

READING

Las



Course Description

Themes and ideas significant in literature. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of ENG 101 or permission of Department Chair or Instructor.

This course focuses on themes of literature especially as they manifest in Las Vegas. While Vegas is not known for its literature, maybe it should be!

Course Objectives

- 1. Identify the works, themes, and ideas significant in a selected body of literature.*
- 2. Recall and define terms associated with that body of literature.*
- 3. Appreciate the unique ideas and contributions of the assigned writers.*
- 4. Understand how these writers reflect the forces and traditions that shaped the period in which they wrote.*
- 5. Recognize the contributions of these writers to current visions of our society.*
- 6. Analyze individual works in relation to other works of the period and in relation to contemporary thought.*

**Courtney
Danforth**

**Syllabus is subject to change as deemed appropriate by the
instructor with advance notification.**

Grades

There are

735

points available.

701-735 A
 667-700 A-
 633-666 B+
 599-632 B
 565-598 B-
 531-564 C+
 497-530 C
 465-498 C-
 431-464 D+
 397-430 D
 363-396 D-
 0-362 F



Required Texts:

- D'Agata, John. *About a Mountain*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011. 978-0393339017
- O'Brien, John. *Leaving Las Vegas*. New York: Grove Press, 1995. 978-0802134455
- Pileggi, Nicholas. *Casino*. New York: Pocket Books, 2011. 978-1451635676
- Rowley, Rex J. *Everyday Las Vegas*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2013. 978-0874179453
- Thompson, Hunter S. *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. NY: Vintage, 1998. 978-0679785897

Instructor:

Courtney Danforth, best reached during this course via the email function inside of Canvas. Please call me "Cour tney" or "Profes sor Danforth." Please allow 10 working days for grades and 24 working hours (9-5, Mon-Thu, no holidays) for message response.

Withdrawal:

Instructors are not able to withdraw students from a course. If you wish to withdraw, please do so using MyCSN before the withdraw deadline.

Disabilities:

Please read the CSN Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) statement and consult the CSN Disability Resource Center at <http://www.csn.edu/pages/2566.asp>. Your instructor is committed to providing the accommodations to which you are entitled.

Academic Integrity:

All academic integrity violations in the course will be reported to the campus administration. In-course consequences range from failure of the assignment to failure of the course. As long as you are disciplined in your research, reading, and record-keeping, and clearly indicate all responsibilities and sources, you should be fine. As a reminder, any information that is not your original idea or common knowledge requires citation. It can

be confusing to know what qualifies as plagiarism and how to avoid it. For help, see: http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_plagiarism_faq.html. The documentation system we will use in this course is MLA. To refresh your understanding of MLA, see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>. For help forming MLA style Works Cited, try: <http://www.easybib.com/>.

Attendance:

This is a 3 credit course meeting online and on Wednesdays in I-101 (3-4:20) during Fall 2014. Students are expected to allocate approximately nine hours to the course each week. Students are permitted to work ahead of the planned schedule insofar as they are able.

Late/Makeup Work:

Late and makeup work is not accepted except for extraordinary circumstances. To petition for an exception, send a message and independent verification to your instructor.

Assignments

Orientation Quiz

After reading the syllabus thoroughly, investigating your textbooks, and getting to know the course site in Canvas, this quiz will help to make sure you understand how the course will progress. You are free to use any resources you have available (“open book”).

Theme Prep

Each student will adopt an individual theme from the beginning of the course and use this theme as an organizing principle throughout. Use the worksheet provided to prepare yourself to work with your theme. Objectives 1, 2, 6.

Soundscapes (3)

People are accustomed to thinking of Vegas as a city of sights. In this course, we’re going to pay special attention, instead, to sounds. Capture three examples of sounds (1-3 minutes raw sound each) that represent both Vegas and your theme. Each audio file should be submitted with data on the time, place, participants, and relationship to your theme and Vegas itself (there’s a form). The sounds you capture are for use on your final course projects. Objectives 1, 3, 4, 6.

Essay

Use your Theme Prep, Book Reports, Film Reports, Interview, Field Trip, and library research to construct an essay explaining how your particular theme manifests in Vegas. Make an audio recording of your essay and add your Sound Clips, snippets from your Oral History, and any other audio content you want to enhance your work to create an audio essay. This project includes an outline, formal essay and audio essay. Objectives 1-6.

Interview

Most of the literature addressing Las Vegas comes from authors who are not from here or who are writing for the market’s often skewed understanding of our city. Casinos and parties and money are important parts of the Vegas character, but there’s more to be said about what Vegas means. Find someone with a story to tell about your Vegas theme and interview them. This project includes an audio or video interview, transcript, and photo of your subject. The material you gather in this project will be used in your final course project. Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Book Reports (5)

For each literature assignment in the course, please prepare a short book report using the prescribed template. These book reports help prepare you to read a piece of literature, to understand the literature in context, and to prepare for course assessments. You are encouraged to use your book reports on the quizzes and exam – the better you make them, the better resources you’ll have for the assessments. You’re welcome to use reference research in addition to the textbooks, films, and other provided course resources for content. You should complete a full draft of your study guides before you begin reading the literature and revise it for accuracy and effectiveness once you’ve completed the text. You should complete a full draft of your study guides before you begin reading the literature and revise it for accuracy and effectiveness once you’ve completed the text. Objectives 1-6.

