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ENG 3604A-001 American Literature 1950-Present

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ENGLISH 3704: American Literature 1950-Present

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
Office: Coleman Hall 3321
Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu

Class: Coleman Hall 3150, MWF, 2:00-2:50pm
Office Hours: MWF 12-1pm, W 3-4pm or by appt.

DESCRIPTION:

Identity & Culture
Genre, Form, & Poetics
Education & Society
Media, Technology & Popular Culture

Objectives Include (but are not limited to):

TEXTBOOKS:

Dan Chaon, *Ill Will*
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (we read this over break)
Zakiya Delila Harris, *The Other Black Girl*
Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*
Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*
Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
Toni Morrison, *Jazz*
Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*

UNIVERSITY COVID STATEMENT: The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. EIU's policy is intended to protect all of us on campus, as well as the community, your roommates, and loved ones at home. All students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings during class. Students may sit in any classroom seat where they are most comfortable. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide modifications to classroom seating arrangements if needed; however, this may not be possible in all situations. Students should not attend class if they are ill and should consult the student health clinic if they have any COVID-19-like symptoms. EIU's COVID-19 campus practices including face coverings, when and where required, avoiding campus if sick, sanitizing surfaces, social distancing, and hand washing all of which are based on the best available public health guidance. Everyone in the campus community is responsible for following practices that reduce risk. If you have a health condition that may require a potential classroom accommodation or variation from current EIU COVID-19 policy, please contact Student Disability Services (studentdisability@eiu.edu or 581-6583) to determine what options may be available based on current CDC guidance. If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you may be asked to leave class or office hours as compliance with public health guidance is essential. Accommodations for instruction and make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to IGP #43 [<https://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/043.php>]. To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>.

Disability Services: If you have a *documented* disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Services in McAfee 1210. See the site: <https://www.eiu.edu/disability/> as soon as possible. I will ensure you are accorded all the aid you require.

The Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center is in McAfee 1301. See the site: <https://www.eiu.edu/success/>

Tech Support: If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

POLICIES:

Written Assignments: There will be 3 mid-length (5-page) essays required this semester. You must complete ALL written assignments listed below in order to pass; even if you could *mathematically* get a passing grade without turning in a shorter assignment, you must turn it in or you will not pass. For each major writing assignment, you will receive a formal assignment sheet; we will discuss these assignments in-depth in class before they are due so you will always know what is expected of you.

Conspiracy Presentation: We will spread these presentations throughout the second part of the semester. I'll hand out a sign-up, so think about whether you want to get it over with early, or wait until later in the semester!

Quizzes: There is a lot of reading in this course so there will be periodic fact-based quizzes in D2L. These grades are linked to your participation grade and both of these are meant to encourage you to **DO THE READING**.

Take-Home Final: This will be cumulative and will involve a series of essay questions.

Attendance: Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation. Following COVID quarantine protocols would be considered excused absences.

Office Hours: I will require you to come to see me in my office once during the semester (see syllabus), but I encourage you to come see me whenever you like. Come to ask questions, discuss problems or just to chat. The hours listed above are times when I will definitely be in my office ready to meet with students but I am available at other times as well, so you can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. We can also easily set up Zoom meetings.

Electronic Writing Portfolio: If you wish to include an essay from this course in your EWP, remember that you **MUST** turn it in by the end of the semester. See me if you would like some help in doing this.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be re-reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Intended for students in their junior year of study, this seminar emphasizes research and writing skills and their applicability in academic and nonacademic contexts. Topics vary each semester but will cohere around considerations of the role of English studies in public discourse and culture. Required of English majors.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN:

- 10 Reading Quizzes/Participation 25%
- Paranoia Essay 15%
- Conspiracy Essay 15%
- Conspiracy Presentation 10%
- Parallel Reality Essay 15%
- Take-Home Final Exam 20%

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 10 M Introduction
12 W *Invisible Man*, Chaps. 1-6
14 F *Invisible Man*, Chaps. 7-13

17 M **MLK, Jr. Day – NO CLASS**
19 W *Invisible Man*, Chaps.14-20
21 F *Invisible Man*, Chaps. 21-end (including Epilogue)

24 M *Haunting of Hill House*, pp. 1-89
26 W *Haunting of Hill House*, pp. 90-138
28 F *Haunting of Hill House*, pp. 138-end

31 M *Catch-22*, Chaps. 1-12
Feb. 2 W *Catch-22*, Chaps. 13-18
4 F *Catch-22*, Chaps. 19-23

7 M *Catch-22*, Chaps. 24-35
9 W *Catch-22*, Chaps. 36-42 **Conspiracy Essay due**
11 F **Lincoln's Birthday - NO CLASS**

14 M *Jazz*, pp. 1-73
16 W *Jazz*, pp.73-114

- 18 F *Jazz*, pp. 115-155
- 21 M *Jazz*, pp.155-end
- 23 W *Lot 49*, Chaps. 1-2
- 25 F *Lot 49*, Chap. 3
- 28 M *Lot 49*, Chaps. 4-5
- March 2 W *Lot 49*, Chap. 6
- 4 F *Ceremony*, pp. 1-49
- 7 M *Ceremony*, pp. 49-159
- 9 W *Ceremony*, pp. 159-213
- 11 F *Ceremony*, pp. 214-end

SPRING BREAK

- 21 M *Ill Will*, Parts 1-3
- 23 W *Ill Will*, pp. 93-139
- 25 F *Ill Will*, pp. 139-187 **Paranoia Essay due**
- 28 M *Ill Will*, pp. 187-280
- 30 W *Ill Will*, pp. 280-327
- April 1 F *Ill Will*, pp. 327-373
- 4 M *Ill Will*, pp. 373-end
- 6 W **ENGLISH STUDIES CONFERENCE-No class but attendance at conference required**
- 8 F *One Flew Over the Cuckoo 's Nest* – half of Part 1
- 11 M *One Flew Over the Cuckoo 's Nest* Parts 1-2
- 13 W *One Flew Over the Cuckoo 's Nest* Part 3
- 15 F *One Flew Over the Cuckoo 's Nest* Part 4
- 18 M *The Other Black Girl*, pp. 1-79 (make sure to start with the Prologue)
- 20 W *The Other Black Girl*, pp. 80-128
- 22 F *The Other Black Girl*, pp. 129-172 **Parallel Reality Essay due**
- 25 M *The Other Black Girl*, pp. 172-264
- 27 W *The Other Black Girl*, pp. 264-302
- 29 F *The Other Black Girl*, pp. 303-end

Final Exam: Thursday, May 5, 8-10am – Final Exam due
At this time, we'll be watching the classic *The Stepford Wives* (not the new version)