



**Instructor:** Mark Crimmins

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**Course Number:** ENG365H5F

**Course Title:** Contemporary American Fiction

**Course description:** This course will examine a plethora of fictions by a wide range of contemporary American practitioners of fiction. Our readings will take us into Toni Morison's sensual historical recreation of a love triangle which plays out against a backdrop of the Harlem Renaissance; to Don DeLillo's masterfully complex historical novella about baseball's 'shot heard around the world'; to David Foster Wallace's arcane, formidable, and brilliant reinventions of fictional form; and to a range of short fictions and flash fictions from many of Contemporary American Fiction's most able practitioners and innovators, from Donald Barthelme and Ann Beattie to Jamaica Kincaid, Jhumpa Lahiri, Annie Proulx, Rick Moody, T. C. Boyle, Percival Everett, and others.

**Required Reading:** Shreve and Nguyen: *30/30: Thirty Stories From the Last Thirty Years*; Toni Morison: *Jazz*; David Foster Wallace: *Oblivion*; Don DeLillo: *Pafko at the Wall*.

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:** Sherman Alexie: "What You Pawn I Will Redeem"; Donald Barthelme: "The School"; Ann Beattie: "Snow."

**Method of Instruction:** Lecture and discussion

**Method of Evaluation:** Short Paper/Written Assignment: 15%; Long Paper: 30%; Test: 15%; Final Exam: 30%; Participation: 10%.