BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS
Spring 2020 -
American Tradition Sequence - Year 2 Seminar
Willa Cather, Eugene O’Neill, James Baldwin, Reinhold Niebuhr

COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE: Year 2 American Tradition</th>
<th>CODE &amp; SECTION</th>
<th>LENGTH OF COURSE: 10 WEEKS</th>
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<tr>
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<td>BASC 64233 20S1</td>
<td>March 31 – June 2, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<th>COURSE SCHEDULE</th>
<th>CLASS LOCATION</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR: Claudia Traudt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAYS: Tuesdays</td>
<td>Gleacher Center- Concourse Level</td>
<td>PHONE: 312-925-3778</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIMES: 9:30 AM -12:45 PM</td>
<td>450 N. Cityfront Plaza</td>
<td>EMAIL: <a href="mailto:ctraudt@uchicago.edu">ctraudt@uchicago.edu</a></td>
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<td>Chicago, IL 60611</td>
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GRAHAM SCHOOL INFORMATION

PHONE: 773.702.1722       WEBSITE: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu

PREREQUISITES
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
# WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

<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.