English 4553
20th Century U.S. Fiction
Fall, 2013

Meets: TTH: 12:45-2:05; Denney Hall, 214
Class Number: 20755
Office Hours: TTH 2:15-3:15 /And by Appointment
Prof. Jessica Prinz
Office: 468 Denney Hall
Cell: 614 4460418
prinz.1@osu.edu.

Required Texts:
Graff, They Say, I Say
Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises
Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God
Morrison, Beloved
Delillo’s White Noise or Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49 or Egan, A Visit From the
Goon Squad
Spiegelman, Maus, Part One.

Stories for the course are available on Carmen Site for the class, including
the following:
Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”; Fitzgerald, ”Babylon Revisited”;
Diaries”; Wideman, “Doc’s Story”; O’Connor, “Revelation”; Carver, “Cathedral”; Ozick, “The Shawl”; Alexie, “This is What It Means

Bring hard copies of these stories to class, for the purposes of discussion.

Discussion Questions:
A file of discussion questions (for many – but not all – of the texts) is available on
Carmen. You do not need to write anything in response to these questions – just consider
how you would answer them. It will help if you print these off and bring them to class
along with your notes and ideas. Advice: print out all of the questions at the outset of the
course, and put the hard copies in each of the corresponding texts to be read now (and
later) in the quarter.

Course Requirements:
Regular Attendance
Participation in Discussions
Two Papers (5 pages each): You are encouraged to make use of the University's Writing
Center. You are also welcome to see me for advice and help.
Two Exams: a midterm and a final
Writing Exercises may be assigned, including short quizzes and essays written in class.

In general, the grades will be calculated as follows: You will receive a letter grade for all of the written assignments (two papers, two exams). You will also receive one letter grade for your class participation, including discussions, attendance and index cards. These five grades will then be averaged together. PLEASE NOTE: three unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade. Four unexcused absences will result in failure.

**Plagiarism** is the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate or unacknowledged use of another’s ideas. All cases of suspected plagiarism will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

**The Office for Disability Services**, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, offers services for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the ODS and see me.

**The Writing Center (CSTW)**: Offers various kinds of help for writers, including face-to-face meetings, online tutoring, and help with all kinds of writing assignments at any stage. Tutors will help with brainstorming, organization, grammar, argumentation and thesis development. They make walk-in, phone, and online appointments. There are three offices on campus: Smith Labs (4120A); Smith-Steeb dorms (Monday-Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.), and Thompson Library (First Floor, Monday-Thursday). See [http://cstw.osu.edu](http://cstw.osu.edu) or 6884291 to schedule an appointment. I am informed whenever a student attends the Writing Center for help, and I am somewhat impressed when a student does so.

**Assignments:**

I. Index Cards
   Each day that a new text is to be discussed, every student will bring an index card which contains three insightful observations or questions concerning the assigned text. What intrigues or troubles you about the work you have just read? What fictional techniques seem to you to be especially important in this work? What do you find confusing? Use this exercise to show some active confrontation or engagement with the work at hand. Since these cards will be turned in to the instructor, you should also put your name and the title of the work at the top of the card. They will be a factor in your final grade.

II. Essay Assignments
   There will be two essay assignments due for this class and each will be 4 - 5 pages in length. Remember that you are welcome to see me for guidance and help.

   You are free to address the subject of the semester (20th Century American Fiction) in any way that you like. (Note: the author must be American; the work must be from 20th or 21st Century). If you’re unsure about a topic, please see me. The following are "default" assignments. If you can't think of anything better to write, address one of the following.
1) Write an analysis of one character in one work that we have read thus far in the class. You might consider how the character serves to express the theme of the work and/or the character's motivation.

2) Write an essay that analyzes point of view in a work that we have or will read in class. You might relate point of view to a thematic analysis or to the analysis of character. In any case be sure to limit your topic to something you can thoroughly discuss in five pages.

3) Discuss symbolism in one work. You might delimit this topic by discussing the symbolism associated with one character. Or you might pick a particular thematic topic (e.g. death) and discuss the symbolism associated with it. Remember you must have a thesis with specific argumentation.

4) Compare and Contrast a work we've considered in class with a different (unassigned) work by the same author.

5) If you could add one text to our reading list for English 553, what would it be and why?

READING SCHEDULE:

I will try to divide the readings into reasonable sections, (and acknowledge some variations for different editions). The bulk of your reading will be over the weekends, and during the week (Wednesdays) the assignments will be shorter. Since modifications of the schedule may become necessary as the course progresses, students are also responsible for any additions or changes made in class.

If I must cancel class unexpectedly, you will be contacted on the Carmen Site; I will also provide information about the next class meeting. All of the stories should be (and will be) on the Carmen Site for English 4553. If you have any problems with Carmen, please tell me in class or contact me by email (prinz.1@osu.edu)

August 21: Introduction, Modernism: 1900-1945

August 27: Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises (Scribner Paperback), pages 1-150.
August 29: Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises, pages 150-191

Sept. 3: Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises, pages 191-251
And Hemingway short story, “Hills Like White Elephants” (Carmen)
Sept. 5: Fitzgerald, short story: “Babylon Revisited” (Carmen)

Sept. 12: The Second Chapter of the Sound and the Fury

Sept. 17: The Third and Fourth Chapters of the Sound and the Fury.
Sept. 19: Read “The Appendix” for the Sound and the Fury. And re-read chapter One of The Sound and the Fury (It will seem faster and shorter this time around!) –Discussion of the novel concludes. Graff, (They Say, I Say) Part Three and First Half of Part Four –pages 103-145.

Sept. 24: Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God, pages – 1-100.
Sept. 26: Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God, pages 100-153.

October 1: Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God, pages 153-193.

October 3: Hurston, conclusion of discussion. Also Faulkner “A Rose for Emily” (Carmen)

Oct. 8: **FIRST PAPER DUE**
   Brief Lecture: Contemporary and/or Postmodern Literature (1945-2001)
   More on Race: Ellison, short story, “Battle Royal” (Carmen)

Oct 10: Wideman, “Doc’s Story” (Carmen)-
   Carver, “Cathedral” (Carmen)

Oct 15: Morrison, Beloved (Vintage), pages 3-123
Oct 17: Morrison, Beloved, pages 124-195

Oct 24: Beloved, pages 235-End
   Conclusion of Discussion

Oct 29: Spiegelman, MAUS (Part One only)
   Midterm Assignment Distributed in Class Today

Oct 31: : **Midterm: Take Home Exam/ Due Today In Class**
   Reading: Ozick, “The Shawl” (A Very Short Story)

Nov. 5: Class Choice: Delillo, White Noise or Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49
   Or: Egan, A Visit from the Goon Squad
Nov. 7: As Above

Nov. 12: As Above
Nov. 14: As Above

**SECOND PAPER DUE**

Nov. 19: Proulx, “Brokeback Mountain” (Carmen)
Nov. 21: Alexie, “This is What it Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona” (Carmen)

Nov. 26: Delillo, “Videotape” /or/ Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 28: Thanksgiving
December 3: --- Last Day!!!---
  Sedaris, “Santaland Diaries” (Carmen)
  Final Exam Assignment
  Evaluations (Required of all Students)
  PARTY!

FINAL EXAM: Due December 9th, Monday of Finals Week,
  In my Box, Dept of English, 421 Denney Hall,
  Work must be given to the receptionists at the front desk!
  If you give me a self-addressed envelope, I’ll mail your graded final to you.