Spring 1-15-2002

ENG 3703-001: 20th-Century American Literature

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Jan.  8: Introduction
      10: Chopin’s The Awakening

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      15: The Awakening
      17: Cather’s My Antonia, as well as Stafford’s “Judgements,” “One Home,” and “The Farm on the Great Plains.”

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      22: My Antonia

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      29: Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby

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Feb.  5: Hemingway’s The Sun Also Rise
      7: The Sun Also Rises

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      12: Faulkner’s The Sound and the Fury.
      14: The Sound and the Fury

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      19: O’Neill’s Long Day’s Journey into Night, as well as Bishop’s “In the Waiting Room” and Lowell’s “Skunk Hour”
      21: Long Day’s Journey into Night, as well as Rich’s “Diving into the Wreck”

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      26: Williams’ A Streetcar Named Desire, as well as Plath’s “Daddy” and “Lady Lazarus.” Take-home midterm exam issued; due 3/7.
      28: A Streetcar Named Desire.

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March 5: Miller’s Death of a Salesman, as well as Stevens’ “The Idea of Order at Key West” and “Anecdote of the Jar”
        7: Death of a Salesman. Midterm-exam essay due today.

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      11-15: Spring Recess

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      19: Albee’s Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf, as well as Sexton’s “The Truth the Dead Know” and Williams’ “The Ivy Crown”
      21: Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf

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      26: Wilson’s Fences
      28: Fences

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April  2 & 4: Wright’s “A Five Dollar Fight,” as well as Williams’ “Tract” and Frost’s “Home Burial”
We are going to read a lot of literature in this course, as you can see by the assignments listed on this and the preceding page, and I expect each student to read every novel, play, poem and short story assigned--and to be prepared to discuss each one in class--by the date a given work is scheduled for discussion (e.g., by 5 February each student will be expected to have read for class discussion Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*).

(please note that titles of short stories, like those of poems, are placed within quotation marks; titles of novels and plays are underlined.) While we'll begin the semester by studying novels, move next to plays and then to short stories, we will be reading and discussing poems throughout the semester.

Each student will be required to write two (2) essays (3-5 pages, typed and double-spaced), one midterm-exam essay and a final-exam essay. I will not accept any late essays, and students' essays are to be their own work.

I don't like absences--my own or my students'--and this partially explains why I will lower a student's grade for the semester by one letter if he/she has more than three unexcused absences from this class; and if a student has more than four unexcused absences I will fail that student for the semester.

With all the above cautionary words said, then, what needs saying is that the success of this course depends upon how disciplined each of us is, how generously and thoughtfully verbal in class discussions each of us is, and how open to learning about our nation and our selves--from American literature and each other--each of us is.