Field Trip

Select a site in/near Las Vegas that is related to your theme and visit. Record some audio on site for use in your final project. You might interview people there or you might capture people discussing one of the features on site (make sure you have their permission!). You might narrate your experience visiting. You might read aloud from one of the course texts that relate to that place. Capture something that speaks to your theme and gives a real audio experience of Vegas (10 -15 minutes). There’s also a report. Objectives 1-6.

Film Report

Due to scheduling, we are unable to screen the many Vegas-themed feature films in the course, but you can watch them on your own, with classmates, or with friends/family. Choose films from the list (or message me to suggest one not on the list) and respond to the prompts in the followup report. Objectives 1-6.

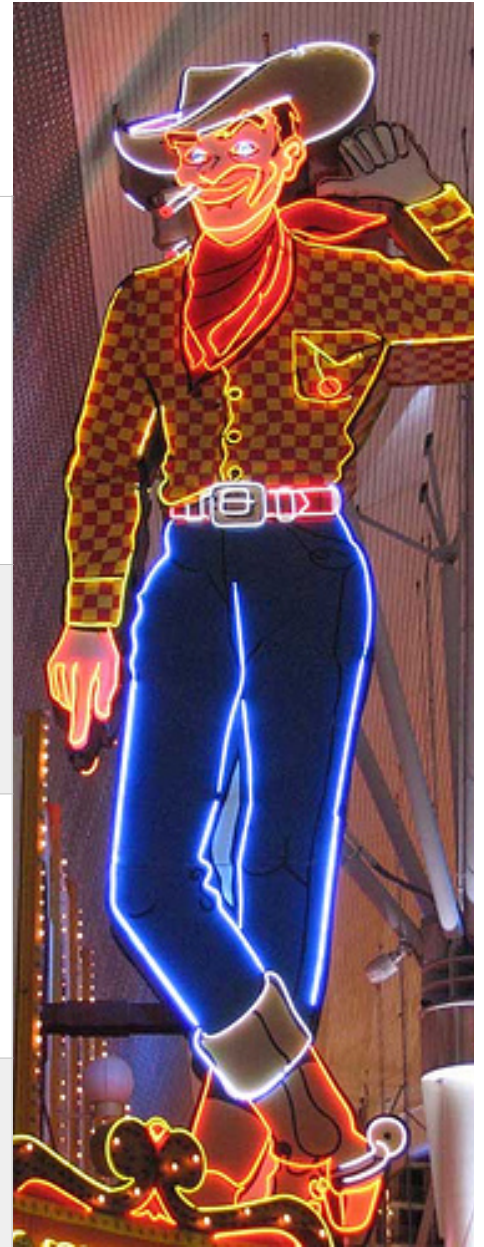
Extra Credit

You may do extra credit assignments to boost your grade, to expand your learning, or to make up for a regular assignment you may have missed. All extra credit assignments are optional. You may submit as many as two additional film reports for extra credit. You may complete as many as two audio postcards (60-90 second complete pieces) for extra credit.

If you have an idea for a different extra credit assignment – perhaps one that would help you on your final project – propose it to me and I’ll help you figure out a way to make it or something like it happen.

Schedule

<p>Orientation</p> <p>27 Aug</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus, audio essays <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (10 min) Sign up for your theme. • (30 min) Review Book Report assignment. • (1 hr) Read “Guide to Academic Writing” • (2 hr) Read “Getting Started with Audio” guide; choose technology to capture and edit sound using gear available to you and begin learning to use it. • (2 hr) Read <i>Casino</i>
<p>Themes</p> <p>due 11pm, 2 Sept</p>	<p>No class meeting this week (Labor Day).</p> <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme assignments made • (1 hr) Orientation Quiz • (7 hr) Theme Prep • (1 hr) Read <i>Casino</i>
<p>Audio</p> <p>due 11pm, 9 Sept</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to genre of audio composition, audio capture and editing technologies <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (5 hr) Read <i>Casino</i> • (2 hr) <i>Casino</i> Book Report • (1 hr) Read <i>About a Mountain</i>
<p>Casino</p> <p>due 11pm, 16 Sept</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: <i>Casino</i> Themes <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (5 hr) Read <i>About a Mountain</i> • (2 hr) <i>About a Mountain</i> Book Report
<p>About a Mountain</p> <p>due 11pm, 23 Sept</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: <i>About a Mountain</i> Themes <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (5 hr) Read <i>Fear & Loathing</i> • (2 hr) <i>Fear & Loathing</i> Book Report
<p>Fear and Loathing</p> <p>due 11pm, 30 Sept</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: <i>Fear & Loathing</i> Themes <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3 hr) Record, edit, and prepare Soundscape 1 • (4 hr) Read <i>Everyday Las Vegas</i>



