

ENGLISH 341/CATHOLIC STUDIES 410H: CATHOLIC LITERATURE
SPRING SEMESTER, 2008

Dr. Thomas B. Leininger, LOYOLA 32 (303) 964-5082 tleining@regis.edu
Office Hours: TTH 3-4:00; W 4:30-5:00; W 1:30-2:15; T 12:05-1:05*(Cafeteria)
Dr. Tom Reynolds, MAIN HALL 201, (303) 458-4087 treynold@regis.edu

COURSE SYLLABUS AND CALENDAR – M/W 2:30-3:45 Loyola 8

Course Questions: “The mystery will be accomplished.” (Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.)

Welcome to our encounter with a fascinating collection of modern Catholic literature. Throughout the semester, we will consider the following questions:

- What makes a work of literature “Catholic?” Are there any tensions between the literary and Catholic dimensions of literature?
- How does a “Catholic imagination” shape the way authors struggle with questions of meaning, purpose, and suffering?
- How do characters’ individual faith journeys illuminate Catholic literature?
- How is a “Catholic imagination” manifested in different genres (novels, short stories, poetry, essays)? Is this imagination different from the literary imagination in other works of literature?
- How, if at all, can good literature train us to see reality more truthfully?
- How can close textual readings develop our skills for literary analysis and critical thinking in student essays, exams, and class discussions?

Required Texts:

1. Annie Dillard – *For the Time Being*. Alfred A. Knopf
2. Graham Greene – *The Power and the Glory*. Penguin Books
3. Flannery O’Connor – *The Complete Stories*. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux
4. Mark Salzman – *Lying Awake*. Alfred A. Knopf
5. Andre Dubus – *In the Bedroom*. Vintage Books
6. Andre Dubus – *Meditations from a Movable Chair*. Vintage Books
7. Michael Harter, S.J., ed. - *Hearts on Fire: Praying with Jesuits*. Institute of Jesuit Sources

Course Format: Primarily group discussion of reading assignments. Frequent quizzes or other brief writing assignments at the start of class sessions. Occasional lectures on literary or Catholic themes. Occasional video presentations on text material or course themes.

Major Course Assignments/Grade Percentages:

*Five Essays (3-4 pages in length; each worth 12% of final course grade)

1. Analysis of elements of novel, *Lying Awake* and Michael Himes, “Finding God in All Things” (Due Feb. 1)

2. Summary and response to critical review of short stories. (Due Feb. 29)
3. Analysis of poetry selections. (Due March 20)
4. Analysis of *Power and the Glory*. (Due April 11)
5. Analysis of *For the Time Being* (Due April 28 & worth 12% of final course grade)

*Cumulative Quizzes (Worth 20% of final course grade)

*Class participation, including leading class discussions (Worth 20% of final course grade)

-Note class participation grade standards sheet

Grading Standards: Each professor will provide grading standards for those essays he assigns and grades.

Attendance Expectations/Absence Policy:

This is a course in which active presence and participation is essential. Absences from class sessions will affect the student's final course grade as follows:

- *0-4 absences—No negative effect on final semester grade
- *5 absences—Final semester grade average reduced by 5%
- *6 absences—Final semester grade average reduced by 10%
- *7 absences—Final semester grade average reduced by 25%
- *8 or more absences—Failing course grade for the semester. Note: Under no circumstance will a student be allowed to pass the class with 8 or more absences, whether or not they involve University business or other reasons.

Absences due to University business (e.g. Academic field trips, athletic or forensic team travel, etc.) will not count against the absence total if I have been alerted at the beginning of the semester before the travel takes place.

Students who miss a class session for any reason are still responsible for the assignments, handouts or material covered during that session.

Students who miss significant class time by leaving early or arriving late will be counted as absent for that session.

Late or Missed Assignments:

Tardy work is bad form, so please submit your work on time. If you miss the deadline for an essay, you will lose 10% of the grade for the first week it is late, after which time the assignment will earn a zero. (In other words, a paper due on Friday the 1st will lose 10% of the grade until Friday the 8th. After the 8th, the paper earns a zero.) *Note: the final essay will earn a zero after 5pm on April 30.*

Quizzes cannot be made up unless the student is absent on University business or as the result of a medical or family emergency. (We need to be in-

formed of these absences **before** the absence, and such absences still count against the total.) Students who come late to class after a quiz is concluded will not be permitted to make it up.

