

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM

SECTION II. DISCIPLINARY STUDIES - HUMANITIES

1. COURSE NUMBER: **ENGL 204** SEMESTER HOURS: **3**

COURSE TITLE: **Literary Perspectives on the Modern World**
Start Date: Fall 1996
2. FORMAT: Combination of lecture and discussion (faculty). Average class size: 25.
3. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students should be able to: (a) use appropriate literary-critical vocabulary; (b) identify, analyze, and discuss key themes of modern literature; and (c) support interpretive readings with appropriate, coherently presented textual evidence.
4. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION: The literature of the 20th century depicts the modern world as a place of shifting perspectives and uncertain values. Many writers and critics refer to our time as one of dislocation. This description can be seen as positive or negative. On the one hand, the modern world is a place where the creativity of the artistic and technological imagination has brought us delight and comfort, along with considerable ethical and moral puzzlements. On the other hand, the modern world is a place of conflict and homelessness (from traditions, families, values and familiar narrative forms), a situation that can result in exhilaration and terror both. In the twentieth century, our capacity for genocidal warfare is precariously balanced against our awareness of the integrity of others different from ourselves and our responsibility for the world. These are the perspectives that define this course.

In English 204 students will be expected to participate in discussion and practice critical and thoughtful reading and writing. Instructors will chose readings from 1900 to the end of the century, giving balanced attention to each quarter of the century. Some sections may require attendance at films or dramatic productions outside of regular class sessions.
5. REQUIRED READING: All sections will read the following texts during the opening weeks of the course: Kafka, *Metamorphosis*; Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*; T.S. Elliot, *The Waste Land*; Eugene O'Neill, *The Hairy Ape*, *The Emperor Jones*; William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*. During subsequent weeks of the course, instructors will teach three or four works from the following list: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*; Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*; Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*; Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*; Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*; Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior*; Don DeLillo, *White Noise*; Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*. Furthermore, instructors of individual sections may supplement the reading requirements listed above with one or two additional works of their own choosing relevant to the historical era and the "theme" in English 204.
6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:
 - Midterm and final exams (essay)
 - Papers on topics inspired by texts and discussions
7. ADVANCED UCC COURSE(S): None