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Office: Palmer 319
 Office Hours: TWTh 2:00-3:30 pm
 and by appointment

Postmodern American Fiction, English 370
 TuTh 12:30–1:45 pm Palmer 208
Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov
Lost in the Funhouse, John Barth
Rabbit, Run, John Updike
Play It As It Lays, Joan Didion
The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison
The Crying of Lot 49, Thomas Pynchon
The Counterlife, Philip Roth
Prisoner's Dilemma, Richard Powers
Girl with Curious Hair, David Foster Wallace
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Junot Diaz

Reading Assignments

Jan.	15	Introduction		
			17	Spring Break
	20	<i>Lost in the Funhouse</i> : "Autobiography," "Lost in the Funhouse," "Title," "Life-Story" Also "The Literature of Exhaustion" [Hand-Out]	19	Spring Break
			24	<i>The Crying of Lot 49</i> complete
			26	<i>The Counterlife</i> , pp. 1-94
	22	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 1-3	31	<i>The Counterlife</i> , pp. 94-254
			April 2	<i>The Counterlife</i> , pp. 255-end
	27	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 4-11		
	29	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 12-15	6	Paper # 2 Due
			7	<i>Prisoner's Dilemma</i> , pp. 1-140
Feb.	3	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 16-23	9	<i>Prisoner's Dilemma</i> , pp. 141-222
	5	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 24-end		
			14	<i>Prisoner's Dilemma</i> , pp. 223-end
	10	<i>Lolita</i> , pp. 1-142	16	<i>Girl with Curious Hair</i> : "Girl with Curious Hair," "Here and There," "My Appearance"
	12	<i>Lolita</i> , pp. 145-229		
	17	<i>Lolita</i> , pp. 229-end		
	19	<i>Rabbit, Run</i> , pp. 1-76	21	<i>Girl with Curious Hair</i> : "Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way"
	24	<i>Rabbit, Run</i> , pp. 76-182		
	26	<i>Rabbit, Run</i> , pp. 182-end	23	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>
March	2	Paper #1 Due		
	3	<i>Play It As it Lays</i> , pp. 1-112	28	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>
	5	<i>Play It As It Lays</i> , pp. 113-end		
			30	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>
	10	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pp. 1-131		
	12	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pp. 132-end	May 4	Final Paper Due

POLICIES FOR 370

ASSIGNMENTS: You will write three papers in this class. The first two papers are 4-5 pages in length, and should analyze some aspect of any of the books you will have read up to that point, without recourse to secondary critical sources, though other sorts of secondary sources are permitted. The final 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.

Each of you will also pair up with a classmate to do one presentation during the semester. These presentations will detail to the class some secondary source or body of knowledge influencing the novel up for discussion that day. You will meet with me in advance so that I can direct you to the proper texts that you will be presenting, then you and your partner will produce a Xerox for the class providing quotations from the source text, pertinent passages from that day's reading, and any other material that you feel will enhance our understanding of your chosen topic.

I will also periodically give pop quizzes throughout the semester to test whether or not you are keeping up with the reading. These quizzes will be pass/fail, and cannot be made up. If you pass the quiz, nothing happens; if you fail the quiz, you will be marked absent that day. See below under absence policy.

GRADING: All assignments—papers, presentations—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:)

Presentation	10%
Short Papers	25%
Long Paper	40%

ATTENDANCE: You may miss two 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 six (6) 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. Any paper that is turned in a week after the original due date will earn a grade of “0” and can result in an F for the class. See attached sheet detailing English Department policies.

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 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.

Presentations

Jan	22	Ralph Ellison on The Blues: _____ _____
	27	Henry Louis Gates, "The Signifyin(g) Monkey" _____ _____
Feb	11	Edgar Allan Poe, "Annabel Lee" _____ _____
	19	Søren Kierkegaard, <i>Fear and Trembling</i> _____ _____
March	3	Albert Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus: _____ _____
	10	"Black is Beautiful" _____ _____
	24	Henry Adams, "The Dynamo and the Virgin" _____ _____
	26	Jacques Lacan, "The Mirror Stage" _____ _____
April	7	Game Theory _____ _____
	16	David Foster Wallace, "E Unibus Pluram" _____ _____