Course Description

In this reading- and writing-intensive course we will explore the construction of twentieth-century American identity against the backdrop of physical, psychological, racial, sexual, and perhaps even justifiable violence. We will discuss how artistic representations of violence do far more than simply shock and titillate: they help us to better understand the connections between identity, culture, history, and art. In addition to introducing you to some major literary works and authors, this course is meant to help you begin to develop the analytical reading, thinking, conversation and writing skills needed to enhance your understanding and appreciation of literature. We will focus heavily on the close reading of multiple literary genres (poetry, short fiction, drama and the novel) and visual texts (television and film), exploring the connections between literary or cinematic form, style and meaning in class discussions and in your own writing.

Credit Hour Policy Statement

This class meets the federal credit hour policy of:

☐ This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.

General Education Objective

This course meets the General Education requirements for:

- UE Outcome 2: Engagement with imaginative expressions of the human condition
- UE Overlay outcome E: Writing across the curriculum

Learning Objectives

Listed below are the Learning Objectives for the course:

In this course, students will begin to develop the analytical reading, thinking, conversation, and writing skills needed to enhance the understanding and appreciation of literature.

Assessment and Grading Criteria

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (in addition to class attendance, active participation, and regular in-class writing [i.e. responsible studentship]):

**Essays:** three polished, thesis-driven literary analysis essays, participating in an extensive reading, inquiry and drafting process for each

**Final Exam:** comprehensive final exam demonstrating thorough understanding and textual analysis

GRADE EVALUATION:

- Essays (3 @ 20% each) = 60%
- Final Exam = 20%
- Studentship = 20%