Professor: Marshall Boswell
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Office: Palmer 316
Office Hours: MWF 12:30-2:00
and by appointment

Post-War American Fiction, English 370
MWF 2–2:50 pm Clough 304
Lost in the Funhouse, John Barth
Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov
Rabbit, Run, John Updike
Philip Roth, *Goodbye, Columbus*
Philip Roth, *The Ghost Writer*
Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*
Play It As It Lays, Joan Didion
The Crying of Lot 49, Thomas Pynchon
The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison
White Noise, Don Delillo
Prisoner's Dilemma, Richard Powers
Girl with Curious Hair, David Foster Wallace

Reading Assignments

Jan 12: Introduction
14: John Barth, "The Literature of Exhaustion"; Brian McHale, "From Modernist to Postmodernist Fiction" Moodle

17: **MLK-NO CLASS**
19: *Lost in the Funhouse:* "Night-Sea Journey," "Ambrose His Mark," "Autobiography" "Water Message"
21: *Lost in the Funhouse:* "Lost in the Funhouse" "Echo,""Title," "Life-Story" [1]

24: *Lost in the Funhouse:* "Menelaiad" "Anonymiad"
26: Candidate Visit
28: *Lolita*, Foreword; Part1, 1 - 17

31: *Lolita*, chps 18 - End Part 1
Feb 2: *Lolita*, Part II, chps 1-19 [1]
4: *Lolita*, chps 20 – End[2]

7: Roth, *Goodbye, Columbus,* "Conversion of the Jews," "Defender of the Faith" [3]
9: Roth, *Goodbye, Columbus,* "Goodbye, Columbus"
11: Roth, *The Ghost Writer*, pp. 1-74

14: Roth, *The Ghost Writer*, pp. 75-end [4]
16: *Rabbit, Run,* pp. 1-76
18: *Rabbit, Run,* pp. 76-182

21: *Rabbit, Run,* pp. 182-end [5]
23: Plath, *The Bell Jar*, pp. 1-86
25: Plath, *The Bell Jar*, pp. 87-153

28: Plath, *The Bell Jar*, 159-end
29: **1st PAPER DUE**
March 2: *Play It As It Lays,* pp. 1-71
4: *Play It As It Lays*, pp. 72-139

7: *Play It As It Lays*, pp. 140-214
9: *Crying of Lot 49*, pp. 1-79
11: *Crying of Lot 49*, pp. 80-end

14-18: **SPRING BREAK**

21: Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*, pp. 1-58
23: Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*, pp. 59-131
25: Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*, pp. 132-206 [1]

28: *White Noise*, pp. 3-60
30: *White Noise*, pp. 61-163
April 1: *White Noise*, pp. 167-241

4:	*White Noise*, pp. 241-326 [2]			
6:	Wallace, "E Unibus Pluram" *Girl with Curious Hair* "My Appearance" [3]	15:	*Prisoner's Dilemma,* pp. 13-96	
		18:	*Prisoner's Dilemma*, 97-185	
8:	*Girl with Curious Hair:* "Little Expressionless Animals," "Lyndon," "Here and There" [4]	20:	*Prisoner's Dilemma,* 187-274	
		22:	**Easter Break**	
		25:	*Prisoner's Dilemma,* 275-348	
11:	*Girl with Curious Hair:* "Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way," pp 233-299	27:	TBA	
		29:	**FINAL PAPER DUE AWARDS CONVOCATION**	
13:	*Girl with Curious Hair:* Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way," pp. 299-373 [5]	**May**	**30**	

POLICIES FOR 370

ASSIGNMENTS: You will write two papers in this class. The first paper is a 6-7 page analysis of some aspect of one of the first six books. The second paper is a 10-12 page research paper on any one of the *other* novels from the semester. This paper must employ at least two and no more than six secondary critical sources, chiefly articles from refereed journals and critical books from respected publishers.

You will also write two (2) two-to-three-page **close readings** on the day's assignment. You will do these two assignments on a rotating basis according to a group system. The groups are noted in brackets beside the corresponding day's reading. Each group comes up twice throughout the semester. **The close readings are due to me by 9:00 am on the due date. You can—and are encouraged to— submit the paper as an email attachment to me**.

GRADING: All assignments—papers, close readings—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 in the Rhodes College Catalogue. Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Response Papers	10% each (20% total)
Short Paper	35%
Long Paper	45%

ATTENDANCE: You may miss three classes, excused or otherwise, totally free of charge. An F on a pop quiz will count as an absence, as will failure to bring your book to class. Absences after those initial three will cost your *final course* average two tenths of a point. I make no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. So if you can attend, you should. **If you miss more than eight (8) classes, you will fail the course.**

LATE PAPERS: All papers are due on the day stipulated on the syllabus. Any unexcused late assignment will be penalized a tier reduction per day late; in other words, an A becomes an A-, 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 or an e-mail. You can even resort to the old-fashioned method of leaving a hand-written a note in my box in Palmer Hall. **Do not abuse the email system, however.** In other words, do not email me to seek absolution for missing a class, or to find out what we discussed, and so on.

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 Groups

Group 1

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Group 2

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Group 5

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