

Submit originals and one copy and electronic copy to **Governance/Faculty Senate Office**  
 (email electronic copy to [fysenat@uaf.edu](mailto:fysenat@uaf.edu))

**REQUEST FOR CORE WRITING INTENSIVE DESIGNATOR**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Department	English	College/School	CLA
Prepared by	James Ruppert	Phone	6605
Email Contact	<a href="mailto:jkruppert@alaska.edu">jkruppert@alaska.edu</a>	Faculty Contact	James Ruppert

See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**1. COURSE IDENTIFICATION:**

Dept	ENGL	Course #	455	No. of Credits	3
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<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Studies in 20 <sup>th</sup> Century and 21 <sup>st</sup> Century American Literature
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Existing Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Course Pending Approval*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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\*Must be approved by appropriate Curriculum Council.

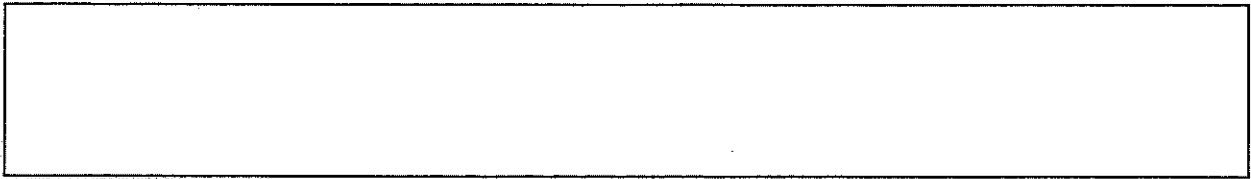
**2. CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG: including dept., number, title and credits**

**ENGL F455 W, O/2** Studies in 20th Century and 21st Century American Literature (h)  
 3 Credits Offered: Every Third Spring  
 Intensive study of variable topics in American Literature. May focus on themes such as Modernism or Postmodernism, Urban Experience, Alienation, Multiculturalism, Race or War; a specific period such as literature of the 1960s; particular genres such as the novel or poetry, an important author; or an aspect of contemporary literary theory. Intensive readings and research in contemporary literary theory and criticism will foster in-depth understanding of chosen topic. Course may be repeated once for credit when content varies. **Prerequisites:** **COMM 131X or COMM 141X; ENGL F211X or ENGL F213X or permission of instructor.** (3+0)

**JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize course designator applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed change and explain what has been done to ensure that the quality of the course is not compromised as a result.


This is a new course that has been conceived from the outset to fulfill the requirements of the W designator. All written assignments are designed to advance students' learning of the course's subject matter, and will only enhance the quality of their education at UAF.

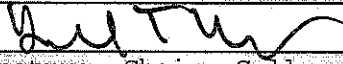


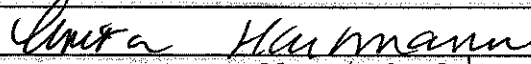
The attached syllabus must clearly reflect the following basic elements for a class to be **WRITING INTENSIVE**. Please note them directly on the syllabus, using the corresponding letter. (See Guidelines in this manual.)

- A A majority of the final grade is derived from writing activities
- B A research paper/project
- C Personal conference with the student
- D Drafts/revisions/Feedback

**APPROVALS:**


Date 9/28/2010  
 Signature, Chair,  
 Program/Department of: English


Date 10/13/10  
 Signature, Chair, College/School  
 Curriculum Council for: CLA


Date 10-14-10  
 Signature, Dean, College/School  
 of: CLA

**ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE**

Date   
 Signature, Chair, Senate Core Review Committee

Dr. James Ruppert  
Office: 842 Gruening  
E-mail: [jkruppert@alaska.edu](mailto:jkruppert@alaska.edu)  
Office phone: 6605  
Office Hours: TTR 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

**ENGL 455: Studies in 20<sup>th</sup> Century and 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Literature. (3 credits)**  
**Writing intensive O/2 Oral Intensive**

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE, COURSE GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course is intended to be an intensive study of modern and postmodern American literature as it emerges into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This semester we will explore some of the major works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century but focus on the theme of alienation and urban landscape. Through both careful analysis of the works themselves and reading into the contemporary literary theory and criticism, we will identify stylistic, narrative and thematic aspects of these works, but we will also look at broader topics of cultural studies. Postcolonial thought and border theory will be a starting point, but we will urban semiology and multiculturalism.

Course goals include familiarizing students with all the major works of this period while placing them in an interactive discourse with culture and the arts. Students will become acquainted with some of the most important currents of 20<sup>th</sup> century thought. By the end of the course, students should be able to identify and discuss stylistic, narrative and thematic aspects of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American literature and be able to incorporate modern critical theory in their discussion and in a research essay.

