

# MAJOR AUTHORS

## CATHER, STEINBECK, FAULKNER

English 370R

### Course Objectives and Procedures

Major Authors introduces students to literary masters who write and contribute to our literary tradition. Our course will focus on three significant modern American authors: Willa Cather, John Steinbeck, and William Faulkner. In our study of them and their writings, we will use the fundamental tools of literary interpretation in the discussion, analysis, and evaluation of their representative literature. We will incorporate some principal interpretative theories: formalism, psychological, gender studies, reader-response, new historicism, and ecocriticism. Each of these theories will provide specific insights into literary texts that invite analysis from many different perspectives. We will also engage in thoughtful writing and dialogue to arrive at a richer understanding of the literary tradition of the American Immigrant.

#### □ Course Goals

- Apply BYU-Idaho Learning Model to prepare, teach one another, and ponder/prove.
- Understand and appreciate how literary elements work within a text.
- Explore critical theories that inform the ways experienced readers respond to literature.
- Apply literary elements and critical theories to personal interpretations of literature.

#### □ Texts

We will focus on representative works of Willa Cather, John Steinbeck, and William Faulkner. Students may choose any edition of these works.

##### Willa Cather

Cather, Willa. *Cather: Early Novels and Stories, 1905-1918*. New York: Library of America, 1999. Print.

This collection has the following collection of Cather's short stories and novels: *The Troll Garden*, *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark*, and *My Ántonia*.

Cather, Willa. *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. New York: Vintage, 1990. Print.

Choose *My Ántonia* **OR** *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. I recommend you read the one you haven't read before.

##### John Steinbeck

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*. New York: Penguin, 2006. Print.

Steinbeck, John. *The Short Novels of John Steinbeck*. New York: Penguin, 2009. Print.

This collection has the following John Steinbeck short novels: *The Moon is Down*, *Tortilla Flat*, *Red Pony*, *Cannery Row*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Pearl*.

##### William Faulkner

Faulkner, William. *Absalom, Absalom!* New York: Vintage, 1991. Print.

Faulkner, William. *Light in August*. New York: Vintage, 1991. Print.

Faulkner, William. *Collected Stories of William Faulkner*. Vintage, 1995. Print.

#### □ Organization of English 370R

English 370R has the following major assignments:

##### *Spori Literary Review* Articles

Students will write three analytical insight articles for the mock class magazine *Spori Literary Review*. Each article will be 750-1000 words). The articles demonstrate critical analysis directed towards a non-academic audience. Each article is 100 points (300 points total).

These articles can be written with a partner. These articles will become a class magazine representing students' interactions with the literature.

### **Critical Literary Annotated Bibliography**

Students will read scholarly criticism on any of the works we read for class. Students will write an annotated bibliography entry (150 words) on each article.

Students will combine five annotated bibliography entries three times a semester. These bibliographies can be written with a partner. (10 points for each entry—150 points total).

### **Literary Discussion Questions**

For every class period, each student will generate from that day's readings a total of 5 discussion questions. These questions will be a combination of factual, interpretive, and evaluative questioning. These questions will start each class activity. Students will assemble these questions into a packet to submit at three times a semester (5 points for each day's questions).

### **Quizzes**

Nearly every class period a brief oral quiz will check the reading for that day. These quizzes cannot be made up or taken late (5 points for each day's quiz).

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS NOT ACCEPTED**

#### **Grading and Evaluation**

The teacher will evaluate all formal assignments and comment on what works well and offer suggestions for improvement. The teacher will assign a letter grade and record a number grade in the roll book. Most often the number grade follows the breakdown below

A = 95%	C = 75%
A- = 92%	C- = 72%
B+ = 88%	D+ = 68%
B = 85%	D = 65%
B- = 82%	D- = 62%
C+ = 78%	F = 59%

The teacher reserves the right to slightly alter the number points depending on the student's performance. For example, instead of recording a 92% for an A-, the teacher may record a 90%.

#### **Teacher Conferencing**

Most student questions and concerns are handled in the classroom through class or individual discussion. Students may schedule an appointment with the teacher for more extended conferencing. Rarely will the

teacher read an entire document during a conference but rather will assist the student in identifying the writing frustration and in developing options to solve the communication problems.

Students who wish to confer with the teacher about a graded paper must meet the following two conditions (there are no rewrite options to improve a graded assignment):

1. Wait 24 hours before making an appointment with the teacher.
2. Come to the appointment with a list of suggestions to improve the paper. The teacher will discuss those options with the student.

#### **Attendance Requirements**

The student has the responsibility to attend class and to be prepared for class. If the student misses class, the student should contact the teacher out of courtesy via office phone-mail or email **prior** to class.

This is a highly interactive course. The success of this course and your individual success depends on your regular presence and promptness, your thorough preparation for class, and your active participation within class. You may have **three class absences without a grade penalty**.