Schedule

<p>Sound Editing</p> <p>due 11pm, 7 Oct</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troubleshooting/demo of sound editing methods <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (2 hr) Read <i>Everyday Las Vegas</i> • (2 hr) <i>Everyday Las Vegas</i> Book Report • (1 hr) Research/Prep for Field Trip (Read “Shout Out”) • (2 hr) Read <i>Leaving Las Vegas</i> 	
<p>Everyday Las Vegas</p> <p>due 11pm, 14 Oct</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: <i>Everyday Las Vegas</i> Themes <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3 hr) Read <i>Leaving Las Vegas</i> • (2 hr) <i>Leaving Las Vegas</i> Book Report • (2 hr) Field Trip 	
<p>Leaving Las Vegas</p> <p>due 11pm, 21 Oct</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: <i>Leaving Las Vegas</i> Themes <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (4 hr) Field Trip editing and report • (3 hr) Soundscape 2 • (1 hr) Request/Arrange visit with Interview subject 	
<p>Field Trips</p> <p>due 11pm, 28 Oct</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Field Trip Experiences and Themes <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (2 hr) Begin Essay Outline (gather quotations from Book Reports and Field Trip, determine what content is missing) • (5 hr) Research for Essay/Outline 	
	<p>Interview Rehearsal</p> <p>due 11pm, 4 Nov</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice personal interview skills with classmates • Audio-clipping demonstration <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3 hr) Soundscape 3 • (3 hr) Prepare for Interview • (2 hr) Create sound clips from songs, films, etc. for Audio Essay
	<p>Interviews</p> <p>due 11pm, 12 Nov</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <p>No class meeting this week (Veterans Day).</p> <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (4 hr) Record and Edit Interview • (4 hr) Transcribe Interview • (1 hr) Interview Form



Schedule

<p>Outlines</p> <hr/> <p>due 11pm, 18 Nov</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay planning, thesis development, outlines <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (7 hr) Research and Outline • (1 hr) Thank you note to Interview subject
<p>Essay</p> <hr/> <p>due 11pm, 25 Nov</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <p>No class meeting this week (Thanksgiving).</p> <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (8 hr) Draft Essay, take to Writing Centre/SmartThinking, revise and proofread • (1 hr) Prep for Audio Essay
<p>Audio Essays</p> <hr/> <p>due 11pm, 2 Dec</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troubleshooting for turning Essay, Interview, Field Trip, Sounds, Research, etc. into Audio Essay <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (8 hr) Create Audio Essay
<p>Exams</p> <hr/> <p>due 11pm, 9 Dec</p>	<p><u>Class</u></p> <p>No class meeting this week (Exams).</p> <p><u>Independent Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (9 hr) Edit and submit Audio Essay

Notes

Objectional Content

- Were this course a video game, it would be rated T for Teen (ESRB definition: “May contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling and/or infrequent use of strong language.”). All participants will honor this boundary. This course may include content objectionable to some participants. Please contact your instructor with concerns about objectionable content. Hate speech is prohibited (ICCPR definition: “any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence”).

Evaluation and Grades

- Assignments are evaluated for accomplishment within course objectives.
- Course grades are determined by a sum of points earned on individual assignments. Assignment point values are listed on each assignment link.

Academic Integrity

- <http://www.csn.edu/academicintegrity>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

- <http://www.csn.edu/pages/660.asp>

Student Conduct

- <http://tinyurl.com/8e44g5m>

Disruptive and Abusive Students

- <http://tinyurl.com/8dvcrew>

Further Policies

- There are no required extra- or co-curricular activities. There are no special safety risks for this course. There are no post-registration fees assessed.

Resources

Academic Coaching Services

- <http://www.csn.edu/pages/2500.asp>

Career Services

- <http://www.csn.edu/pages/580.asp>

Counseling and Psychological Services

- <http://www.csn.edu/pages/665.asp>

CSN Americans with Disabilities Act and Disability Resource Center

- <http://www.csn.edu/pages/2566.asp>

Financial Aid

- <http://www.csn.edu/pages/3328.asp>

Library Workshops

- <http://www.csn.edu/LibraryWorkshops>

Persuasive Essay Thesis Builder

- <http://www.tommarch.com/electraguide/thesis.php>

Registrar

- <http://www.csn.edu/admissions/index.asp>

Tutorial Services

- <https://csnts.mywconline.com/>

Veterans Services

- <http://www.csn.edu/admissions/va.asp>

Writing Center

- <http://www.csn.edu/pages/1688.asp>