

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature : Twentieth-Century Fiction (2AN1411)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Objectifs:

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course.
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history
- To improve expository and critical writing skills, notably through class participation and through reader-response papers
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing on oral presentation based on a critical article, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into a longer essay

Contenu:

This seminar will examine the role of place in fiction produced during what was increasingly considered as the "American Century" because of that nation's economic, political and cultural hegemony. Specific geographical regions including the NorthEast, South or Midwest, as well as spatial notions such as the wilderness and the frontier played an important function in the construction of a historical narrative in the nineteenth century, contributing both to Americans' sense of belonging and to their exceptionalism. With accrued mobility, the development of modern highways and suburbs, and the homogeneization of culture, however, place seems to have lost some its significance. We'll examine changing notions of place and space in a sample of fiction produced between 1913 and 2006, focusing among other things on the difference between place and space, country versus city, spatial desire, gender differences in spatial perception, and place's role in modernity and postmodernity. In addition to writing two shorter essays, students will be asked to present theoretical or critical articles related to the reading or to the course topic.

Forme de l'évaluation:

Ev. Interne : one in-class oral presentation on a critical article (10%) ; two shorter essays (6-8 double-spaced pages) (90%).

Note: Failure to hand in a written assignment in the accorded time, without an accepted reason, will automatically result in a failing grade.

Documentation:

Please buy any edition of the following

- Willa Cather, *O Pioneers*
- William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*
- Marilynne Robinson, *Housekeeping*
- Don DeLillo, *White Noise*
- Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Pré-requis:

First-year courses (PP1-PP3) are required; « Modern and Contemporary Literature » lecture is recommended.

Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar (participation is required)