Join us for a discussion of contemporary American fiction focused on the novel and other short works since 1945. Students will study a wide range of literature, tracing the formal and thematic development of American literature in this time period, focusing on the relationship between writers and readers, the conditions of publishing, innovations in content and form, fiction’s engagement with history and world events, and the changing position of fiction within American culture.

As our ability to communicate with each other has dramatically increased, contemporary literature continues to uncover our frequent feelings of isolation and dislocation. This course will include texts that uncover this longing for identity and connection, including a novel chosen by the class.

Class assignments will include a writing journal, reading quizzes, a researched argument, a midterm, and a final.

Fulfills honors requirement. Students should have a C in English 122/124H or have demonstrated superior ability in 102.