

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>ENG231</u>	<u>The Literature of AIDS: Confronting Catastrophe</u>			<u>3</u>
Course Number	Course Title			Credits
<u>3/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>15 weeks</u>
Class or Lecture Hours	Laboratory/ Work Hours Experience	Laboratory/Shop Studio/Clinic Hours	Work Experience	Semester Length
<u>Not Applicable</u>			<u>Not Applicable</u>	
Performance on an Examination/Demonstration			Telecourse	

Required Materials:

Reference Liberal Arts Division booklist

Catalog Description:

A careful reading of the stories and poems emerging from AIDS-affected writers. The course examines diverging responses to the widespread societal denial of AIDS both through close readings and works of memoir and poetry. An attempt will be made to focus readings through consideration of the lives of marginalized people out of whose experiences the writer is working. These contexts include gay or lesbian communities, and the African American experience.

Latest Review: Fall 2004

Prerequisites: Grade of "C" or higher in ENG102

Corequisites: None

Course Coordinator: Andrew W. Conrad

A. General Objectives

1. To acquaint the student with the literature growing out of the AIDS pandemic.
2. To stimulate in the student an awareness of and an interest in literature that will both expand and develop the student's ability to read, write, and think critically.
3. To increase the student's analysis of responses to AIDS among gay men, people of color, and other marginalized groups of people.

B. Specific Objectives:

Students will:

1. read assigned readings;
2. discuss characteristics of each writing, its themes, and its form as developed within a particular cultural context;
3. demonstrate through thoughtful written analyses of literature their ability to engage the texts empathetically and critically;
4. engage films and fiction critically in crafted papers;
5. realize that the study of this particular literature is essential to a cultural and historical understanding of late twentieth century American culture and the sub-cultures primary impacted by the epidemic.

C. Reading :

Works of Rachel Hadas, Mark Doty, Thom Gunn, Paul Monette, Rafael Campo and others.

D. Evaluation

Response papers, as assigned.

Two 3-4 page documented papers dealing with films in one case and fiction in the other as assigned.

Summative evaluation accomplished by out-of-class research paper.

E. Representative Bibliography

Avena, Thomas, editor. 1994. *Life Sentences: Writers, Artists, and AIDS*. San Francisco: Mercury House.

Cady, Joseph. "Immersive and Counter-Immersive Writing about AIDS" in *Writing AIDS: Gay Literature, Language, and Analysis*. Timothy F. Murphy and Suzanne Poirier, editors. New York: Columbia University Press. 1993: 244-264.

Camus, Albert. *The Plague*

Clum, John M. "The Time Before the War: AIDS, Memory, and Desire." *American Literature* 62:4, December 1990.

Doty, Mark. *Heaven's Coast*.

Ferro, Robert. 1988. *Second Son*. New York: Crown.

Gunn, Thom. 1992. *The Man with Night Sweats*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux.

Hadas, Rachel. 1991. *Unending Dialogue: Voices from an AIDS poetry workshop*. Boston & London: Faber & Faber.

Holland, Walter. 1992. *A Journal of the Plague Years: Poems 1979-1992*. New York: Magic City Press.

Klein, Michael, editor. 1992. *Poets for Life: Seventy Six Poets Respond to AIDS*. New York: Persea Books.

Lifton, Robert J. *History and Human Survival*

Mars-Jones, Adam. 1993. *Monoplies of Loss*. New York: Alfred Knopf.

Monette, Paul. 1988. *Love Alone: 18 Elegies for Rog*. New York: St. Martin's Press. (Stonewall Inn Editions.)

Monette, Paul. 1988. *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Monette, Paul. 1994. *Last Watch of the Night*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

Monette, Paul. 1994. *West of Yesterday, East of Summer*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Patton, Cindy. 1990. *Inventing AIDS*. New York: Routledge.

Peck, Dale. *Martin and John*.

Sontag, Susan. 1989. *AIDS and its Metaphors*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

White, Edmund & Mars-Jones, Adam. 1988. *The Darker Proof: Stories from a Crisis*. New York: Plume.