

 <p>POINT¹⁹  LOMA⁰² NAZARENE UNIVERSITY</p>	Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages Lit 4020 American Literature since 1900: Late 20 th Century American Literature 3 Units
Fall 2022	

Tu/Th 1:30-2:45 BAC 151	Karl Martin, PhD
Office: BAC 113	Email: karlmartin@pointloma.edu
Office Hours: MWF11:00-Noon TR 9:30-10:30	Final Exam: Thur. Dec. 15th, 1:30-4:00

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An advanced study of selected authors and movements in American literature since 1900. The course will offer students the opportunity to study a limited number of texts in greater depth than is possible in a survey course. This semester, we will be reading material from the last twenty years of the 20th century.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete Lit 4020 will

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation.
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts
 - a. Standard literary terminology
 - b. Modes/genres of literature
 - c. Elements of literary genres
 - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
 - e. Contemporary critical approaches
 - f. Extra-literary research
3. Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives.
4. Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works employing secondary sources and applying concepts of literary study and literary theory.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Sherman Alexie, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* (1993)
Raymond Carver, *Cathedral* (1983)
Lucille Clifton, *New and Selected Poems, 1988-2000* (2000)
John Irving, *A Prayer for Owen Meany* (1989)
Chang-Rae Lee, *Native Speaker* (1995)
Bobbie Ann Mason, *In Country* (1985)
Cormac McCarthy, *Cities of the Plain* (1998)
Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading: Dates for the readings are clearly indicated on the schedule. Read daily if possible and complete all reading on time.

Discussion: The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of our daily discussions. Each of you must feel comfortable contributing to discussions. And each of you should bring any questions you have about the reading to our attention during the course of our discussions.

Writing: Each student will complete a mid-term exam, a final exam, and a two brief research-based papers of 3-4 pages. Students cannot pass the course without completing all of these major assignments. Late work will receive a ten percent deduction daily and will not be accepted when the value would be zero or below.

Seminar Presentations: You will also be called upon to do an oral presentation on one of the two research-based projects.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Sample assignment distribution by percentage:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Mid-Term Exam	30%
Seminar Presentation	5%
Research-Based Papers (2 @ 12.5%)	25%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	10%

Your work will not be graded on a curve. A traditional scale will be used. Those who earn more than 90% of the possible points earn an A, those who earn between 80-89% of the points earn a B, and so on.

A indicates exceptional work (roughly 20% of students normally achieve this level)

B indicates superior work (roughly 30% of students normally achieve this level)

C indicates average work

D indicates passing work

F indicates unsatisfactory work

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

READING SCHEDULE

Lit 4020 Fall 2022

Thur. 9/1	Introduction to the Course
Tues. 9/6	Carver, "Feathers" thru "Vitamins"
Thur. 9/8	Carver, "Careful" thru "Cathedral"
Tues. 9/13	Mason, Part 1, Chapter 1 thru Part 2, Chapter 17
Thur. 9/15	Mason, Part 2, Chapter 18 thru Part 3, Chapter 2
Tues. 9/20	Morrison, Part One

Thur. 9/22	Morrison, Part One (continued)
Tues. 9/27	Morrison, Part Two
Thur. 9/29	Morrison, Part Two (continued)
Tues. 10/4	Irving, Chapters 1-3
Thur. 10/6	Irving, Chapters 4
Tues. 10/11	Irving, Chapters 5-6
Thur. 10/13	Irving, Chapter 7; First Research-Based Paper Due
Tues. 10/18	Irving, Chapters 8-9
Thur. 10/20	Mid-Term Exam
Tues. 10/25	Alexie, "Every Little Hurricane" thru "Jesus Christ's Half-Brother is Alive and Well on the Spokane Indian Reservation"
Thur. 10/27	Alexie, "A Train Is an Order of Occurrence" thru "Witnesses, Secret and Not"
Tues. 11/1	Lee, Chapters 1-6 (pages 1-99)
Thur. 11/3	Lee, Chapters 7-11 (pages 100-188)
Tues. 11/8	Lee, Chapters 12-17 (pages 189-276)
Thur. 11/10	Lee, Chapters 18-23 (pages 277-349)
Tues. 11/15	McCarthy, Section I
Thur. 11/17	McCarthy, Section II
Tues. 11/22	McCarthy, Section III
Thur. 11/24	Thanksgiving Break
Tues. 11/29	McCarthy, Section IV
Thur. 12/1	Clifton
Tues. 12/6	Clifton (continued); Second Research-Based Paper Due
Thur. 12/8	Conclusion of the Course; Seminar Presentations
Thur. 12/15	Final Exam 1:30-4:00