



US American Identities: Harlem Renaissance to the Present

ENU22003, SF , 5 ECTS

Lecture: Wednesdays 5-6pm D'Olier Street 0.32

Convenor: Stephen Matterson

This module examines modern and contemporary US writing in a variety of genres, interrogating the changing ideas of national literature and exploring the emergence of a variety of voices laying claim to being American. Texts will be drawn from the main genres of prose fiction, drama and poetry. The course starting conceptually with the Harlem Renaissance introduces Langston Hughes's 'I, too, sing America' as one of the module's core themes of American multiplicity.

Lectures

1. I too sing America: Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance (SM)
2. Kate Chopin *The Awakening* (Dara Downey)
3. Ernest Hemingway, Selected Short Fiction (SM)
4. Tennessee Williams *A Streetcar Named Desire* (SM)
5. Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems* (SM)
6. Shirley Jackson - *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* (Janice Deitner)
7. Study Week
8. Native American writing: Silko, Momaday, Ortiz (SM)
9. Tony Kushner *Angels in America* (DD)
10. Contemporary Asian-American Literature (see Blackboard) (Gillian Moore)
11. Mark Z. Danielewski *House of Leaves* (DD)
12. Claudia Rankine, *Citizen* (SM)

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will be able to

Demonstrate detailed understanding of the origins, development and range of modern U.S. literature

Show awareness of the social and historical contexts of literary production

Engage critically with a range of genres

Demonstrate close knowledge of key influential and characteristic US texts

Show understanding of various American genres and literary movements such as Gothic, Naturalism, Romanticism, Modernism

Reflect critically on how gender, race and sexual orientation have shaped literary production and are represented in key texts

Assessment: to be announced