Course number: English 6417

Course name: Late Twentieth-Century American Fiction

Instructor: Professor Richard Swope

Required Texts:

Course Description:
This course explores what Fredric Jameson terms “postmodernism theory” (theories of postmodern cultural phenomena). We will approach the fiction itself as both one such cultural phenomenon as well as a means through which we might analyze late-twentieth-century America. You should be aware that the works I have selected can all be described as experimental or cutting edge in nature (to varying degrees). Accordingly, we will find ourselves addressing form at least as much as content.

Each week we will focus on and emphasize a primary text (i.e., a novel or collection of short stories) which will be supplemented by related theoretical or critical/descriptive material. Each week, one member of the class will provide a book review on a related book of theory or criticism. Succinct (3-4 pg) write-ups of the book reviews will be submitted by the week following the presentation; the oral and written portions of the presentation will each constitute 20% of the overall grade.

Another 50% of the grade will be constituted by a researched term paper on a postmodern topic of the student’s choosing, involving at least two of the texts (primary and/or theoretical) on the schedule of readings.

The final 10% of the grade will be determined by participation.

Schedule:
- T 8/13 Introduction to course
- T 8/20 Jameson, from *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*
- T 8/20 Lyotard, “What is Postmodernism?”
- T 8/27 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- T 9/3 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- T 9/10 William S. Burroughs, *Naked Lunch*
- T 9/17 Donald Barthelme, *60 Stories*
- T 9/25 Thomas Pynchon; *Mumbo Jumbo* Paul
- T 10/1 Auster, *The New York Trilogy*
- T 10/8 Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo*
- T 10/15 Lynne Tillman, *Haunted Houses*
- T 10/22 Kathy Acker, *Empire of the Senseless*
- T 10/29 Michael Herr, *Dispatches*
T 11/5  T.C. Boyle, *Water Music*
T 11/12  T.C. Boyle, *Water Music*
T 11/19  **No Class: Descubrimiento de Puerto Rico**
T 11/26-28  **No Class: Receso Acedemico**
T 12/3  **Final Paper Due**

*Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el profesor al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el profesor.*