

English 273.001: Contemporary Literature **MWF 12:30-1:20 46A Stansbury**
“The Times They Are ‘A Changing’”: From Revolution to Nostalgia?

Dr. Lisa Wellinghoff

Office: Stansbury Hall 246, x33416

Office Hours: 10-11 T/R and R 2:30 to 3:30 and by appointment

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Required Texts:

Bob Dylan’s *Chronicles Volume 1*.

Joe Orton’s *The Complete Plays*.

V.S. Naipaul’s *In A Free State*.

Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*.

Paul Auster’s *In the Country of Last Things*.

Beryl Brainbridge’s *An Awfully Big Adventure*.

Supplemental Texts (Handouts):

Dylan, Beatles’, Ramones, and Sex Pistol song lyrics

Poetry by Derek Walcott, Philip Larkin, Allen Ginsberg, Adrienne Rich

Poetry from *Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry*

Note: These are referred to on the calendar as poetry packs or song packs.

Course Description:

This course will examine American and British literature since 1960 by concentrating on a selection of each country’s novels, plays, and poetry. With the end of WWII, both countries shifted identities and economies. Literature and culture reflects and refracts those changes. We will explore where the revolutionary 60s has led us by reading a selection of texts, including popular music. We will discover how they connect and break away from the past and to what extent those connections influence present texts and culture today. Have we left it all behind for better dreams or are we always looking back with regret, wonder, and/or measurement?

Attendance:

If you miss 4 or more days of class, your final grade will go down one letter. Missing 6 or more constitutes grounds for failure. If you need to miss class, talk to me about it early. If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to check with a classmate to discover what you missed or inform me at least 2 class periods ahead of the date of your intended absence. Attendance is not just showing up for class. It includes *participation* in class discussions, in-class writings, quizzes, homework, and peer editing participation. In addition to regular class attendance, you will be responsible for all assigned reading material. Much of class time will consist of discussions of material read; student input is necessary. Attendance is a part of your participation grade. Chronic lateness or tardiness will affect your grade.

Late Work:

Late work will result in an F for that grade. Beware: any work left in my mailbox or the English drop box may not be picked up on time and will be considered late. Work is due at the beginning of each class period on the day it is due.

Grading and Course Assignments:

We will write 2 papers in this class and a final portfolio. Paper one is worth 10 percent, paper 2 is worth 20 percent, and the portfolio is worth 60 percent. The remaining 10 percent is for attendance/participation.

Papers and Portfolio:

We will write papers that explore the questions of the course and a portfolio that represents our best, revised work. The portfolio will include your best paper, revised and polished, and a reflection essay.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism means representing someone else's work as your own. It includes recycled papers, stolen papers, etc. It will result in a failing grade for the course. I also report all incidents of plagiarism.

Special Needs:

If you have special educational or physical needs which require accommodation please see me if I can help you in any way.

Tentative Course Calendar:

Week 1

Jan. 9 Intro to Class; Lecture: WWII, the Cold War, and the Counter Culture
11 Discuss Allen Ginsberg poetry pack and Philip Larkin poetry pack 1
13 Discuss Orton's *Loot*

Week 2

16 No Class--MLK
18 Con't *Loot*; begin *What the Butler Saw*
20 Con't *What the Butler Saw*

Week 3

23 Lecture: The Cultural Revolution of the 1960's
25 Discuss Larkin and Rich poetry pack
27 Discuss/Listen Beatles and Dylan song lyrics pack

Week 4

30 Catch up/Review day; Discuss paper 1
Feb. 1 Lecture: The Sexual and Political Revolutions
3 Discuss Larkin and Rich poetry pack

Week 5

6 Discuss Naipaul's *In A Free State*
8 Con't *In A Free State*
10 Con't *In A Free State*

Week 6

13 Discuss Silko's *Ceremony*
15 Discuss Silko's *Ceremony*
17 Discuss Silko's *Ceremony*

Week 7

20 Peer Edit Paper 1
22 Peer Edit Paper 1
24 Paper 1 Due

Week 8

27 Catch Up/Review Day
March 1 Lecture: Punk, Aids, Immigration, Multiculturalism
3 Discuss The Ramones and The Sex Pistols song pack

Week 9

6 Discuss Walcott and *Unsettling America* poetry pack
8 Discuss Bainbridge's *An Awfully Big Adventure*
10 Discuss Bainbridge's *An Awfully Big Adventure*

Week 10 Spring Break

Week 11

20 Catch Up/review Day; Discuss paper 2

22 Discuss Auster's *In the Country of Last Things*

24 Discuss Auster's *In the Country of Last Things*

Week 12

27 Discuss Dylan's *Chronicles*

29 Discuss Dylan's *Chronicles*

31 Discuss Dylan's *Chronicles*

Week 13

April 3 Peer Edit paper 2

5 Peer Edit paper 2

7 Paper 2 Due

Week 14

10 Catch up/Review Day

12 Discuss Final Portfolios

14 Good Friday—No Class

Week 15

17 Peer Edit Final Portfolios

19 Peer Edit Final Portfolios

21 Peer Edit Final Portfolios

Week 16

24 Final Portfolios Due

26 No Class

28 Return Final Portfolios