

Summer 2019

AP/EN 4181 6.0A (SU)

Contemporary Literature: Writers and Drugs

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Fully Online

Time:

N/A

Description:

All human cultures have involved relationships with psychoactive plant substances (henceforth referred to as "drugs") which include, as the title of one book on the subject suggests, everything "From Chocolate to Morphine." In this course, we will explore the connection between drugs and writing in a variety of cultural products. We will examine the notion of post-WWII "drug subcultures", and we will attempt to define a specific set of cultural and literary structures for a variety of substances, from alcohol to LSD. We will consider the problems of describing "drug experiences" in different types of media and genre (literature, scientific research, religious and anthropological accounts as well as popular cultural presentations such as TV series like *The Wire* and *Weeds*) and the close association of drugs with music.

Category:

B

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Essay #1 (2500 words) 30% - Due June 7th
Essay #2 (3000 words) 35% – Due July 29th
One seminar response paper (1000-1500 words), 20%
participation in general discussion (15%).

Reading List:

Kerouac, Jack. *On the Road*. ISBN: 978-0140042597 (Penguin)
Alan Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*. City Lights Publishers; ISBN-13: 978-0872860179
Tom Wolfe, *The Electric Cool-Aid Acid Test*. Picador; ISBN-13: 978-0312427597
Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. Vintage; ISBN-13: 978-0679785897
Philip K. Dick, *A Scanner Darkly*. Mariner Books; ISBN-13: 978-0547572178
Jay McInerney, *Bright Lights, Big City*. 978-0394726410
Marcus Boon, *The Road of Excess*. 978-0674017566
Irvine Welsh, *Trainspotting*. 978-0099465898

Additional films/television and some texts to be assigned.

Open To:

YR 4 Honours