

**Carleton University
Late Summer 2014
Department of English**

ENGL 2100B: *Topics in Popular Culture: American Literature and Popular Culture*

**Mondays and Wednesdays: 11:35 am-2:25 pm
Location: *Please confirm 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 twentieth- and twenty-first-century American literature represents, reflects, and responds to some of the most popular and controversial cultural debates that have shaped and continued to shape the nation. Such cultural debates often revolve around particular historical events (including, for example, slavery and its aftermath; the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; the Cuban Missile Crisis; the Cold War; and the events of 9/11), as well as larger political, cultural, aesthetic, and social issues (including the rise of industrialism and urbanization; the emergence of the iconic feminist figure of the “New Woman”: extremely tense, if not hostile political relations between Westernized/capitalist nations and communist Eastern Europe; and the “war on terrorism”). In particular, we will investigate the depiction of cultural anxieties related to radical transformations in gender, racial, ethnic, class, political, and sexual identities of American individuals in the novels of Kate Chopin, E.L. Doctorow, Don DeLillo, Toni Morrison, Jonathon Safron Foer, and the poetry of Allan Ginsberg.

REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
E.L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*
Allen Ginsberg, “Howl” (poem)
Don DeLillo, *Libra*
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
Jonathon Safron Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*
***subject to change

EVALUATION:

Participation and Attendance:	10% ****
Brief Reading Responses (to be posted online to our course page on CULearn; one response per text):	30% (6 texts X 5%)
Final Essay:	25%
Annotated Bibliography:	5%
Final Exam:	30%

**** Please note:** for students who must miss more than 25% of classes due to summer employment, attendance and participation marks can be made up for through the submission of longer reading responses)

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.