

English 429—American Comedy: O'Connor, Poe, Percy, et al

Egan 273; virtual office: balexander@gwia.franciscan.edu;

virtual class: Each student must register on FUS Web with a registered email address in the system to receive vital updates, assignments and information.

Readings (subject to change at discretion of professor and class progress)

Aug 26-28- intro. to course; Flannery O'Connor from Mystery and Manners: 63-190; From Everything That Rises Must Converge: title story "Everything That Rises;", "The Enduring Chill,": "Revelation" (read ahead; complete one: Faulkner, Ellison, O'Connor, Percy, Poe, Twain, et. al)

Aug.31-Sept. 2 – Flannery O'Connor from Mystery and Manners: 63-190; From Everything That Rises Must Converge: title story "Everything That Rises;", "The Enduring Chill, "Revelation"; (read ahead; complete one: Faulkner, Ellison, O'Connor, Percy, Poe, Twain, et. al)

Sept. 7-9—first cultural ID's due or first test over readings; Walker Percy, "existential comedy": some selected essays via email; existential fiction, Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man, read first 14 chapters; (read ahead; complete one: Faulkner, Ellison, O'Connor, Percy, Poe, Twain, et. al)

Sept. 14-16-- Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man, read first 14 chapters; (read ahead; complete one: Faulkner, Ellison, O'Connor, Percy, Poe, Twain, et. al)

Sept. 21-23—conclusion; Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man, read first 14 chapters & Epilogue; Poe selections from Essays and Reviews Library of America; "The Poetic Principle," "The Philosophy of Composition"; other essays assigned as needed; (read ahead; complete one: Faulkner Ellison, O'Connor, Percy, Poe, Twain, et. al)

Sept. 28-30—test or exercise this week over the readings thus far; Poe, selections from Essays and Reviews Library of America "The Poetic Principle," "The Philosophy of Composition"; other essays assigned as needed; Poe, The Narrative or Arthur Gordon Pym (read ahead; complete one: Faulkner, Ellison, O'Connor, Percy, Poe, Twain, et. al)

Oct. 5-7- The Simms-Poe connection; Poe, selections from Essays and Reviews Library of America on Simms and other American writers; Simms, Martin Faber; (read ahead; complete one: Faulkner , Ellison, O'Connor, Percy, Poe, Twain, et. al)

Oct. 12-14—selections from Augustine, On Christian Teaching, Books I and II; Walker Percy and the existential-communitarian novel; Walker Percy, The Second Coming; 2nd cultural ID sheet due on Monday to be computed with mid-term grade. (read ahead; complete one: Faulkner, Ellison, O'Connor, Percy, Poe, Twain, et. al)

Mid-Term assessment due Oct 14.—possible individual conferences about progress & improvement in course

Oct. 19-21--Percy and the existential-communitarian novel: The Second Coming;

Oct. 26-28—conclusion of Percy; William Faulkner and American satire; Mosquitoes, first 100 pps.

(Note: Oct. 28 is last day to withdraw passing from the course. The instructor reserves the right to drop students on or before this date who have incurred over 3 unexcused absences, incurred excessive late notices, have slept in class, or come to class unprepared lacking books, a notebook, or are otherwise disengaged)

American comedy Conclusion readings, (in association with earlier sheet

William Faulkner and American satire; Mosquitoes, all but the Epilogue section, thru pg. 294

Mark Twain, excerpts from *Huck Finn* (bring to class if you have an edition); *Tom Sawyer Abroad* (possibly also *Tom Sawyer, Detective*)

Langston Hughes, Jesse B. Semple stories and the legacy of African American comedy (emailed or handouts)

George Meredith, "An Essay on Comedy" (from the book Comedy)

There will be one or two more cultural ID sheets—one of which is due on Monday before Thanksgiving.

The Wed after Thanksgiving we begin having oral presentations of outside reading (15 mins) —questions will be given out on Monday before Thanksgiving; reports will continue into exam period. (note there will be one hour devoted to reports on reading day, and extra credit will be given to those who attend, not required.)

George Eliot, Comedy essay; William Faulkner and American satire; Mosquitoes, first 100 pps.

