

Scott C. Davis
Office: L195G
209.667.3883
sdavis@csustan.edu

Fall 2010
Course Meets: W 6-9 pm
Naraghi 140
Office Hours: W 5-6 pm & by appointment

Course Webpages <http://www.csustan.edu/english/davis/ENGL3550/3550.html>
<http://physics.csustan.edu/WarAndPeace/>

Summit Cluster ENGL3550: Years of War, Days of Peace

This information is compiled from the course webpage listed above. Please consult that page for additional information and updates.

This course is part of a 2-course series (see the University Catalog under “Summit Program”) with PHYS3550: Physics for War, Physics for Peace, offered during spring 2011; the two courses together fulfill the upper-division GE requirements F1, F2, & G. Students must enroll in and pass both courses to gain this GE credit.

In this cluster, the courses in both fall and spring terms will be team-taught by Profs. Littlewood and Davis. We will make every effort to provide as much coherence across the two-term cluster as possible. Books and films for the English components of BOTH terms are listed below, along with a schedule for fall and a preliminary schedule for spring. The assignments for the Physics component will be distributed separately. Most documents for the course may also be accessed at the appropriate web page listed above.

The English component will introduce students to the techniques of literary representation through close examination of different kinds of texts and films dealing with war and conflict. Fall term will focus on realism, memory and memorial reconstruction: the techniques of witness, testimony, and remembrance. In spring, we will move from the literature of memory, in which an author attempts to work through the particular trauma of (nuclear) conflict, to the literature of speculation, in which an author attempts to project the possible outcome or resolution of an imagined conflict. The spring term will focus on speculative fiction under the shroud of the nuclear threat.

Prerequisite(s):

Upper division status (including completion of relevant lower-division general education requirements) and commitment to the Summit Program. NB: If you will not have 60 units at the end of this term, you will NOT receive GE credit for the course (and hence, the cluster).

English Component Course Objectives:

As a result of our study of the literature of conflict, its memory, and its possibilities, students should be able to:

- distinguish between realism—and other literary techniques—and reality;
- utilize both speculative and testimonial (memorial) texts to discuss possible ramifications of the uses of nuclear technology;
- situate texts and their significances within the historical moment of their production;
- articulate the above in both oral discussion and sustained academic writing.

English Component Requirements (FALL TERM ONLY):

Demonstrated mastery of the course material in the form of: your performance in class discussion and quizzes (20%), reading responses (50%), and two formal assignments (30%). Prompts for all assignments will be distributed and discussed. Some form of writing will be due each week during the English component.

Please note these requirements and percentages are for the English component only, not for the entire course. Your fall course grade will combine the Physics and English components (50% each) and *you must pass both components* to pass the course.

All assignments are due at the start of class on the date indicated. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission. If you experience some difficulty, please make every effort to contact the instructor as early as possible. Attendance is a mandatory element of the course; unexcused absences will result in a diminution of your course mark. General course policies may be found at <http://www.csustan.edu/english/davis/General%20Policies.html>.

We strongly recommend you keep all submitted work in a single folder, and maintain your folder throughout the Cluster; you will need course materials from fall for the spring term.

Required Texts (available at Kiva)

NOTE: these will be read over fall and spring; please refer to Schedule (below)

Frank, Pat. *Alas, Babylon*, HarperTrade, 0060931396
Hamid, Mohsin. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, Harcourt, 739488263
Karlin, et al, eds. *The Other Side of Heaven*, Curbstone, 1880684314
Miller, Walter, *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (ISBN tba)
Oe, Kenzaburo, ed. *The Crazy Iris, and Other Stories*, Grove, 0802151841
Shute, Nevil. *On the Beach*, Random House. 0345311485
Snow, Charles P., *Two Cultures*, Cambridge UP, 9780521457309
Swofford, Anthony. *Jarhead*, Scribner, 0965767035
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Cat's Cradle*, Dial Press, 038533348

Required Films (Most films are available through the University Library; or check rentals)

NOTE: We will not view films during class; you are still responsible for it.

The Day After Trinity (Else, 1981) NOT OWNED BY CSUSTAN
Atomic Café (Rafferty, Loader, 1982) VHS PN1997 .A86x 1993
Black Rain (Imamura, 1988) VHS PN1997 .B663x 1991
The China Syndrome (Brooks, 1979) DVD PN1997 .C464466x
Dr. Strangelove (Kubrick 1964) DVD PN1997 .D7x 2001
Fail-Safe (Lumet 1964) DVD PN1997 .F35x 2000
The Three Seasons (Bui, 1999) VHS PN1997 .T475x
The Three Kings (Russell, 1999) NOT OWNED BY CSUSTAN

Additional resources may be found in the course web pages.

Schedule: Fall 2010

W 8/25	PHYS: CLUSTER INTRODUCTION
W 9/1	PHYS: TBD
W 9/8	PHYS: TBD
W 9/15	PHYS: TBD
W 9/22	PHYS: TBD
W 9/29	PHYS: TBD
W 10/6	PHYS: TBD
W 10/13	NO CLASS (Holiday)
W 10/20	ENGL: Oe
W 10/27	ENGL: Oe; <i>Black Rain</i>
W 11/3	ENGL: Karlin Assign 1 Due
W 11/10	ENGL: Karlin; <i>Three Seasons</i>
W 11/17	ENGL: Swofford; <i>Three Kings</i>
W 11/24	NO CLASS (Holiday)
W 12/1	ENGL: Hamid
W 12/8	ENGL: Snow; Assign 2 Due; discuss "Fate" assignment

Preliminary Schedule: Spring 2011

W 2/2	ENGL: Shute; <i>Atomic Café</i> ; "Fate" Assignment Due
W 2/9	ENGL: Frank
W 2/16	ENGL: <i>Fail-Safe</i> , <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> ; Assig 1 Due
W 2/23	ENGL: Miller
W 3/2	ENGL: Vonnegut
W 3/9	ENGL: <i>China Syndrome</i> , <i>The Day After Trinity</i> ; Assig 2 Due
W 3/16	PHYS: debate prompt
W 3/23	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
W 3/30	PHYS: TBD; Assig 3 ("Fate" revision) Due (optional)
W 4/6	PHYS: TBD
W 4/13	PHYS: TBD
W 4/20	PHYS: TBD
W 4/27	PHYS: TBD
W 5/4	PHYS: TBD
W 5/11	Debates
W 5/18	Debates; Evaluations