

English 173C: American Fiction Since 1945
PUBLIC AFFAIRS 2214; MW 10-11.50

Chris Mott
OH: MW 12-2

Humanities A82
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SECTION LEADERS

Ms. Tara Fickle (B, C)
Mr. Mark Gallagher (A, D)

OBJECTIVES/DESCRIPTION

We will read a combination of short fiction and novels and seek to understand through them the key literary and cultural issues that define the period since WWII. Those issues include, but are not limited to the critique of racism and sexism, redefinitions of subjectivity and selfhood, the "crisis" of representation, critique of commodity culture, re-thinking and re-presenting history, and the "death" of the author.

TEXTS

Sherman Alexie, "This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona" (1993)
Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies* (1995)
Paul Auster, *City of Glass* (1985)
James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (1957)
John Barth, *End of the Road* (1958, 1967)
Yiyun Li, "After a Life," "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers" (2006)
Fran Ross, *Oreo* (1974)
Philip Roth, *American Pastoral* (1995)
George Saunders, *The Brief & Frightening Reign of Phil* (2005)
Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism (free online via UCLA):
<http://litguide.press.jhu.edu/>

SCHEDULE

M 3/28: Introduction; critical boot camp: New Criticism, African-American, Psychoanalytic in *Guide*
W 3/30: Feminist, Deconstruction, Cultural Studies (British & American only) in *Guide*

M 4/4: Fiction Theory & Criticism, Narratology, Gay Theory & Criticism in *Guide*
W 4/6: "Sonny's Blues" (copies in ERR)

M 4/11: End of the Road
W 4/13: End of the Road

M 4/18: Oreo
W 4/20: Oreo

M 4/25: City of Glass
W 4/27: City of Glass

M 5/2: "Phoenix" (copies in ERR)
W 5/4: Butterflies

M 5/9: Butterflies (DRAFT DUE; Essay Workshops) Possible conference
W 5/11: Butterflies (Essay Workshops) ditto

M 5/16: Pastoral
W 5/18: Pastoral

M 5/23: Phil
W 5/25: Phil

M 5/30: MEMORIAL DAY
W 6/1: "Life" & "Thousand" (copies in ERR)

GRADE BREAK DOWN

Section response papers (20%)
Section Presentation (15%)
Section Secondary Dialogue (15%)
Section Participation (10%)
Term essay (40%)