Ernest Hemingway, A Moveable Feast: "A Good Café on the place St. Michel" thru Ezra Pound and his Bel Espirit" ; skip to "Scott Fitzgerald thru "There is Never Any End to Paris"

Sept.19 – discussion: F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby **thru the first 200 pages at least.**

Sept. 26—test over The Great Gatsby; Walker Percy and the communiterean novel; Percy essays on electronic reserve; Walker Percy: The Second Coming, thru the first 100 pps at least.

Oct 3—finish Walker Percy, The Second Coming;discussion; 2nd cultural ID sheet due

Oct. 10—test over The Second Coming; Edgar Allan Poe, novel of alienation and disintegration: The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym

Mid-Term assessment due Oct 14.—possible individual conferences about progress & improvement in course

Oct. 17— cont. of Poe, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym; Mark Twain & science fiction: Tom Sawyer, Abroad, Tom Sawyer Detective

Oct. 24— Mark Twain & science fiction: Tom Sawyer, Abroad, Tom Sawyer Detective; Faulkner Go, Down Moses; "The Old People;" 3rd cultural I D sheet distributed.

Oct 30-- Go, Down Moses; "The Old People;" "The Bear" omit Part 3 of "the Bear" ; 3rd cultural I D sheet due via email Wed or Thurs of this week.

weekly Test; Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea; William Faulkner, Portable Faulkner "The Bear" parts I-III;
Gore Vidal and the American epic novel: Lincoln; 1-68

weekly test; discussion O'Connor stories from Three; O'Connor Wise Blood and the satire of nihilism

Sept.19 –weekly test; discussion; **O'Connor, Mystery and Manners: The Nature and Aim of Fiction plus all essays in Part V:** The Church and the Fiction Writer, Novelist and Believer, Catholic Novelists and Their Readers, The Catholic Novelist in the Protestant South; several stories from O'Connor Three assigned

O'Connor, Mystery and Manners: The Nature and Aim of Fiction plus **all essays in Part V:** The Church and the Fiction Writer, Novelist and Believer, Catholic Novelists and Their Readers, The Catholic Novelist in the Protestant South; several stories from O'Connor Three assigned

finish Moviegoer; weekly test;

O'Connor, Mystery and Manners: **The Nature and Aim of Fiction plus all essays Part V:** The Church and the Fiction Writer, Novelist and Believer, Catholic Novelists and Their Readers, The Catholic Novelist in the Protestant South

Sept. 19—weekly test; discussion; **O'Connor, Mystery and Manners:** The Nature and Aim of Fiction plus **all essays in Part V:** The Church and the Fiction Writer, Novelist and Believer, Catholic Novelists and Their Readers, The Catholic Novelist in the Protestant South; several stories from O'Connor Three assigned

Sept. 26—weekly test; discussion O'Connor stories from Three; O'Connor Wise Blood and the satire of nihilism

Oct 3— weekly test; O'Connor, Wise Blood and the satire of nihilism

Oct. 10— weekly Test; Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea; William Faulkner, Portable Faulkner “The Bear” parts I-III
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Oct. 17— weekly Test; Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea; William Faulkner, Portable Faulkner “The Bear” parts I-III;
Gore Vidal and the American epic novel: Lincoln; 1-68

Oct. 24— weekly test; Gore Vidal, Lincoln, 227-428;

Oct. 30—weekly test; William Faulkner, Portable Faulkner selections from Unvanquished, & Absalom! Absalom!; 109-194; “Dilsey” from The Sound and the Fury, 445-478

Nov. 7—weekly test; Gore Vidal, Lincoln, 463-588; 622-657

Nov. 14—weekly test; Willa Cather, Death Comes for the Archbishop, 1-200

Nov. 28—weekly test; finish Willa Cather, Death Comes for the Archbishop

Dec. 5- representative African-American fiction: Ernest Gaines The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman

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(semester project: one presidential bio, book a book or by a President such as memoirs or autobiography, 300 pps)

Oct. 23—McDonald, Presidency, 425-447; Gore Vidal, Lincoln; 1-68

semester project: one presidential bio, book a book or by a President such as memoirs or autobiography, 300 pps)

Oct. 30— Gore Vidal, Lincoln, 227-428; **test # 3**
semester project: one presidential bio, book a book or by a President such as memoirs or autobiography, 300 pps)

Nov. 6— Gore Vidal, Lincoln, 463-588; 622-657

Nov. 13-- Gore Vidal, Lincoln, 463-588; 622-657; individual seminar presentations of outside project

