



Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages

Eng 4020/6020 American Literature Since 1900: 21st Century American Literature

3 units

Fall 2024

Eng 4020/6020 American Literature Since 1900: 21 st Century American Literature (3 units)	Latter 2 Tu/Th 1:30-2:45
Karl Martin, PhD, BAC 113 Office Hours: MWF 1:30-2:30, TR 9:00-10:00	Email: karlmartin@pointloma.edu Phone: Ext. 2275
Final Exam: Thu. 12/19, 1:30-4:00pm	

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 works published in the 21st century.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program in English - concentrations in English Education, Literature, and Writing, will be able to:

1. Integrate literary studies and/or craft development with ongoing reflection and hospitable engagement with a diverse world. (Integrative Learning, Foundation Skills for Lifelong Learning)
2. Analyze and critique diverse forms and genres of literature situated within historical and cultural contexts. (Critical Thinking)
3. Employ strong research, close reading, and analytical skills in writing as appropriate for literary form and genre conventions. (Information Literacy, Critical Thinking)
4. Develop creative or analytical works in various forms of writing. (Written Communication)
5. Present creative and/or analytical writing to formal audiences, demonstrating strategies for audience engagement and oral communication. (Oral Communication)

Course Learning Outcomes

At the Conclusion of the Course Students will be able to:

- Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation.
- Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts
 - Standard literary terminology
 - Modes/genres of literature
 - Elements of literary genres
 - Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
 - Contemporary critical approaches
 - Extra-literary research
- Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives.
- Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works that examine several of the fundamental concepts of literary study.

Required Texts

Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao*

Cormac McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men*

Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Sympathizer*

Taylor Jenkins Reid, *Daisy Jones & The Six*

Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead*

George Saunders, *Tenth of December: Stories*

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 undergraduate student will complete a mid-term exam, a final exam, and a brief research-based paper of 3-4 pages. Each graduate student will complete a mid-term exam, a final exam, and a research-based paper of 7-10 pages.

Discussion Leadership: Graduate students will be called upon to help lead the discussion of one of the writers.

Assessment and Grading

For undergraduates, grades will be based on the following:

Mid-Term Essay	30%
Critical Paper	30%
Final Essay	30%
Participation	10%

For graduate students, grades will be based on the following:

Mid-Term Essay	30%
Critical Paper/Discussion Leadership	30%
Final Essay	30%
Participation	10%

Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are

authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

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 you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

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 Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

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. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an

accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, 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 withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you’re in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

Reading Schedule for Eng 4020/6020

Tu 9/3 Introduction to the Course

Th 9/5 Robinson, pages 3-94

Tu 9/10 Robinson, pages 94-160

Th 9/12 Robinson, pages 160-247

Tu 9/17 Nguyen, Chapters 1-5

Th 9/19 Nguyen, Chapters 6-9

Tu 9/24 Nguyen, Chapters 10-14

Th 9/26	Nguyen, Chapters 15-18
Tu 10/1	Nguyen, Chapters 19-23
Th 10/3	Diaz, Opening thru Chapter Two
Tu 10/	Diaz, Chapter Three
Th 10/10	Diaz, Chapter Four
Tu 10/15	Diaz, Part II
Th 10/17	Diaz, Part III
Tu 10/22	Midterm Essays
Th 10/24	Fall Break
Tu 10/29	Saunders, first three stories
Th 10/31	Saunders, stories four and five
Tu 11/5	Saunders, stories six thru eight
Th 11/7	Saunders, stories and and ten
Tu 11/12	McCarthy, Chapters I-III
Th 11/14	McCarthy, Chapters IV-V
Tu 11/19	McCarthy, VI-VIII
Th 11/21	McCarthy, IX-X
Tu 11/26	McCarthy, XI-XIII
Th 11/28	Thanksgiving Break
Tu 12/3	Reid, pages 5-95
Th 12/5	Reid, pages 97-151
Tu 12/10	Reid, pages 153-261: Critical Papers Due
Th 12/12	Reid, pages 263-349
Th 12/19	1:30-4:00 Final Exam