

Carleton University  
**Winter 2026 Preliminary Course Outline**  
Department of English

**ENGL 3702A: American Culture**  
*America's Historical Imaginary*

**Prerequisites:** Third-year standing or permission of the department.

**Preclusions:** Precludes additional credit for ENGL 3703 (no longer offered)

**Instructor:**

**Email:** adamdias@cmail.carleton.ca

**\*\*\* This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.**

**A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. \*\*\***

**Course description:** We'll be exploring the ways that American literature reflects, imagines, and constructs America's past and present as well as America's place in the world. Our texts explore—among other topics—kinship and race in pre-founding America, the impact of the AIDS epidemic, and America's role as a nuclear power.

**Learning Outcomes:** You'll become familiar with the entwined narratives that form and inform American culture. We'll be making use of a variety of theoretical lenses that you will be able to explore and learn to mobilize. Finally, in written assignments, you can pursue the texts and theories that are most salient to you, allowing you to synthesize your interests.

**Texts:**

Primary/mandatory texts:

Delaney, Samuel R. *Nova*.

Faulkner, William. *The Sound and The Fury*.

Hersey, John. *Hiroshima*.

Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*.\*

Morrison, Toni. *A Mercy*.

\*We will be reading both parts I and II of *Angels in America*.

Secondary/optional texts: TBD

**Evaluation:** TBD