

Realisms, Modernisms, Postmodernisms
English 3328: American Literature since 1865



Jasper Johns, *White Flag* (1955)

Professor:

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Class Information:

T/Th 9:40-11:05am

Office Hours:

Tues, 11:15-12:30p // Wed, 10-11a
and by appointment

Course Content:

This course surveys American Literature from 1865 to the present; or, more precisely, from Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself* to Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric*. We'll organize our discussion around three questions:

- 1) How does the relationship between "America" as a nation and "Literature" as a mode of expression change between the late-nineteenth and early-twenty first centuries?
- 2) How does the term "American Literature" come to mean different things in different periods to different audiences?
- 3) How do changes to American nationhood (geographic borders, technological developments, demographic makeup, access to political representation, international political influence, etc.) relate to ideas about literature?

The syllabus will introduce the widest possible range of authors, genres, and literary movements rather than focus on a few canonical names. Rather than pre-set essays and exams, students will choose from a list of possible assessments or research projects that best align with their own learning goals.