

Fall/Winter 2017-2018

AP/EN 3440 6.0A (Y)

Contemporary Literature

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Tuesdays 4-7:00pm

Description:

What does it mean to write today? At a time of unprecedented expansion of the role of media in the lives of many of the people on the globe, who is it that writes? For what audiences, and as a part of what communities, are texts produced? In which networks of meaning and of practice does writing play an important role? To what other practices, from stand up comedy and music making to environmentalism and hacking, is writing connected? In this course, we will explore what it means to talk of literature today, from works of literary and genre fiction, to journalistic reportage, to texts that radically blur the line between fact and fiction. We will explore some of the varieties of contemporary poetry, hip hop videos, comics, and the proliferation of new writing forms on the internet (blogs, fan fiction, social media). While maintaining a firm focus on the problem of writing, and the specific powers and problems of the written word, we will develop ways of understanding and navigating the complex and diverse worlds that literature is a part of today.

Category:

C

Area:

2 or 4.3

Period:

3

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Weekly forum comments on a discussion topic related to the week's readings. 15% per semester =s 30%
2000 word research paper on an assigned topic w. brief presentation in last class of semester. 20% per semester =s 40%
End of semester exam. 15% per semester =s 30%.

Reading List:

Texts for the first semester may include:

Amos Tutuola – *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* (1954)

William Burroughs – *Naked Lunch* (1959)

Ishmael Reed – *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)

Kathy Acker – *Blood and Guts in High School* (1978)

Don DeLillo – *White Noise* (1985)

Toni Morrison – *Beloved* (1987)

Chris Kraus – *I Love Dick* (1997)

Texts for the second semester may include:

Michelle Tea – *Valencia* (2000)

Marjane Satrapi – *Persepolis* (2000)

William Gibson – *Pattern Recognition* (2003)

Gautam Malkani – *Londonstani* (2006)

Mohsin Hamid, *How to get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013)

Mira Gonzalez and Tao Lin – *Selected Tweets* (2015)

Open To:

Yr 3,4