/ 15—finish Gaines, Jane Pittman; John Milton, Paradise Lost, **Lit. of Western World, 2099-2136**

Nov. 20—John Milton, Lit. of Western World, 2099-2136

Nov. 27-29-- John Milton, Lit. of Western World, 2137-2193

Dec. 4-6-- John Milton, Lit. of Western World; finish thru p. 2208.

test over selections from Paul Robeson, Here I Stand; mid term deficiencies sent out on Oct. 19
(semester project: 300 pps outside, from Richard Wright, Ernest Gaines, Malcolm X, Toni Morrison, Paule Marshall, Zora Neale Hurston, Maja Angelou, et. al)

Oct. 25--August Wilson, The Piano Lesson, video viewing,
(semester project: first question due on 300 pps outside, from Richard Wright, Ernest Gaines, Malcolm X, Toni Morrison, Paule Marshall, Zora Neale Hurston, Maja Angelou, et. al)

selected African-American poems from Black Voices by Dunbar, Hughes, Walk

February

2/1: test over previous material and Frederick Douglass, Narrative, Black Voices, 231-268; (300 pps outside, from Richard Wright, Ernest Gaines, Malcolm X, Toni Morrison, Paule Marshall, Zora Neale Hurston, Maja Angelou, et. al)

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2/8: test,, Turner, 677-690; August Wilson, 2 plays: Fences; The Piano Lesson (300 pps outside, from Richard Wright, Ernest Gaines, Malcolm X, Toni Morrison, Paule Marshall, Zora Neale Hurston, Maja Angelou, et. al)

Mary Boykin Chestnut—selected chapters, Mary Chestnut's Civil War (on reserve); (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

2/11-13: Mary Boykin Chestnut—selected chapters, Mary Chestnut's Civil War (on reserve) (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

test on Thurs: Adams, Grant, Chesnutt, plus class handouts, videos

2/18-20—Walker Percy, the Moviegoer, read entire novel if you can, read at least 200 pages. (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

2/25- 27— finish, Moviegoer ; **test Moviegoer on Thurs**; (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

March

3/4-6-novel of existential race alienation, Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man, “Prologue” and read through chps 1-4. (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

3/11-13—Ellison, Invisible Man, chs 5-11; **test on Thurs.** (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

3/25-27— Ellison, Invisible Man, chps. 12- 14; summary of rest given out; (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

April

4/1-3-William Faulkner, Go Down Moses, read the stories, “Was”, “The Old People”, “The Bear”, “Delta Autumn” (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

4/8-10-- William Faulkner, Go Down Moses, read the stories, “Was”, “The Old People”, “The Bear”, “Delta Autumn” , possible test on Thurs. (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

4/15-`17—Ernest Hemingway, from The Complete Short Stories, “Last Good Country”, 504-548, “Doctor/ Doctor’s Wife”, “End of Something”, “Three Day Blow”, 71-104; “Ten Indians”, 253-257; “In Another Country” 206-211; “A Way You Will Never Be”, 306-314; “Now I Lay Me” 276-282; “The Killers”, 215-222, “Big Two Hearted River, pts. I and II, 161-180 (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

4/22-24—cont. Ernest Hemingway, from The Complete Short Stories, “Snows of Kilimanjaro, 39-57; “Today is Friday”, 271-274; “Light of the World,” “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen, 292-302 (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

4/29—exam prep, essays given out by Henry James, and Flannery O’Connor, prep for exam. (outside, Twain, Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer)

study sheet, Civil War narrative, symbolism, legend, and personalities.

1. Reason or cause for the Civil War

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

2. Stylistic features of historical writing—voice, tone, texture

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

3. characterizations and descriptions toward the United States and the Confederate states by foreign govts.

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

4. Attitudes and perspectives on slavery and African-Americans

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

5. Attitudes and portrayals of historical legends

A. General Grant

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

B. President Lincoln

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

C. Jefferson Davis

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

D. General William T. Sherman

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

6. Plotting of the Civil War's geography and strategic battles/places

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

7. Characterizations and descriptions of "Southerners" and "Northerners" in general

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

8. Trajectory of narrative: success, failure, tragedy

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

9. Role and place of women

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

9. Self serving or "inflated" comments designed to project certain positive historical perspectives

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

"Blind spots" or "tone deafness" is writing the narrative; inclusion, exclusion of persons, topics, and views

Adams

Grant

Chestnut

Ernest Hemingway, from The Complete Short Stories, "Last Good Country", 504-548, "Doctor/ Doctor's Wife", "End of Something", "Three Day Blow", 71-104; "Ten Indians", 253-257; "In Another Country" 206-211; "A Way You Will Never Be", 306-314; "The Killers", 215-222, "Big Two Hearted River, pts. I and II, 161-180

"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen, 298-302;

May 1—Paradise, XXXI- XXXIII, 528-543.

