

	Department of Literature, - Lit 4020 American Literature 3 Units
Fall 2020	

Tues/Thur 1:30-2:45 BAC 102	Karl Martin, PhD Office: BAC 113
karmarti@pointloma.edu	Phone: Ext. 2275
Final Exam: Thur. 12/3 1:30-4:00	Office hours: MWF 1:30-2:30; TR 10:00-11:00

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

It is expected that all students will abide by the health and safety standards set by the university. Here is a link to the most current Health and Safety Guidelines.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Lit 4020 is an advanced American literature course whose content will vary each time it is taught. This fall, we will be examining works written in the 1950s.

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
 1. Standard literary terminology

2. Modes/genres of literature
 3. Elements of literary genres
 4. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
 5. Contemporary critical approaches
 6. 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

Gwendolyn Brooks, *Selected Poems*

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

Bernard Malamud, *The Natural*

Flannery O'Connor, *Wise Blood*

J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*

Eudora Welty, *The Ponder Heart*

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 works or some aspect of American life in the fifties. In addition to the points assigned to the research essay, point will be awarded when students declare their topic and present their outline and preliminary research. 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.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Your final grade will be determined as follows: Typical grade scale:

Mid-Term Exam	30%		
Paper Topic	2%	A=93-100	C=73-76
Sources and Outline	3%	A-=92-90	C-=70-72
Critical Paper	25%	B+=87-89	D+=67-69
Final Exam	30%	B=83-86	D=63-66
Participation	10%	B-=80-82	D-=60-62
		C+=77-79	F=0-59

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.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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 PoliciesLinks to an external site.](#) 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 ([Links to an external site.](#)) 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 (a) 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 PoliciesLinks to an external site.](#) 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 Links to an external site.](#)

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Since most courses will have online components, 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* [Links to an external site.](#) 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 ([Links to an external site.](#)).

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

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Tues. 8/18 Introduction to the Course
- Thur. 8/20. Salinger, Chapters 1-10
- Tues. 8/25 Salinger, Chapters 11-19
- Thur. 8/27 Salinger, Chapters 20-26
- Tues. 9/1 Malamud, Pages 3-79
- Thur. 9/3 Malamud, Pages 80-157
- Tues. 9/8 Malamud, Pages 158-231
- Thur. 9/10 Ellison, Prologue-Chapter 4
- Tues. 9/15 Ellison, Chapters 5-10
- Thur. 9/17 Ellison, Chapters 11-14

Tues. 9/22 Ellison, Chapters 15-18
Thur. 9/24 Ellison, Chapters 19-23
Tues. 9/29 Ellison, Chapter 24-Epilogue
Thur. 10/1 **Mid-Term Exam**
Tues. 10/6 O'Connor, Chapters 1-5
Thur. 10/8 O'Connor, Chapters 6-10
Tues. 10/13 O'Connor, Chapters 11-14
Thur. 10/15 Welty, Pages 7-80; **Research Topics Due**
Tues. 10/20 Welty, Pages 83-156
Thur. 10/22 Kerouac, Part One
Tues. 10/27 Kerouac, Part Two
Thur. 10/29 Kerouac, Part Three
Tues. 11/3 Kerouac, Parts Four and Five
Thur. 11/5 Ginsberg, as announced
Tues. 11/10. Ginsberg, as announced
Thur. 11/12 Brooks, as announced; **Outline and Sources for your Research Paper Due**
Tues. 11/17 Brooks, as announced
Thur. 11/19 Brooks, as announced
Tue. 11/24 Conclusion of the course; **Research Paper Due**
Thur. 12/3. **Final Exam 1:30-4:00**