*Please note: I make no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absence. You are responsible for saving your absence leave to accommodate unexpected illness or personal / family need.*

Excessive absence will result in *deduction from final average of 1 percentage point per hour of absence over the limit*. If you miss more than four class periods, you will not be able to earn an A in the course. If you miss more than six class periods, the highest grade you can earn in the course is a C. If you miss eight or more classes, you will earn an F in the course.

At the end of the semester, if you have **perfect attendance**, you will have a **bonus of 1 percentage point added to your final average**.

#### **E-mail**

Students must have access to BYU-Idaho e-mail. If students prefer other email servers, students should arrange with their carriers to forward their campus email directly to them.

□ **Academic Honesty**

“BYU-Idaho students should seek to be totally honest in all their dealings. They should complete their own work and be evaluated for that work. They should avoid academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, cheating, and other academic misconduct.”

This course will adhere to procedures for handling incidents of academic dishonesty found in the *BYU-Idaho Catalog, 2010-2011*, p. 68. See catalog for full discussion of Academic Dishonesty, pp. 68-69.

□ **Special Limitations**

To accommodate students with special learning, physical, emotional, mental, social, or other limitations, the student must notify the teacher the first week of class. By law, BYU-Idaho is only required to assist those students who make these issues known during the first week.

□ **Course Content**

If students find an assigned reading offensive or objectionable for any reason, students have the option to choose the other reading.

□ **Caveat**

The teacher reserves the right to make changes in course content and policy at any time during the semester.

**MAJOR AUTHORS**  
**CATHER, STEINBECK, FAULKNER**  
**ENGLISH 370R:1**  
**R. KELLER**  
**SPRING 2011**

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Apr 20 W Introduction to English 370R  
Cather, “The Sculptor’s Funeral,” 34

22 F Cather, “A Death in the Desert,” 61  
Cather, “Paul’s Case,” 111

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**Lesson 1—Willa Cather**

25 M *O Pioneers!*

27 W *O Pioneers!*

29 F *O Pioneers!*

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**Lesson 2—John Steinbeck**

May 2 M *The Moon is Down* **OR** *Tortilla Flat*

4 W *The Moon is Down* **OR** *Tortilla Flat*

6 F *The Moon is Down* **OR** *Tortilla Flat*

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**Lesson 3—William Faulkner**

9 M Faulkner, “Barn Burning,” 3  
Faulkner, “Bear Hunt,” 63

11 W Faulkner, “Two Soldiers,” 81  
Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily,” 119

13 F Faulkner, “Dry September,” 169  
Faulkner, “Mule in the Yard,” 249

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**Lesson 4—Willa Cather**

16 M *The Song of the Lark*

18 W *The Song of the Lark*

20 F *The Song of the Lark*

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**Lesson 5—Willa Cather and John Steinbeck**

23 M **Article 1 Due**  
*The Song of the Lark*

25 W *Cannery Row* **OR** *Red Pony*

27 F **Discussion Questions I Due**  
*Cannery Row* **OR** *Red Pony*

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**Lesson 6—William Faulkner**

30 M Memorial Day (no classes)

Jun 1 W **Annotated Bibliography I Due**  
*Light in August*3 F *Light in August***Lesson 7—William Faulkner**6 M *Light in August*8 W *Light in August*10 F *Light in August***Lesson 8---Willa Cather**13 M *My Ántonia* **OR**  
*Death Comes for the Archbishop*15 W *My Ántonia* **OR**  
*Death Comes for the Archbishop*17 F *My Ántonia* **OR**  
*Death Comes for the Archbishop***Lesson 9—John Steinbeck**20 M **Annotated Bibliography 2 Due**  
*The Grapes of Wrath*22 W **Discussion Questions 2 Due**  
*The Grapes of Wrath*24 F Article 2 Draft Due  
*The Grapes of Wrath***Lesson 10—John Steinbeck**27 M **Article 2 Due**  
*The Grapes of Wrath*29 W *The Grapes of Wrath*Jul 1 F *The Grapes of Wrath***Lesson 11—William Faulkner**

4 M Independence Day (no class)

6 W *Absalom, Absalom!*8 F Article 3 Draft Due  
*Absalom, Absalom!***Lesson 12—William Faulkner and John Steinbeck**11 M **Annotated Bibliography 3 Due**  
*Absalom, Absalom!*13 W **Article 3 Due**  
*Of Mice and Men* **OR** *The Pearl*15 F **Discussion Questions 3 Due**  
*Of Mice and Men* **OR** *The Pearl***Week 13**18 M Faulkner, "That Evening Sun," 289  
Faulkner, "Red Leaves," 31320 W Faulkner, "Golden Land," 701  
Review for Final

22 TH Final (5:30-7:00 p.m.)