Here Jan 15

3/20-22—Bede, Ecclesiastical History,

"Everyman" in Medieval and Tudor Drama, 204-230;

Chaucerian sources, in Medieval and Tudor Drama, 44-46, 72-88 "The Deluge"; Miller's Tale, (on reserve)

Purg. cantos, XXVI-XXXI, 329-361; last 2 cantos of Purg. read, summary provided

NB—The Longfellow translation has omitted his notes. Read the Paradise and study carefully the notes at the end of each canto from the Sinclair translation of Paradise.

3/27-29—20 minute test , Paradise, I-VI, 373-403

April

4/3-5—20 minute test, Paradise, VII-XII, 403-434

4/10-12-- Paradise, XIII-XVII, 434-461

4/17-19--20 minute test, Paradise XVIII-XXII, 434-486

4/24-26—Summary/reflection due on outside article, Paradise, XXIII-XXX, 487-528

May 1—Paradise, XXXI- XXXIII, 528-543.

3 page summary / interpretation due on Thurs on any canto from XXII forward due, 132-200; class presentations of Cantos, XXII-XXXI, 132-200; read XXXII- XXXIV, 184-200.

2/20—22: conclusion of discussion of Inferno ; intro. to Purgatorio, cantos, I-VI, 201-231

NB—The Longfellow translation has omitted his notes. Read the Purgatorio and study carefully the notes at the end of each canto from the Sinclair translation of Purgatorio.

2/27- 3/1— either a test of paper due this week; discussion Purgatorio, cantos, I-VI, 201-231; read Purg., cantos, VII-XV, 231-277

March

3/6-8 – Purg., cantos, XVI-XXV, 277-329

3/20-22-- Purg., cantos, XXVI-XXXI, 329-361; last 2 cantos of Purg. read, summary provided

NB—The Longfellow translation has omitted his notes. Read the Paradise and study carefully the notes at the end of each canto from the Sinclair translation of Paradise.

3/27-29—20 minute test , Paradise, I-VI, 373-403

April

4/3-5—20 minute test, Paradise, VII-XII, 403-434

4/10-12-- Paradise, XIII-XVII, 434-461

4/17-19--20 minute test, Paradise XVIII-XXII, 434-486

4/24-26—Summary/reflection due on outside article, Paradise, XXIII-XXX, 487-528

May 1—Paradise, XXXI- XXXIII, 528-543.

Texts:

Eric Voegelin, The New Science of Politics
Shakespeare, Oxford Shakespeare--Histories
Machiavelli, The Prince
Teresa of Avila, Interior Castle
Ignatius Loyala, His Own Story
John Milton, Political Writings
Thomas More, Last Letters
Cervantes, Don Quixote
Francis de Sales, Introduction to the Devout Life
Descartes, Discourse on Method
Montaigne, Selected Essays (handouts)
Pascal, selected excerpts

Readings:

Aug 29-31—Shakespeare, Richard II, acts I-III

Sept. 5-7-- Shakespeare, Richard II, acts IV-V; Henry IV, Pt. 1, acts I-III;
Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life

Sept. 12-14—Shakespeare, Henry IV, Pt. 1, acts III-V; Eric Voegelin, Introduction, New Science of Politics, pp
Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life

Sept. 19-21—cont. discussion Voegelin, New Science, first papers, some of which will be given in class, Henry IV, Pt. II, acts I-III,
Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life

Sept. 26-28— Henry IV's deathbed speech and counsel scenes, Henry IV, Pt. II, relevant chapters of Voegelin, New Science; Henry V, acts I-III;
Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life

Oct. 3-5—Henry V, acts iv-v, Voegelin, "Gnosticism: the Nature of Modernity" in New Science; second class essays due related to Machiavelli's Prince;
Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life

