

Eng. 200 //\\ 92873

**Body/Art**

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**Fall Semester 2015**

**Professor Gregory Castle**

E-mail:dedalus@asu.edu

Office: LL 202A; Ph. 965-0856

MW 3:00-4:15 \* LL 148

Off. Hrs: M 1-3 pm& by appt.

**Course Description**

This course will explore “body/art” (body and art, body as art) in a variety of genres (drama, poetry, fiction, painting, sculpture, film) as it develops over 2500 years of literary expression. We will study the relationship between bodies and artistic representation, from ancient Greece to the present. We will move from considerations of the body as symbolic of state power (in Sophocles *Antigone*), through various representations of the body (as object of violence, of sexual desire, of personal expression) in American literature. The course concludes with Don Delillo’s *Body Artist*, which explores the conjunction of the body and the art of storytelling—a conjunction found elsewhere in contemporary practices of body modification and Alison Bechdel’s *Fun House*, which uses the graphic novel form to explore issues of body image, gender, and queer sexuality.

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**Course Objectives**

The goal of this course is to sharpen students’ abilities to analyze and interpret literary texts, specifically to develop the skills necessary for upper-division courses in literature. While the course is designed for the English major, non-majors will benefit from achieving the following objectives:

* to learn the chief characteristics of different literary genres (e.g., fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction);
* to learn the basic vocabulary of literary analysis
* to learn the basic competency skills in terms of the mechanics of written rhetorical argument about literature and culture;
* to learn basic research skills (including citation and bibliographic format);
* to read literary texts of all kinds with sensitivity and openmindedness.

**ASSIGNED TEXTS**

Sophocles, *Antigone* (Oxford UP 1990)

Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Simon & Schuster 2003)

Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll’s House* (Prestwick House 2005)

Beckett, *Endgame* (Grove 2009)

Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (Vintage 1991)

Nella Larsen, *Passing* (Penguin 1997)

Nabokov, *Lolita* (Vintage 1989)

Don DeLillo, *The Body Artist* (Scribner 2002)

Alison Bechdel, *Fun House: A Family Tragicomic* (Mariner 2006)

ASU *Guide to Style*: <http://www.public.asu.edu/~dedalus/guidetostyle/index.html>.

Plus additional texts as listed below in the itinerary, available on Blackboard.

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# Course Assignments and Policies

**Assignments.** All students will be asked to complete the following assignments. Failure to turn in *any assignment or to take any examination* will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or course. All assignments will posted on Blackboard.

Four short papers (4-5 pp) 50 pts each

Participation 50 pts

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Total 250 pts

**Papers.** Format for term: Times New Roman font (12pt); please double space, using standard margins (1” top/bottom, 1.25” left/right). *No cover sheets*. For paper setup, citation and bibliographic format, please follow ASU *Guide to Style* (based on MLA format). Hard copies of your papers are due **in class** on the date specified on the course itinerary; please send an electronic copy via email to dedalus@asu.edu. Late papers will be docked 5 pts per day late

For more information about paper format and construction, citation guidelines and matters of style, consult the ASU *Guide to Style*: <http://www.public.asu.edu/~dedalus/guidetostyle/index.html>. Additional citation and bibliographic information can also be found in the MLA *Handbook for Writers* (Hayden Ref. LB 2369 G53 2003).

***Please note:*** The ASU *Guide to Style* is a required text

**Participation.** In-class participation (50 pts) is satisfied by a number of things, including taking part in class discussion, acquiring appropriate text books and bringing them to class, taking notes, attending office hours, and turning assignments in on time. *Note*: not everyone needs to do all these things well all at once. But they are the factors that help me determine the “class participation” portion of the overall grade.

**Attendance and Class Decorum.**ttendance, of course, is mandatory. Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences; excused absences beyond this limit are considered on a case-by-case basis and must be documented. (Doctor’s notes must be produced immediately after the absence in question and must indicate a specific and sufficient reason for missing class. Whenever possible, notify me via e-mail if you are going to claim an *excused* absence.) Excessive absence and habitual tardiness can lead to a failing grade.

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a college classroom. *Please do not use laptops, tablets, cellphones, ipods and other electronic devices during class*. lease refrain from leaving the room during class time; if you know you must leave early, alert the instructor and sit near the door.

On the use of laptops in class, please see this article from the *Chronicle of Higher Education*: <http://chronicle.com/blogs/linguafranca/2014/08/25/why-im-asking-you-not-to-use-laptops/>

**Note:** ASU policy states that email is an official means of communication and that students are responsible for checking it. See: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm107-03.html>

**Establishing Eligibility for Disability Accommodations:** Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Students should contact the Disability Resource Center on the campus that your class is being held. Campus-specific [location and contact information](https://eoss.asu.edu/drc/contactus) can be found on the DRC website. DRC offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday. Check the [DRC website](http://eoss.asu.edu/drc) for eligibility and documentation policies

**Caveat Emptor.** Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism and copying)will not be tolerated. Plagiarism means “using another's words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately.”  See ASU *Student Academic Integrity Policy* (p. 2 §H and p. 8): <https://provost.asu.edu/sites/default/files/AcademicIntegrityPolicyPDF.pdf> and on Blackboard.

*Nota Bene*.No tape recording for any reason (without prior permission) or notetaking for commercial use allowed.

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**Course Itinerary**

All readings should be completed *before* the class period in which they are discussed. Please bring your books to each class period.

# Week One

Mon. 8/24 Course Introduction

Wed. 8/26 Principles of reading and interpretation

# Week Two

Mon. 8/31 Sophocles, *Antigone*

Wed. 9/2 Sophocles, *Antigone*

# Week Three

Mon. 9/7 *Labor Day—No class*

Wed. 9/9 Sophocles, *Antigone*

# Week Four

Mon. 9/14 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Wed. 9/16 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

# Week Five

Mon. 9/21 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Wed. 9/23 Sonnets—from Petrarch to the present

**PAPER ONE DUE**

# Week Six

Mon. 9/28 Poetry (17th-18th centuries)

Wed. 9/30 Poetry (19th centuries)

**Week Seven**

Mon. 10/5 Continue Poetry

Wed. 10/7 Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll’s House*

**Week Eight**

Mon. 10/12 *Fall Break—No class*

Wed. 10/14 Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll’s House*

**Week Nine**

Mon. 10/19 Modernist poetry: Yeats, HD, Williams, Eliot

Wed. 10/21 Continue Poetry

**PAPER TWO DUE**

# Week Ten

Mon. 10/26 Continue Poetry

Wed. 10/28 Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

# Week Eleven

Mon. 11/2 Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

Wed. 11/4 Larsen, *Passing*

# Week Twelve

Mon. 11/9 Larsen, *Passing*

Wed 11/11 *Veterans Day—No class*

# Week Thirteen

Mon. 11/16 Nabokov, *Lolita*

Wed. 11/18 Nabokov, *Lolita*

# Week Fourteen

Mon. 11/23 Beckett, *Endgame*

Wed. 11/25 Beckett, *Endgame*

**PAPER THREE DUE**

# Week Fifteen

Mon. 11/30 DeLillo, *The Body Artist*

Wed. 12/2 DeLillo, *The Body Artist*

Fri. 12/9 **FINAL PAPER DUE ELECTRONICALLY**

Course Withdrawal Deadline Nov 4 **///** Complete Withdrawal Deadline Dec 4