**BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS**

**THE GRAHAM SCHOOL OF CONTINUING LIBERAL AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

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**INSTRUCTOR**
Katia Mitova

**DATES AND TIMES**
COURSE LENGTH: Ten weeks
DATES: Sept. 28 - Dec. 7
DAY OF THE WEEK: Wednesday
TIMES: 9:30 AM – 12:45 PM CST

**LOCATION**
ONLINE. Please make sure to accept your Canvas invitation as soon as you receive it.

**EMAIL:** kmitova@uchicago.edu
(The instructor can be contacted through a Canvas message as well.)

**COURSE CODE and SECTION:** BASC70163 22A1

**PREREQUISITES:**
Two years of the Basic Program

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Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit [https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts](https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts) to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is meant to prepare us for a delightfully challenging two-quarter adventure (Winter and Spring 2023) – diving into David Foster Wallace’s gigantic *Infinite Jest* (1996). We'll discuss Wallace’s seminal works preceding and following *Infinite Jest*. We begin with Wallace’s entertaining first novel, *The Broom of the System* (1987), whose endearingly vulnerable characters evoke laughter, sympathy, and concern about the future of humanity. We’ll continue with a representative selection of short stories from *Girl with Curious Hair* (1996) and *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* (1999) as well as essays from *A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again* (1997), *Consider the Lobster* (2005), and *Both Flesh and Not* (2012). Finally, we will tackle Wallace’s unfinished novel, *The Pale King* (2011), about the IRS and the nature of boredom.

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**REQUIRED BOOKS**


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**RECOMMENDED BOOKS** (links and handouts to the selected essays are available in Canvas)


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**RECOMMENDED BIOGRAPHY**


Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at [https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks](https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks) using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.
# WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

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<th>DAY</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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| WEEK 1    | Wallace| ESSAYS: “This is Water” AUDIO (2005) and “The Nature of the Fun” (1998)  
*The Broom of the System*: Part 1, Chs 1-7 (pp. 3-115) |
| 9/26      | Wallace| *The Broom of the System*: Part 1, Chs 8-11 (pp. 116-254) |
| WEEK 2    | Wallace| *The Broom of the System*: Part 2, Chs 12-16 (pp. 257-361) |
| 10/12     | Wallace| *The Broom of the System*: Part 2, Chs 17-21 (pp. 362-467) |
| WEEK 3    | Wallace| SHORT STORIES: “Little Expressionless Animals” and “My Appearance” in *Girl with Curious Hair* (pp. 3-42; 175-201)  
ESSAYS: “Some Remarks on Kafka’s Funniness...” and “Consider the Lobster” in *Consider the Lobster* (pp. 60-65; 235-254) |
| 10/26     | Wallace| SHORT STORIES: “Forever Overhead” and “Brief Interviews with Hideous Men” in *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* (pp. 5-16; 287-318)  
ESSAYS: “E Unibus Pluram: Television and U.S. Fiction” in *A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again* (pp. 21-82) and “Federer Both Flesh and Not” in *Both Flesh and Not* (pp. 5-36) |
| WEEK 4    | Wallace| *The Pale King*: Editor’s Note (pp. ix-xiv); Chs 1-16 (pp. 5-128)  
Read the notes on pp. 541-542 |
| 10/19     | Wallace| *The Pale King*: Chs 17-24 (pp. 129-257)  
Read the notes on pp. 542-544 |
| WEEK 5    | Wallace| *The Pale King*: Chs 24-36 (pp. 258-409)  
Read the notes on pp. 544-546 |
| 10/26     | Wallace| *The Pale King*: Chs 37-50 (pp. 410-540)  
Read the notes on pp. 546-549 |
| WEEK 6    | Wallace| |
| 11/2      | Wallace| |
| WEEK 7    | Wallace| |
| 11/9      | Wallace| |
| WEEK 8    | Wallace| |
| 11/18     | Wallace| |
| WEEK 9    | Wallace| |
| 11/30     | Wallace| |
| WEEK 10   | Wallace| |
| 12/7      | Wallace| |

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

**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.