

COURSE NUMBER: ENG365H5F

COURSE TITLE: Contemporary American Fiction

INSTRUCTOR: M. Crimmins

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will examine contemporary short stories by a wide variety of American authors, along with four longer works of contemporary fiction. Our short story selections will be taken from Shreve and Nguyen's excellent anthology. Our novels will be Nicholson Baker's marvelous minimalistic exercise, *The Mezzanine*; Toni Morrison's experiment in narrative form, *Jazz*; Michael Chabon's send up of academic life, *Wonder Boys*; and Don DeLillo's description of an odyssey across Manhattan, *Cosmopolis*.

REQUIRED READING: Shreve and Nguyen: *30/30: Thirty American Stories from the Last Thirty Years* (Penguin, 2006); Nicholson Baker: *The Mezzanine* (Vintage, 1988); Toni Morrison: *Jazz* (Plume, 1992); Michael Chabon: *Wonder Boys* (Picador, 1995); Don DeLillo: *Cosmopolis* (Scribner, 2003).

FIRST THREE TEXTS/AUTHORS TO BE STUDIED: Kincaid, Moody, Cisneros.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: Lecture and discussion

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

One Long Paper	40% each
Midterm Test:	25%
Final Test:	25%
Participation	10%