### ETS 107: LIVING WRITERS

Spring 2008

days: W time: 3:45-6:30 location: MSQ 208A

section 5

Instructor: John Holliday

Why did we invent the printing press? Why do we, why are we literate? Because of the pleasure of being all alone, with a book, is one of the greatest pleasures.

—William Gaddis, On Receiving the National Book Award for A Frolic of His Own

#### **TEXTS & MATERIALS**

Envelope of Night: Selected and Uncollected Poems 1966-1990 - Michael Burkard

The Ministry of Special Cases – Nathan Englander Time and Materials: Poems 1997-2005 – Robert Hass

Pieces of Air in the Epic – Brenda Hillman

Tree of Smoke - Denis Johnson

The Last Chicken in America – Ellen Litman

An Almost Pure Empty Walking - Tryfon Tolides

The Translation of Dr. Apelles – David Treuer

Note: All books are available in the Syracuse University Bookstore in the Schine Student Center.

# ASSIGNMENTS & OTHER GRADE-CONTRIBUTING ITEMS

- Students must write a **one-page response paper** that addresses the book read in preparation for each author's visit. The papers should be thoughtful and specific and should relate to any aspects of the books that you find important.
- Students must take a **five-question quiz** on the day the book is discussed.
- Students must participate in class discussions.
- Students must ask at least **one question** during the Q&A sessions.

one-page responses 45% five-question quizzes 30% participation 25%

Note: All work should be typed unless stated otherwise. Please double-space, use Times New Roman, 12-point font, one-inch margins, and follow formal citation guidelines (whether it be MLA, APA, or Chicago).

Due to the nature of this course, attendance in small groups and at the readings is mandatory. **If you miss a Q&A session/reading, your grade will be lowered by a full letter grade.** If you have a conflict with any of these events, please let your instructor know before the class or reading. He/she will determine whether or not the conflict is legitimate. If you miss more than one small group meeting your grade will be lowered by half a letter grade for each missed class. Attendance will be taken at all classes, and you are required to sign-in and sign-out at all readings. If you leave a Q&A session/reading or if you are reading, sleeping, talking, etc. at a Q&A/reading, you will be considered absent. Completion of all assignments, attendance, and participation will form the basis for your overall grade.

## SPECIAL NEEDS & SITUATIONS

If you require accommodations or service due to a disability, please see me during office hours and make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (804 University Ave., Room 309/443.4498) within the first two weeks of the semester. In order to receive disability-related accommodations or services, you must provide appropriate documentation.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The Arts & Science Resource Guide on Academic Honesty defines plagiarism as "the use without citation of: another person's written words; a paraphrase of another person's written words; any facts (including graphs, statistics or drawings) that are not common knowledge." For a more detailed description of the guidelines for adhering to academic honesty in the College of Arts and Sciences, go to http://www-hl.syr.edu/cas-pages/PromAcademicHonesty.htm. If you are unsure whether or not you are adhering to the university's policies regarding plagiarism, check with your instructor before handing in an assignment to make sure you are not in violation.

# COURSE CALENDAR

Week One: JANUARY 16

~ Introduction to course—large group/small group

Week Two: JANUARY 23

~ Discuss Time and Materials & Pieces of Air in the Epic—small group

Week Three: JANUARY 30

~ Discuss The Translation of Dr. Apelles—small group

Week Four: FEBRUARY 6

~ Robert Hass/Brenda Hillman Q&A session/reading—Gifford Auditorium

Week Five: FEBRUARY 13

- ~ Discuss Robert Hass/Brenda Hillman Q&A session/reading—small group ~ Discuss *Envelope of Night & The Ministry of Special Cases*—small group

Week Six: FEBRUARY 20

~ David Treuer Q&A session/reading—Gifford Auditorium

Week Seven: FEBRUARY 27

~ Michael Burkard Q&A session/reading—Gifford Auditorium

Week Eight: MARCH 5

- ~ Discuss Treuer & Burkard Q&A session/reading—small group
- ~ Discuss An Almost Pure Empty Walking & The Last Chicken in America—small group

Week Nine: MARCH 12 ~ Spring Break! No class!

Week Ten: MARCH 19

~ Nathan Englander Q&A session/reading—Gifford Auditorium

Week Eleven: MARCH 26

~ Tryfon Tolides Q&A session/reading—Gifford Auditorium

Week Twelve: APRIL 2

~ No class!

Week Thirteen: APRIL 9

- ~ Discuss Tolides & Englander Q&A session/reading—small group
- ~ Discuss *Tree of Smoke*—small group

Week Fourteen: APRIL 16

~ Ellen Litman Q&A session/reading—Gifford Auditorium

Week Fifteen: APRIL 23

~ Denis Johnson Q&A session/reading—Gifford Auditorium