical-analytical responses to primary readings submitted BEFORE the class discussion; response papers should focus on a particular detail, narrative strategy, imagery, character development, theme, etc. and analyze it in depth, using textual evidence; students have to submit ALL five response papers in order to be allowed to write the final essay; teachers will give feedback with marks out of 10 points (with 6 points being the minimum to pass);

Final essays: students will submit a 6 page (excluding bibliography) final research essay during the exam period; the essays must follow the 8th edition of MLA Handbook (double-spaced, correct heading, title, correct format of the paragraphs and bibliography); student must do research for this essay and enter at least three reliable, scholarly, secondary sources;

Plagiarism and evaluation: plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and will result in failing the course; students will be assessed on their performance in class (15%), response papers (35%) and their final essays (50%); evaluation scale is A (100-85), B (84-80), C (79-75), D (74-70), E (69-60), F (59-0). The pass/fail line is 60% (or 60 points);