Oct. 10-12—Essay "Spanish Catholicism" the Spanish counter Reformation/ Renaissance: St. Teresa of Avila, Interior Castle, Preface, xi-xix, 33-84;
Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life

Oct. 17-19-- Interior Castle, 85-126; St Ignatius, His Own Story; mid term in class essays on Thurs. Outside:
Don Quixote and Devout Life

Oct. 24-26—Shakespeare, All is Well (Henry VIII); More, Last Letters of Thomas More
Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life

Oct. 31-Nov. 2—cont. More, Last Letters of Thomas More; Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life; essay due on More

Nov. 7-9—Voegelin, "Gnosticism: the Puritan Case"; John Milton as polemicist for revolution; selected political writings;
Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life; outside questions given on Cervantes and de Sales

Nov. 14-16—cont. discussion of Milton; Outside: Don Quixote and Devout Life

Nov. 21—Maritain, “Three Reformers” (hand-out); essays due on Cervantes and de Sales

Nov. 28-30-- Michel de Montaigne, selected essays given out; Descartes, Discourse on Method

Dec. 5—cont. discussion, Descartes; selections from Pascal

Voegelin, New Science of Politics

Sept. 9-11

Shakespeare, Richard II, iv-v
Analysis of a scene or lines due on Wed.

Sept. 16-18

concl. of Richard II, Henry IV, Part I, acts i-ii

Sept. 23-25

Cont. discussion of Henry IV, Part I, acts iii-v
summary of Henry IV, Part 2 given out; analysis of various lines and scenes
Henry V, prologue and Act I, i-iii

Sept. 30-Oct. 2

Henry V, 3 page analysis of any scene or combination of scenes due on Monday: Machiavelli must be cited and used in the paper.

Henry V, acts II-IV

Oct. 10-14

Machiavelli, The Prince, Chps. 1-III, pps. 1-24; XV-XXI, 88-137
Irving Babbitt, "The Types of Political Thinking" --hand-out

Oct. 17-21

Machiavelli, The Prince, Chps. XXII-XXVI, 138-160
midterm -essay on Oct. 19, Wednesday

Oct. 24-28

St. Teresa of Avila, Interior Castle, Preface, xi-xix, 33-84

Nov. 2-4

Interior Castle, 85-126
3 page paper due on Wed.

Nov. 7-11

Christopher Marlowe, Dr. Faustus, 9-27, 261-306

Nov. 14-18

Dr. Faustus, 307-339

St. Ignatius--His Own Story, v-70

3 page paper due on Wed.

Nov. 21

Christopher Columbus, Log of the First Voyage

Nov. 28-Dec. 2

selected prose of John Milton, "Areopagetica" and "An Essay on Divorce"--hand-outs
3 paper due on Wed.

Dec. 5-7

On Nov. 30, a series of questions given by the professor will be due on a substantial work of the Renaissance. Possible works might be Francis de Sales, Introduction to the Devout Life, St. Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises, Cervantes' Don Quixote, a Shakesperean play dealing with Renaissance issues, a play by Christopher Marlowe--or other works by authors from the syllabus or period.

Requirements:	One essay exam during semester	(20 %)
	Four shorter papers ,	(30 %)
	Review questions paper	(20 %)
	Final examination	(20%)
	Class participation	(10%)

Exams cover assigned readings some of which may not be discussed in lectures; likewise, some aspects of the lectures may not be listed on syllabus. You are responsible for lectures.

Missed assignments, papers, and tests, require a written excuse from proper authorities. No make up work will be given without these credentials. Papers are due at the beginning of class time on the due date. Late papers will only be recorded as a pass. They will not be read or turned back; however, you will be given a passing grade only for having attempted the work. This is obviously better than a zero.

Attendance policy: you should not take this course unless you plan to come to class. It would be most difficult for you to master this material sufficiently on your own. More than three absences will result in lower marks and a final grade. The same principle applies to attending and leaving class. Do not interrupt class by coming in late or leaving early. These patterns are very distracting and will not be tolerated.

You are given two excused cuts without your grade suffering adversely. More than three cuts that have not been excused will result in a final grade no better than C. Excused absences are those involving legitimate conflicts in college-related activities. Please consult with your professor about such matters well prior to your absence, as well as other problems that might arise that prevent your being in class.

The instructor is available for consultation about your work, but you should not wait until late in the semester. IF you have a problem or weakness, work on the problem early in the semester.