Incomplete Grades for the Semester: Only in the event of a major medical or family emergency. In addition, no incomplete grade will be granted unless the student has attended at least 80% of the class sessions and completed 80% of the course work before the end of the semester. The office of the Academic Dean must approve all requests for Incomplete grades.

Essay/Exam Presentation Format: All essays and exams should be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins, and prepared using a 12 point font size.

Plagiarism: Evidence that an assignment, or a portion of an assignment, is not the student's own work and has been submitted without proper citations, will result in a grade of **O** for that assignment. A second occurrence during the semester will result in a failing grade for the course. As this is a 300-level course, we expect all students to be familiar with the academic standards for borrowing and citing external sources. If you have any doubts about how to meet these standards, see us for clarification prior to submitting an essay.

Learning Accommodation Needs: If you are a student with a disability and you need accommodations for this course, please document your disability and discuss necessary accommodations with Joie Williams, Director of Disability Services, (Carroll Hall 225, 458-4941). Also, please meet with me during the first week of the semester to inform me of your learning needs.

Course Withdrawal: Last day to drop course: **1/22/08**; Last day to withdraw: **3/21/08**

Class Participation Standards

A/A- (90-100%)

- Consistently participates in class discussions voluntarily
- Offers thoughtful, stimulating comments and responds to instructor questions with excellent knowledge of the text material
- Listens attentively and respectfully to others in a way that encourages participation of all

B+/B/B- (80-89%)

- Sometimes participates in class discussions voluntarily
- Offers thoughtful comments and responds to instructor questions with very good knowledge of text material
- Listens attentively and respectfully to others in a way that encourages participation of all

C+/C/C- (70-79%)

- Rarely contributes to class discussions unless called on by instructor
- Sometimes able to answer instructor questions in class with basic knowledge of text material
- Shows signs of paying attention to class discussions

D+/D/D- (60-69%)

- Rarely contributes to class discussions unless called on by instructor
- Often unable to answer instructor questions in class
- Frequently late or absent; often doesn't pay attention

F (<60%)

- Rarely talks; frequent class absences

Factors that detract from class participation grade:

- Frequent absences, late appearances or early departures in class
- Failure to respect other students' right to speak their views
- Starting side conversations in class; changing discussion to topics not relevant to the course content; use of cell phones, video games or other unrelated activities during class.
- Missing assigned presentation times; failure to submit essay outlines or articles, as assigned

