***University Of Jerash***

***Department of English Language and Literature***

***American Novel Course***

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| Dr. Rasha Maqableh  Semester: Fall 2020- 2021 |

**Course Description**:

The goal of this course is to help you engage with American literature through reading a wide variety of American novels by three major American writers. The course focuses primarily on novels of the 20th and 21 centuries, and it aims at establishing the works in their historical, social and political contexts.By means of close reading and historical contextualization, we will investigate how these authors imagine and represent Americanness. We will also explore the possibilities and limits of the novel form and how are they tied to personal and collective identities; and we will ask how major American writers construct (or deconstruct) the categories of race, class, and gender.

**Course Goals:**

In this course you’ll be required to perform lots of analysis and close reading. In other words, you’ll be doing more than simply restating ―WHAT‖ the text says. Rather, you’ll be attempting to unpack the text by examining specific words, phrases, images, symbols, characters, etc. Your analysis and close readings will help you to understand and explain the more complicated interwoven meanings that lie beneath the surface. You’ll also be required to place texts into dialogue with one another, and to begin to make connections between abstract ideas and their literary representations.

**Required Texts:**

Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes were Watching God (1937)*

Jamica Kinkaid: *Lucy (1990)*

Don DeLillo: *Falling Man (2007)*

**Course Policies**:

1. You are allowed up to **6** absences. If you exceed this number, you will fail the class.
2. Tardiness will not be tolerated. If you come to class after I take attendance, you are welcome to attend but you will be considered **absent**.
3. No Make-up exams, no exceptions.
4. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that will result in your failing the class. Learning Spark notes by heart and repeating the information word by word in the exam is a type of plagiarism.
5. Participation is an essential part of the course work. It does not merely mean coming to class; it involves preparing beforehand and playing an active role in class discussion. Participation accounts for 10% of course grade.

**Evaluation:**

Midterm Exam: 25%

Participation / Assignment/ Quizzes: 25%

Final Exam: 50%