COURSE TITLE: Year 2 American Tradition

CODE & SECTION
BASC 64233 20S

LENGTH OF COURSE: 10 WEEKS
March 31 – June 2, 2020

CLASS LOCATION
Gleacher Center- Concourse Level
450 N. Cityfront Plaza
Chicago, IL 60611

INSTRUCTOR: Kendall Sharp
EMAIL: krsharp@uchicago.edu

PREREQUISITES
At least 2 years of the Basic Program, Basic Program American Tradition Sequence Year 1 and the Autumn and Winter Quarters of Year 2.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Students should register before the course begins.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
From its founding – and even before – America was as much idea, or grand arena of conflict of ideas, as it was geography or state: democracy, religious fulfillment and toleration, opportunity, pursuit of individual happiness, self-reliance, and perhaps freedom above all. America's history is the history of struggles over the meanings and implications of these ideals and their collision with terrible American realities – slavery, oppression, exclusion of minorities, exploitation and destruction of native populations, capitalist and imperialist excesses, the cultures of consumption, narcissism, and fantasy.

REQUIRED TEXTS
<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>TEXT/READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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| Week 1 | Willa Cather   | **NOTE:** Please HAVE READ THRU section indicated before each class  
My Antonia  
“The Hired Girls” - Chapter VI  p. 136 |
| Week 2 | Willa Cather   | My Antonia  
Through conclusion |
| Week 3 | Eugene O’Neill | Mourning Becomes Electra  
Part One: Homecoming |
| Week 4 | Eugene O’Neill | Mourning Becomes Electra  
Part Two: The Hunted |
| Week 5 | Eugene O’Neill | Mourning Becomes Electra  
Part Three: The Haunted |
| Week 6 | James Baldwin  | The Fire Next Time  
“Down at the Cross: Letter from a Region of My Mind” through the line “If God cannot do this, then it is time we got rid of Him.” P. 47 |
| Week 7 | James Baldwin  | The Fire Next Time  
Through conclusion |
| Week 8 | Reinhold Niebuhr | The Irony of American History  
Through Chapter II “The Innocent Nation in an Innocent World” |
| Week 9 | Reinhold Niebuhr | The Irony of American History  
Through Chapter V “The Triumph of Experience Over Dogma” |
| Week 10| Reinhold Niebuhr| The Irony of American History  
Through Chapter VIII “The Significance of Irony”  
Discussion and Overview |

This syllabus is a summary of course objectives and content, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

DISABILITY INFORMATION
Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.