

Professor: Marshall Boswell
 Office Phone/Voice Mail: 843-3581
 E-Mail: boswell@rhodes.edu

Office: Palmer 319
 Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00
 and by appointment

Post-War American Fiction, English 373
 MWF 9:00–9:50 pm Palmer 207
Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov
The Floating Opera, John Barth
The Centaur, John Updike
Herzog, Saul Bellow
The Crying of Lot 49, Thomas Pynchon
Play It As It Lays, Joan Didion
The Ghost Writer, Philip Roth
Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison
The Broom of the System, David Foster Wallace

Reading Assignments

August	24:	Introduction	19	TBA
	26:	<i>Invisible Man</i> , chps 1-3	21	<i>Bell Jar</i> , chps 1-7
	29:	<i>Invisible Man</i> , chps 3 – 9[1]	24:	<i>Bell Jar</i> , chps 8-12[3]
	31:	<i>Invisible Man</i> , chps 10 - 13	26:	<i>Bell Jar</i> , chps 13-end[4]
Sept	2:	<i>Invisible Man</i> , chps 14 – 17	28:	<i>Play It As It Lays</i> , pp. 1-71
	5:	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	31:	<i>Play It As It Lays</i> , 72-134[5]
	7:	<i>Invisible Man</i> , chps 18 – 23[2]	Nov 2:	<i>Play It As It Lays</i> , 140-214
	9:	<i>Invisible Man</i> , chps 24-end [3]	4:	<i>Crying of Lot 49</i> , chps 1-4
	12:	<i>Lolita</i> , Foreword; Part1, 1 - 17	7:	<i>Crying of Lot 49</i> , chps 5-end
	14:	<i>Lolita</i> , chps 18 - End Part 1 [4]	2nd PAPER DUE	
	16:	<i>Lolita</i> , Part II, chps 1-19[5]	9:	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , pp. 1-89
	19:	<i>Lolita</i> , chps 20 – End	11:	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , pp. 90-151
	21:	<i>The Floating Opera</i> , chps 1-9	14:	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , pp. 152-285
	23:	<i>The Floating Opera</i> , chps 10-18	16:	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , pp. 286-337
	26:	<i>The Floating Opera</i> , chps 19-end	18:	<i>The Ghost Writer</i> , pp. 3-96
		1st PAPER DUE	21:	<i>The Ghost Writer</i> , pp. 96-end
	28:	<i>The Centaur</i> chps I-III	23:	THANKSGIVING BREAK
	30:	<i>The Centaur</i> , chps IV-VI	25:	THANKSGIVING BREAK
October	3:	<i>The Centaur</i> , chps VII-Epilogue	28:	<i>Broom of the System</i> , pp. 1-93
	5:	<i>Herzog</i> , pp. 1-87	30:	<i>Broom of the System</i> , pp.94-197
	7:	LIBRARY OPENING	Dec 2:	<i>Broom of the System</i> , pp. 197-291
	10:	<i>Herzog</i> , pp. 87-183	5:	<i>Broom of the System</i> , pp.292-392
	12:	<i>Herzog</i> , pp. 183-297[1]	7:	<i>Broom of the System</i> , pp.392-end
	14:	<i>Herzog</i> , pp. 298-end[2]	9:	FINAL PAPER DUE
	17:	FALL BREAK		

POLICIES FOR 373

ASSIGNMENTS: You will write 3 formal papers and 2 close reading/responses. The close reading/responses are assigned according to a rotating system. The first two formal papers will each be a 5-6-page literary analysis of one of the assigned novels. This paper should represent your own reading and may be an expansion of a close reading/response. The final assignment will be a 10-12 page research paper that must employ at least 2 and no more than 6 secondary sources.

I will also periodically administer pop “quizzes” on the assigned reading. A passing grade on one of these quizzes will not affect your grade and will not even be recorded, whereas a failing grade on the quiz will be recorded as an absence. (See below under ATTENDANCE.)

GRADING: All assignments—both formal papers and close readings/responses—are subject to the honor code. This means that, at the end of each assignment, you will write out the honor pledge *in full* and sign it. All work will be evaluated on the basis of the grading scale outlined on page 72 of the current Rhodes College Catalogue. Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Close Readings/Responses	5% x 2
Short Paper 1	25%
Short Paper 2	25%
Long Paper	40%

ATTENDANCE: Because I place a great deal of emphasis on the daily readings and our discussions of them, your attendance and participation in class are not only mandatory but will also constitute a fairly large portion of your final grade. If you don't attend, your final grade will suffer. You are allowed three (3) absences free-of-charge. You are to use these absences in the event that you are sick, away on a college-related event, or unable to attend for whatever other reason. In other words, there are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences, per se. You may simply miss class three times, free of charge. After you have used up those three absences, each absence beyond those two will cost your *final course* average two tenths of a point. If you miss more than nine (9) classes—three weeks of the semester, in other words—you will fail the course. Simple as that.

NOTE: I reserve the right to alter this policy in the face of special circumstances, such as a prolonged, unexpected illness or the like.

LATE PAPERS: All papers are due on the day stipulated on the syllabus. Any unexcused late assignment will be penalized a two-tier reduction per day late; in other words, an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B-, and so on.

PROBLEMS? Anytime you have a problem about an assignment, PLEASE get in touch with me. You can send me a voice mail, an e-mail. You can even resort to the old-fashioned method of leaving a hand-written note in my box in Palmer Hall. The key thing is to *keep me informed in advanced*. I can be flexible—to a point—but only if you contact me beforehand.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS: All formal papers in this class are to be typed, double-spaced, and pledged in full. You will use the MLA documentation format, which we'll discuss in class.

Close Reading/Response Groups

Group 1

Group 4

Group 2

Group 5

Group 3
