

## Preliminary Web Course Description

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

### School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*4270.01	Course Title: United States Literatures	Date of Offering: F22
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Course Instructor: Pablo Ramirez	Course Format: Seminar
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**Brief Course Synopsis:** This section will focus on American films and literature from or about the 1980s. Students will discuss street dancing (b-boying, breakdancing and voguing), the AIDS crisis, the rise of the Christian Right, Reaganomics, “yuppie” culture, and the backlash against feminism. The texts represent a broad definition of “American literature.” William Gibson, for example, is an American expat living in Canada; Margaret Atwood is a Canadian who has written one of the most incisive critiques of the rise of the Christian Right in 1980s America. This is a writing-intensive course.

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Presentation 10%

Participation 25%

Rough Draft (1500-2000 words) 25%

Revision (3900-4000 words) 40%

#### Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

*American Psycho*, Brett Easton Ellis

*Fatal Attraction*, dir. Adrian Lyne

*The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

*Blade Runner*, dir. Ridley Scott

*Neuromancer*, William Gibson

*Breakin'*, dir. Joel Silberg

*Paris is Burning*, dir. Jennie Livingston

*The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket*, John Weir

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

\*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.