

ANG-2041 (AMERICAN LITERATURE 1940-PRESENT)

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**Course description:**

This course will provide the students with an overview of the many literary scenes, groups, concepts, and aesthetics that define the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century in the United States. The course will invoke a vast array of voices that range across gender, race, ethnicity, and class lines in an effort to present the complex mosaic of the nation as it struggled to uphold its constitutional promises and to maintain its ideals amidst periods of disillusionment, of hedonistic escapism, of conservatism, of televised existentialism, and of digitized humanism.

Corpus (tentative):

Miller's *All My Sons* (play)

Kerouac's *On the Road* (novel)

Selections from Black Arts Movement poets Amiri Baraka and Sonia Sanchez (poetry)

Selections from Confessional poets Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton (poetry)

Herr's *Dispatches* (non-fiction)

Sheppard's *True West* (play)

Eugenides's *The Virgin Suicides* (novel)

Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric* (multi-genre work)

Cisneros's *House on Mango Street* (novella)

Kushner's *Angels in America* (TV series)