

**Carleton University
Early Summer 2015
Department of English**

**ENGL 2100A: *Topics in Popular Culture: Postmodern Literature
and American Popular Culture***

**Mondays and Wednesdays: 2:30-5:30 pm
Location: *Please confirm schedule and location on Carleton Central***

**Instructor: Dr. Esther Post
Email: esther.post@carleton.ca
Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA**

Course description:

This course will explore the ways in which postmodern fiction represents and reflects some of the most dominant features of post-WWII American popular culture, and particularly those that emerged in response to the horrific events of the past seventy years (including, for example, the development of the atomic bomb, the Vietnam War, the assassination of JFK, and 9/11). This course will engage with the themes of consumer culture, the culture of celebrity and the spectacle, the media, technology, images, capitalism, racism, and gender inequality. Primary readings will be supplemented by short essays by postmodern theorists and cultural critics, including Frederic Jameson, Jean-Francois Lyotard, Jean Baudrillard and Camille Paglia.

Required Texts: **

Kurt Vonnegut, *Breakfast of Champions*
J.G. Ballard, *Atrocity Exhibition*
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
Jonathon Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*
Don DeLillo, *White Noise*
Oliver Stone, director, *JFK* (film)

***subject to change

EVALUATION: (subject to change)

Participation and Attendance:	10%
In-class (surprise!) reading quizzes	20% (4 X 5%)
Short Essay:	15%
Final Essay:	25%
Final Exam:	30%

For Student with Disabilities	Contact Paul Menton Centre (6608) to obtain <i>letters of accommodations</i> .
For Religious Observance	To be worked out on individual basis with instructor. Consult Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (ext. 5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days (www.carleton.ca/equity)
For Pregnancy	Contact Equity Services (ext. 5622) to obtain <i>letters of accommodation</i> .

Note: If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.