



**Spring 2014**

<b>Meeting days:</b> Tuesday and Thursday	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Karl Martin, PhD
<b>Meeting times:</b> 8:00-9:15	<b>Phone:</b> 2275
<b>Meeting location:</b> BAC 102	<b>E-mail:</b> karlmartin@pointloma.edu
<b>Office location:</b> BAC 113	<b>Office hours:</b> Monday-Friday 1:00-2:00
<b>Final Exam:</b> Thursday, May 8th 7:30-10:00	

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Literature 344 is designed to provide students with an in-depth survey of the American novel from its beginning until the present—an impossible task for a single semester course. Consequently, I have selected novels representing the tradition and sharing common themes.

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students who complete the program in Literature will be able to

1. identify and articulate the relationships among literary-historical periods, dates, styles, and authors.
2. demonstrate knowledge of major literary-theoretical perspectives and terminology.
3. write essays that demonstrate strong rhetorical, literary, and analytical skills.
4. demonstrate a continuing practice of reading.
5. construct connections between the literature and language studied and our contemporary world.
6. identify and evaluate correct use of higher and lower order thinking and writing skills.
7. articulate the difference between a traditional notion of language and a modern linguistics notion of language.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students who complete Lit 344 will

1. practice critical thinking about and close reading of literary texts.
2. recall and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read the literature and participate in class discussions:
  - a. standard literary terminology
  - b. modes/genres of literature
  - c. elements of literary genres
  - d. literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
3. examine extra-literary research to evaluate meanings of literary texts and to complete a satisfactory research-based essay.
4. present their research to the other members of the class,
5. connect the literary works with their own personal lives and with the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the works and their authors.

**COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION**

This class meets the Carnegie Unit minimum requirement of 750 minutes of instructional time + 1500 minutes of out-of-class work per 1 unit of credit. Specific details about how the class meets these requirements are included here in the course syllabus.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Don DeLillo	<i>Falling Man</i>
Ralph Ellison	<i>Invisible Man</i>
William Faulkner	<i>Absalom, Absalom!</i>
Harold Frederic	<i>The Damnation of Theron Ware</i>
Herman Melville	<i>Moby-Dick</i>
Flannery O'Connor	<i>Wise Blood</i>
Leslie Marmon Silko	<i>Ceremony</i>
Edith Wharton	<i>The House of Mirth</i>

## 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 10-12 page essay concerning the critical reception of one of the novels. **The paper is due two weeks after the final day of discussion of the selected novel.** Students cannot pass the course without completing all three 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 report the research related to the writer who is the subject of your research paper. You will also be responsible to formally lead the class discussion during one class session.

*Attendance:* Because your participation is essential, your attendance is mandatory. More than four absences for any reason will result in your final grade being lowered. Students who miss more than six class sessions will be de-enrolled.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Sample assignment distribution by percentage:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Mid-Term Exam	20%
Seminar Presentation	5%
Discussion Leadership	5%
Critical Paper	30%
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

## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See Academic Policies in the undergrad student catalog.

## 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 Class Schedules site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

In the rare case that a student is scheduled for more than three (3) final examinations on the same day, the student is authorized to contact each professor in order to work out an alternate time for one of those examinations. Department chairs/school deans and college deans need not be involved in the process of making this accommodation.

## READING SCHEDULE

*Lit 344: Spring 2014*

Thur. 1/16	Introduction to the Course
Tues. 1/21	Melville, Chapters 1-23
Thur. 1/23	Melville, Chapters 24-49
Tues. 1/28	Melville, Chapter 50-80
Thur. 1/30	Melville, Chapters 81-110
Tues. 2/4	Melville, Chapters 111-Epilogue
Thur. 2/6	Frederic, Part I
Tues. 2/11	Frederic, Part II
Thur. 2/13	Frederic, Part III
Tues. 2/18	Frederic, Part IV; <b>Melville Papers Due</b>
Thur. 2/20	Wharton, Book One, 1-11
Tues. 2/25	Wharton, Book One 12—Book Two, 2
Thur. 2/27	Wharton, Book Two, 3—to the end
Tues. 3/4	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
Thur. 3/6	Faulkner, Chapters 1-4; <b>Frederic Papers Due</b>
3/10-3/15	Spring Break
Tues. 3/18	Faulkner, Chapters 5-6; <b>Wharton Papers Due</b>
Thur. 3/20	Faulkner, Chapters 7-9
Tues. 3/25	Ellison, Prologue-Chapter 7
Thur. 3/27	Ellison, Chapters 8-1

Tues. 4/1 Ellison, Chapters 15-19  
Thur. 4/3 Ellison, Chapter 20-Epilogue; **Faulkner Papers Due**

Tues. 4/8 O'Connor, Chapter 1-8  
Thur. 4/10 O'Connor, Chapters 9-14

Tues. 4/15 Silko, 1-144  
Thur. 4/17 No Class Session in Honor of Easter

Tues. 4/22 Silko, 144-262; **Ellison Papers Due**  
Thur. 4/24 DeLillo, Part One; **O'Connor Papers Due**

Tues. 4/29 DeLillo, Part Two  
Thur. 5/1 DeLillo, Part Three; **Silko Papers Due**

Thur. 5/8 Final Exam 7:30-10:00; **DeLillo Papers Due**