

English 166: American Literature Since 1945
(Theme: Families and Fathers)

Spring Semester 2013
T TH 1:30-2:45 p.m.
BBC 120
Section 1
Code 27525

Professor Robert Cullen
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Office Hours Monday, 3:00 p.m.
and by appt.

TEXTS *Rabbit, Run* by John Updike
 The Ghost Writer by Philip Roth
 Fences by August Wilson
 Fuddy Meers by David Lindsay-Abaire
 Rabbit Hole by David Lindsay-Abaire
 Fun Home by Alison Bechdel
 Run by Ann Patchett
 Sag Harbor by Colson Whitehead

PREREQUISITE: Upper division standing (60 units)

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Enumerated below are the department's five learning objectives and, in italics, selected ways in which this course will help students meet the objectives. Students will demonstrate the ability to

- 1) read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric. *The course will include readings from three genres—novels, drama, and graphic memoir. Class discussion, papers, and the final exam will all demand or model close reading. Styles and structures of works on the reading list are immensely varied.*
- 2) show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature. *This course is devoted to American literature. As noted above, it will cover multiple genres. It will include such iconic works as Rabbit, Run and Fences and will introduce students to some newer voices. Lecture portions of the class will call on feminist theory, genre studies, queer theory, and other critical approaches; research for the second assigned paper will of course be informed by theory as well.*
- 3) write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject. *The course emphasizes literary analysis in the form of two papers and a final exam.*
- 4) develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively. *Research is optional for the first paper and mandatory for the second paper; papers will be evaluated for the scope, relevance, and usefulness of their research.*
- 5) articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts. *Literature holds up a mirror to culture; accordingly, relations among culture, history, and texts will be our daily concern in reading, discussion, and writing.*

FINAL EXAM

Wednesday, May 15, 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. Details to be announced.

PAPERS

In addition to giving me a hard copy of each paper, you must submit it within 48 hours of the due date to TurnItIn.com. Please set up an account right away if you have not done so already. I will provide a course number and password as the first due date (March 5) approaches.

Two papers are required. I will hand out specific assignments later, but the first paper (1000 words minimum) will call for a close reading of a narrowly defined portion of a text. The second (2000 words minimum) will call for a broader analysis of one or more of the works and will require modest research. Both papers must conform to current Modern Language Association style. Please, no faxed or emailed papers. Except in extraordinary circumstances, late papers will be penalized as follows: papers turned in one day to one week late will be marked down one full letter grade (e.g. B to C); beyond one week papers will not be accepted. Any paper not turned in directly to me must be time-stamped by the English Department staff. (Do not put a paper under my door, in my mailbox, etc.) NO INCOMPLETES except in true emergencies.

PARTICIPATION AND QUIZZES

Participation and quizzes figure substantially into your final grade. Quizzes are designed primarily to keep you on schedule; they should not be difficult IF you have read carefully. Quizzes may not be made up.

GRADING

Paper #2	45 %
Paper #1 (Close reading/analysis)	25 %
Final Exam	15%
Participation & Quizzes	15 %

ACADEMIC POLICIES

You are responsible for reading and understanding the SJSU academic policies available online: <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html>

- 1/2 Introductions, overview, enrollment.
- 1/29, Rabbit, Run—first third, up to the sentence "Sun and moon, sun and moon, time goes."
1/31 Rabbit, Run—second third, up to "The straight path is made smooth."
- 2/5 Rabbit, Run—finish novel
2/7 Rabbit, Run
- 2/12 The Ghost Writer—first half, through Nathan's long talk with his father at bus stop
2/14 The Ghost Writer, finish
2/19 The Ghost Writer
- 2/21 Fences—Act I
2/26 Fences—Act II
- 2/28 Peer Review Workshop on Paper #1. Bring 3 copies of a draft.
- 3/5 Fuddy Meers. **PAPER #1 DUE.** REMEMBER TURNITIN.COM
3/7 Fuddy Meers
- 3/12 Rabbit Hole—entire play
3/14 Rabbit Hole
- 3/19 Fun Home—Chapters 1-3
3/21 Fun Home—Chapters 4-5 **SPRING BREAK!**
- 4/2 Fun Home—finish. Discussion of Paper #2
4/4 Run—Chapters 1-4
- 4/9 Run—Chapters 5-8
4/11 Run—finish
- 4/16 Sag Harbor—first third
4/18 Sag Harbor—second third
- 4/23 Sag Harbor—finish
4/25 Sag Harbor
- 4/30 Peer Review Workshop. Bring 3 copies of paper #2.
5/2 NO CLASS. I will be traveling for professional development.
- 5/7 **PAPER #2 DUE.** Read-arounds. REMEMBER TURNITIN.COM
5/9 Last Class: Review, SOTEs, Exam Prep.
- 5/15 **FINAL EXAM:** Wednesday, 12:15-2:30. Details to be announced.