Course Calendar for Spring, 2008

| Date | Class Activities/Readings | Assignment |
|------------------|---|---|
| Jan. 14 | Course Introduction/overview Dubus: "Bastille Day" | ----- |
| Jan. 16 | Lecture: Catholic Imagination Dubus, <i>Meditations</i> : "About Kathryn" Dubus, <i>In the Bedroom</i> : "A Father's Story" | Quiz 1 |
| Jan. 21 | Martin Luther King Holiday | ----- |
| Jan. 23 | Salzman: <i>Lying Awake</i> , (1-69) Lecture: Elements of the Novel | Quiz 2 |
| Jan. 28 | <i>Lying Awake</i> , (70-143) | Quiz 3 |
| Jan. 30 | <i>Lying Awake</i> , (144-81); E-Reserve (ER) (PW:" EN341L"): Himes, "Finding God . . .," 91-96; Course Website (CW): Himes: Catholic Worldview (Intro, 1-2) -Essay planning | Quiz 4 |
| Feb. 1(Friday) | ----- | Essay No.1 due |
| Feb. 4 | O'Connor: "A Good Man is Hard To Find"; ER : Himes, 96-98; CW : Himes, Catholic Worldview (3-6) Lecture: Elements of the Short Story | Quiz 5 |
| Feb. 6 | O'Connor: "The Life You Save. . ." ER : Himes, 98-102; CW : Himes, Catholic Worldview (7-12) | Quiz 6 |
| Feb. 11 | O'Connor: "Displaced Person" Video clip: "Displaced Person" | Quiz 7 |
| Feb. 13 | O'Connor: "Temple of the Holy Ghost" | Quiz 8 |
| Feb. 18 | O'Connor: "Revelation" | Quiz 9 |
| Feb. 20 | Dubus: <i>In the Bedroom</i> : "Rose" Guest: Dr. Bowie | Quiz 10 |
| Feb. 25 | Dubus, <i>Meditations</i> : "Grace" & "Sacraments" Disc. Leader: Dr. Leininger | Quiz 11 |
| Feb. 27 | Dubus: <i>In the Bedroom</i> : "All the Time in the World" -Essay Planning | Quiz 12 |
| Feb. 29 (Friday) | ----- | Essay outline due Essay No. 2 due |
| March 3 | Spring Break | |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------------|
| March 5 | Spring Break | |
| March 10 | Lecture: Elements of Catholic Poetry | ----- |
| March 12 | The poetry of Hopkins | Quiz 13 |
| March 17 | Jesuit poetry and prayer -Guest poets -Essay planning | Quiz 14 |
| March 19 | Dubus, <i>Meditations</i> : “Bodily Mysteries,” “Girls,” & “Love in the Morning” Guest: Dr. Bowie | Quiz 15 |
| March 20(Thursday) | ----- | Essay No. 3 due |
| March 24 | Dubus, <i>Meditations</i> : “Communion” & “Witness” | Quiz 16 |
| March 26 | Greene: <i>Power and the Glory</i> (7-38) | Quiz 17 |
| March 31 | <i>Power and the Glory</i> (38-121) | Quiz 18 |
| April 2 | <i>Power and the Glory</i> (122-160) | Quiz 19 |
| April 7 | <i>Power and the Glory</i> (161-222) | Quiz 20 |
| April 9 | Dillard: <i>For the Time Being</i> (1-2) Guest: Dr. Bowie (tentative) | Quiz 21 |
| April 11 | ----- | Essay No. 4 due |
| April 14 | <i>For the Time Being</i> (3-4) | Quiz 22 |
| April 16 | <i>For the Time Being</i> (5-6) | Quiz 23 |
| April 21 | <i>For the Time Being</i> (7) Guest: Dr. Bowie | Quiz 24 |
| April 23 | Concluding discussions -Final paper preparation/course evaluation | |
| Exam Week: | Final Paper Due: Monday, April 28 @ 5pm in Dr. Leininger’s box in Loyola 32 (<i>Late essays will not be accepted after 5pm on Wed., April 30.</i>) | |

Supplemental Readings/Assignments for Catholic Studies 410H students:

1. Weekly Meetings Outside of Class. All CAS 410H students need to meet together at a regular time once each week for at least twenty minutes to share and extend class discussions and learning with Jessica Carrico who will not be able to attend class **and** to discuss the supplemental readings/assignments with each other. (If possible please meet right after the EN 341 class ends on M or W).
2. Essay No. 1. Read the novel, *Mariette in Ecstasy*, by Ron Hansen. Compare it to *Lying Awake*, including the following themes:
 - *The mystical encounter with God experienced by each main character
 - *How their understanding of their own vocation/calling changed in the novel
 - *How they affected their religious communities and how those communities responded to them.
 - *How medical science in their day responded to their mystical experience (This essay should be 5-8 pages in length and replaces Essay No. 1 for EN 341.)
3. Essay No. 2. Same assignment as EN 341 except 5-8 pages in length.
4. Essay No. 3. Attend session during Regis Hopkins conference and incorporate material into essay No. 3 essay on Catholic poetry. Student should plan to include significant analysis on at least three Hopkins' poems into essay along with conference session material. (Essay should be 5-8 pages in length and replaces Essay No. 3 for EN 341.)
5. Essay No. 4. Read *Mr. Ives' Christmas* by Oscar Hijuelos. Write an essay comparing its theme to those of two stories by Andre Dubus, ("Killings" and "A Father's Story"). In the essay, discuss the different responses of the four fathers to the tragedies experienced in their families. How do Catholic Social Teachings on the consistent ethic of life affect the themes of the stories? (This essay should be 5-8 pages in length and replaces Essay No. 4 in the EN 341 schedule. Students will also meet with the instructor to discuss *Mr. Ives' Christmas* during the first week after spring break, so they should plan to have read the novel by that time.)
6. Essay No. 5. Same assignment as EN 341 except 5-8 pages in length and incorporate at least one of the supplemental authors for CAS 410H in your analysis of *For the Time Being*.

