

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 3470F (001)
American Cult Classics
Fall 2019

Instructor: Professor Joshua Schuster
jschust@uwo.ca
UC 2422

Office hours: Thurs 10:30-1:30, or by
appointment

Course Location: B&GS 0153

Course Day/Time: W 1:30-3:30 pm; Th
1:30-2:30 pm

TA: Stephanie Mason (smason49@uwo.ca)
UC 3405

Office hours: W 12:30-1:30 or by
appointment

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.
Course Description

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course explores movements or genres with passionate followings and transgressive or countercultural themes. How did these cult traditions emerge and how can we explain their appeal? Topics may include religious or illicit countercultures, American gothic fiction, Beat literature, hard-boiled detective fiction, and sci fi.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

Analyze cultural works as reflective of larger ideas including nationalism, literary value, social experimentalism, and environmentalism;

Discuss and theorize cultural works using recent methods of literary and cultural scholarship;

Write an analytical essay with a research component that proposes a compelling thesis.

Course Materials

Walt Whitman, *Complete Poems* (Penguin)

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (Penguin)

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (Penguin)

Jon Krakauer, *Into the Wild* (Anchor)

(x) = copy found on OWL

(o) = onlis ✕

Methods of Evaluation

Participation	15%	
Whitman short essay	15%	(2-3 pages)
Group object research project	20%	(at least 3 pages)
Creative contribution (<i>Bon Echo Echo</i>)	10%	(any pages)
Final Paper	40%	(6 pages)

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Note: Computers are not recommended in this course.

Assignments: Late essays are not accepted. We will use OWL. Essays will be returned by OWL – be sure to read the comments.

Participation: Your participationbe rrp4 n138

November 27 - Jon Krakauer, *Into the Wild*; screen *Grizzly Man* (if time)

November 28 – discussion: *Into the Wild*; *Grizzly Man*; Lisa Korteweg and Jan Oakley “Eco-heroes Out of Place and Relations: Decolonizing the Narratives of *Into the Wild* and *Grizzly Man* through Land Education” (x); Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan “Lesbian National Parks and Services Field Guide to North America” (x)

December 4 – Whitman “Kosmos,” “Who Learns My Lesson Complete?”; install exhibit

December 5 – review

Due: final essay, Dec. 5