Prerequisites are COMM 131 or COMM 141 and ENGL 211X or 213X; or permission of the instructor

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*
- N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn*
- Short Stories by Hemmingway, Fitzgerald, Cheever, Anderson, Steinbeck and others as listed in the syllabus. *American Short Story Reader*. Ed. Kenneth Roper
- Poetry Selections by T.S. Elliot, Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg, Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, Gertrude Stein, Ann Sexton, Adrienne Rich and others in the anthology. *American Poetry in Context*, Ed. Robert Dewey
- *A Street Car Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams

Other requirements include

- Passing a final examination
- Complete successful oral presentations
- Completing all assigned readings
- Vigorously participating in class discussions.

All work must be completed to receive credit for the course. You will receive feedback from me on all written work for this course as well as the opportunity to revise. The research paper will be developed in stages in consultation with me, and there will be at least one personal conference during office hours devoted to your writing. **C & D**

## IMPORTANT MATTERS

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### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance is crucial. Every absence over 4 will cause your final grade to be lowered by 3 points. Your 4 non-penalized absences should be used for personal illness, family illness, travel, automobile problems, etc. Please do not use all your absences early in the semester, as I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences.

If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact someone in the class to find out what you missed.

Students are expected to be in class on time. Tardiness of 10 minutes or more will be counted as half an absence. Please allow extra time for road delays and/or parking problems.

### CLASS PRESENTATION

There will be 2 presentation by each student. Presentation #1 must be at least 5 minutes. You will be responsible for introducing one of the writers we will be discussing. You are expected to review the writer's biography, list major work and identify any particular schools of literary thought that are identified with the writer. You should seek out interviews and have at least one quote from the writer. The second presentation is on critical reading to be assigned from e-reserve. It must be 8-10 minutes and include a question and answer session. You will receive feedback from me on both presentations.

### CLASS RULES

Students should not leave class except in the case of an emergency.

Any student found doing work for another class while class is in session will be asked to leave and will receive an absence for the day.

Also, cell phones should be turned off and put away before class begins.

## **GRADING:**

3-4 page essay	20%
Research essay	35%
Final examination	20%
Oral presentations	15%
Class participation	10%

## **GRADING SCALE**

100-98 A+ 97-93 A 92-90 A- 89-88 B+ 87-83 B 82-80 B-  
79-78 C+ 77-73 C 72-70 C- 69-60 D 59 and lower F

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## **GRADING CRITERIA**

Grading for this class will follow UAF guidelines:

A = An honor grade, indicates originality, a thorough mastery of the subject, and the satisfactory completion of more work than is regularly required

B = Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance

C = Indicates a satisfactory or average level of performance

D = The lowest passing grade, indicates work of below average quality and performance

F = Indicates failure to meet lowest standards

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism means using someone else's words or ideas and attempting to pass them off as your own--this includes material taken from the Internet. Students should not utilize secondary sources in written assignments unless specifically instructed; moreover, not completely documenting secondary sources constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offense, and any student caught plagiarizing will automatically and irrevocably receive a failing grade in the course. Academic dishonesty is easily detected and easy to avoid. If you have any questions or doubts, see me before turning in the paper in question, as misunderstanding does not constitute a valid excuse.

## **LATE PAPERS**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date designated on the course schedule. Late papers are only allowed with 48 hours notice and under extraordinary circumstances; papers must be turned in no later than one week after they were due to receive credit on the assignment. The research essay, due the final day of class, will not be allowed an extension.

**STUDY GUIDES AND EXTRA-CREDIT**

I do not give study guides nor offer extra-credit assignments.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

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The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. Students with a physical or learning disability who may need academic accommodations should contact Mary Matthews in the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043, TTY 474-7045). You will need to provide documentation of your disability. I will work with the Office of Disability Services to make the appropriate accommodation.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**  
(subject to revision as needed)

WEEK ONE

Readings from Elliot and Pound..

WEEK TWO

Readings from Anderson and Hemmingway

WEEK THREE

Readings from Steinbeck and Fitzgerald. Begin discussion of Barthes, additional readings on E-reserve

WEEK FOUR

Continue discussion of Barthes read *The Invisible Man*

WEEK FIVE

Continue discussion of *The Invisible Man*, poetry selections from Bishop and Stein

WEEK SIX

Discuss *A Streetcar Named Desire* **Short essay due**

WEEK SEVEN

Poetry selections from Ginsburg and Lowell. Begin to discuss *Urban Landscape*

WEEK EIGHT

Continue discussion of *Urban Landscape* Poetry by Rich and Sexton

WEEK NINE

**SPRING BREAK. NO CLASSES**

WEEK TEN

Discussion of *House Made of Dawn*

WEEK ELEVEN

Fiction from Amy Tan and Sandra Cisneros

WEEK TWELVE

Fiction from Jhumpa Lahiri and Leslie Silko

WEEK THIRTEEN

Poetry selections from Robert Pinsky and Yusef Komunyakaa

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WEEK FOURTEEN

Fiction by John Updike and Louise Erdrich

WEEK FIFTEEN

Review and conclusions      **Research essay due**

WEEK SIXTEEN

**Final examination**