

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

American Popular Fiction after 1950

2. COURSE CODE

ENGL4016

3. NO. OF UNITS

3 Units

4. OFFERING DEPARTMENT

Department of English Language and Literature

5. PREREQUISITES

ENGL2007 Literary and Comparative Studies

6. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

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7. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 1) Exploring the impact of popular culture on American literature from 1950 to the present;
- 2) Examining the impact of emerging, alternative genres on the American canon during the same period;
- 3) Approaching ideologies of American exceptionalism in the specific context of the globalization of American literature, culture, and economy after 1950.

8. COURSE CONTENT

- I. The 50s: Surveillance, Alienation, Fear
- II. The 60s: Conformity, Science, Fiction
- III. The 70s: Drugs, Cultures, Resistances
- IV. The 80s and 90s: Safety, Boredom, Nostalgia
- V. The Now: Immigration, Identity, The Real/Simulacrum

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

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<u>CILO</u>	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain and evaluate effectively the classification of "American popular fiction"
CILO 2	Categorize the different political, cultural, and social paradigms of American fiction and life since World War II
CILO 3	Assess the various impacts the Cold War had on the production of popular fiction in America
CILO 4	Demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge of American fiction in alternative popular genres

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

<u>CILO alignment</u>	<u>Type of TLA</u>
CILO 1	- Complete in-class assignments to identify specific themes and issues germane to popular American fiction after 1950 - Participate in lectures and complete independent self-study
CILO 2	- Complete coursework assignments such as a midterm exam or essay on historical events in post-World War Two American history - Participate in lectures and complete independent self-study
CILO 3	- Complete in-class assignments to identify specific themes and issues germane to popular American fiction after 1950 - Complete coursework assignments such as a midterm exam or essay

11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

<u>Type of Assessment Methods</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>CILOs to be addressed</u>	<u>Description of Assessment Tasks</u>
Coursework assignments	25 %	2, 3, 4	Coursework assignments will test students' abilities to evaluate a historical event in post-World War Two American history in relation to a specific course text's representation of it. Additionally, e-pedagogy pertinent to digital humanities may also be used in the delivery of course content, including gathering and analyzing data via social media and/or other digital tools.
In-class assignments	25 %	1, 3	In-class assignments will test students' abilities to identify specific themes and issues germane to popular American fiction from 1950.
Examination	50 %	1, 2, 3, 4	Examination will assess students' understandings of the controlling issues and themes of the period. It will also test students' abilities to

		interpret how the scope of popular American fiction after World War Two has required the canon to evolve.
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