Note: CAS 410 Students Grading Percentages:

*Essays—Each worth 12% of final grade. Quizzes and participation 20% each. (CAS 410 students will also have additional meetings with each other and with the instructor to discuss the extra readings. Your attendance at and contributions to these meetings will be included in your class participation grade.)

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS IN CATHOLIC LITERATURE**Novels:**

Anaya, Rudolfo. *Bless Me, Ultima*. New York: Warner Books, 1972.

*Examines the mingling of Catholic and Native American traditions in New Mexico. Classic of southwestern and Latino fiction.

Bernanos, Georges. *The Diary of a Country Priest*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1937. A classic of Catholic fiction in the twentieth century. Explores the fears and spiritual journey of a young French parish priest.

Cather, Willa. *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. New York: Vintage Classics, 1927. *Classic fictional version of the lives of the actual Archbishop Lamy of Santa Fe and Bishop Machbeuf of Denver.

Dunne, John Gregory. *True Confessions*. New York: Pocket Books, 1977

*Murder mystery set in 1940's Los Angeles where two Irish Catholic brothers, one a police detective, the other a prominent priest in the archdiocese, come into conflict. Later a film with Robert DeNiro and Robert Duvall.

Hansen, Ron. *Atticus*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1996.

*Modern re-telling of the Prodigal Son parable in contemporary Colorado and Mexico.

Mariette in Ecstasy. New York: Harper Perennial, 1991.

*A young nun experiences the mystery of the stigmata in a 1906 cloistered convent.

Hijuelos, Oscar. *Mr. Ives' Christmas*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1995

*A New York businessman's life is shattered when his son is murdered and he must decide how to respond to the murderer.

McDermott, Alice. *Charming Billy*. New York: Delta Paperbacks, 1998

*National Book Award winner. Examines Irish-American experience

O'Connor, Flannery. *Wise Blood*(1949) and *The Violent Bear It Away*(1955), both published by Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, New York

*Classics of Catholic and Southern fiction.

Percy, Walker. *The Moviegoer*. New York: Vintage Books, 1960

*National Book Award winner. Follows a journey of a restless non-believer toward a personal faith commitment.

Powers, J.F. *Morte d'Urban*. New York: Doubleday, 1961

*National Book Award winner. Examines the inner struggles of a priest to renew his sense of calling to his ministry.

Waugh, Evelyn. *Brideshead Revisited*. New York: Doubleday, 1932

*Waugh's story of the decline of the aristocratic Marchmain family in England and the gradual return to faith by the son, Sebastian, and his Father, Lord Marchmain.

Short Story Collections:

Dubus, Andre. *Dancing After Hours*. New York: Vintage Books, 1996

In the Bedroom. New York: Vintage, 2002. (Includes the story "Killings," the basis for the 2001 film, *In the Bedroom*.)

O'Connor, Frank. *Collected Stories*. New York: Vintage Books, 1982

*Explores Catholic culture in early 20th Century Ireland. See especially the story, "First Confession."

Powers, J.F. *The Stories of J.F. Powers*. New York: New York Review of Books, 2000

Plays:

Bolt, Robert. *A Man for All Seasons*. The classic drama of the confrontation between St. Thomas More and King Henry VIII during the split of the Church of England from Rome.

Eliot, T.S. *Murder in the Cathedral*. Eliot's play in verse examines the conflict between the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Beckett, and King Henry II of England.

Essay Collections/ Other Non-Fiction:

Dubus, Andre: *Meditations From a Moveable Chair*. New York: Vintage Books, 1998.

Greeley, Andrew. *The Catholic Imagination*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.

Hansen, Ron. *A Stay Against Confusion*. New York: Harper Collins, 2001.
*See especially the essays, "Faith and Fiction" and "Writing as Sacrament."

O'Connor, Flannery. *Mystery and Manners*. New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1961. *See especially, "The Church and the Fiction Writer" and "Novelist and Believer."

Prejean, Helen. *Dead Man Walking*. New York: Random House, 1993.

Tobin, Greg, ed. *Saints and Sinners: The American Catholic Experience Through Stories, Memoirs, Essays, and Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1999.

Poetry Anthologies:

Craig, David and McCann, Janet, ed. *Places of Passage: Contemporary Catholic Poetry*. Ashland: Story Line Press, 2000.

McDonnell, Thomas, ed. *Classic Catholic Poetry*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1988.