# **Consumer Society**



**Course Meetings:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Period 5 (11:45-12:35) in Matherly 0116 Instructor: Professor Susan Hegeman / <u>shegeman@ufl.edu (mailto:shegeman@ufl.edu)</u> / 352-294-2815 / TUR 4119

Office hours: Fridays, 1-3 pm, or by appointment

### **Course Description**

The United States is the largest consumer market in the world. Americans have come to expect access to a wide range of goods and services on demand, and we often define our social status, happiness, and wellbeing in terms of our capacity to buy things. But this state of affairs has a relatively recent history, in which older values were displaced in favor of a set of new habits and ways of understanding the meaning of the good life. Additionally, many Americans have dissented from the values of consumer society, and some have sought alternatives to consumerism. In this course, we will examine a range of objects including novels, films, poetry, and essays in order to explore the history of consumerism and its sore points. We will consider celebrations of consumerism, as well as ethical, political, aesthetic, and environmentalist criticisms of consumerism. We will also discuss the psychological and social implications of consumerism, and its disparate meanings across lines of gender, race, and class.

## **Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

- Students will learn about the history of consumerism in the US, from the early twentieth century to the present
- students will learn about, and engage with, the ethical, political, and cultural debates surrounding consumerism
- students will develop their skills in interpreting a variety of primary texts, including works of literature and films, through close reading and contextual analysis
- students will develop advanced skills in critical thinking, analysis, argumentation, and oral communication
- students will develop advanced critical writing skills through the completion of academic research papers and informal online posts

## **Required Course Materials**

### Books

The following books are listed in the order in which we will read them. Other editions, including e-books, are acceptable, but students are responsible for keeping up with locations of passages discussed in class, and for being able to properly cite the editions referenced in papers.

- THE GREAT GATSBY by F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, ISBN: 0743273567 Publisher: SCRIBNER
- HOWL AND OTHER POEMS by ALLEN GINSBERG, ISBN: 0872860175 Publisher: CITY LIGHTS
- THE BLUEST EYE by TONI MORRISON, ISBN: 0307278441 Publisher: VINTAGE
- MY YEAR OF MEATS by RUTH OZEKI, ISBN: 0140280464 Publisher: PENGUIN
- MY YEAR OF REST AND RELAXATION by OTTESSA MOSHFEGH, ISBN: 0525522115 Publisher: Penguin
- KIDS THESE DAYS by MALCOLM HARRIS, ISBN: 0316510858 Publisher: Back Bay Books

### Films

- Henry Ford (PBS American Experience, 2013) available via UF's subscription to Kanopy. You may need to login from a UF server, or using a UF VPN connection. Link: <u>https://ufl.kanopy.com/video/henry-ford</u> (<u>https://ufl.kanopy.com/video/henry-ford</u>)
- All That Heaven Allows (dir. Douglas Sirk, 1955) It can be viewed on Youtube: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkBFgNf74m4 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkBFgNf74m4)</u>

All other course materials—other required and supplementary readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, course calendar and discussion prompts—are posted on the course's Canvas e-learning website.

### Canvas E-Learning

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments. Canvas

e-learning can be accessed via the following link: "E-Learning Support Services" <u>https://lss.at.ufl.edu</u> <u>(https://lss.at.ufl.edu/)</u>. Click on the orange "log in to e-learning" button. You will then be asked to log in using your GatorLink username and password. If for some reason have trouble using your GatorLink account, go to the GatorLink website (<u>http://gatorlink.ufl.edu</u> <u>(http://gatorlink.ufl.edu/)</u>).

For help with Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Web: http://helpdesk.ufl.edu 🖉 (http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/)

Walk-in:HUB 132

Phone:(352) 392-HELP (4357)

Email:helpdesk@ufl.edu (mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)

Any requests for accommodations (e.g. credit for overdue work) due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

#### GRADING SCALE

А	4.0	94-100	940-1000	С	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-93	900-939	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
В	3.0	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	Е	0.00	0-59	0-599

#### **BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE**

Attendance	100 points; 10% of final grade
Classroom participation	100 points; 10% of final grade
Online participation	200 points; 20% of final grade
Paper 1	300 points; 30% of final grade
paper 2	300 points; 30% of final grade

#### Attendance (10% of final grade)

Attendance is defined as attentive presence in the classroom. In other words, if you are very late to class or engage in non-class related activities during class time (sleeping, studying, texting, web browsing, etc.) you will be counted as absent.

University policy requires that absences be accepted with prior notice for university sponsored events (e.g., athletics) and religious holidays. Otherwise, all absences will be regarded as unexcused.

Your attendance grade will be determined as follows:

• 0-2 absences: maximum attendance grade: 100

- 3 absences: maximum attendance grade: 93
- 4 absences: maximum attendance grade: 89
- 5 absences: maximum attendance grade: 86
- 6 absences: maximum attendance grade: 82
- 7 absences: maximum attendance grade: 79
- 8 absences: maximum attendance grade: 76
- 9 absences: maximum attendance grade: 72
- 10 or more absences: automatic failure of the course

#### Classroom Participation (10% of final grade)

In this class, we will all learn by respectfully listening to and engaging with each each others' ideas. It is therefore expected that students come to class prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Students will be graded on the quality of their oral contributions to classroom discussion. The best grades will be given to those who offer informed, incisive, and relevant comments regarding the course readings and related discussions. Poor attendance will adversely effect students' participation grade.

#### Online discussions (20% of final grade)

Students are expected to post weekly to the "Discussions" section of the Canvas course website. Posts should be about 100-300 words. They are due at 5 pm on Friday of the week for which they will get credit. They can be responses to prompts from me, reflections on readings or class discussions, further research on a topic of interest to you, comments on other students' posts, or a space for developing paper topics. Students are expected to maintain the same standards of respectful exchange and academic honesty that they are held to in class discussions and formal papers.

The online discussions will be graded as follows:

- 100 = 12 posts
- 93 = 11 posts
- 89 = 10 posts
- 86 = 9 posts
- 82 = 8 posts
- 79 = 7 posts
- 76 = 6 posts
- 72 = 5 posts
- 69 = 4 posts
- 66 = 3 posts
- 62 = 2 posts
- 59 = 1 post
- 0 = 0 posts

#### Papers

Students will write two formal academic papers, of 1800-2400 words each. The paper assignments, including topics and guidelines, will be announced on Canvas well in advance of the due dates of March 1 and April 29, respectively.

Papers will be graded wholistically on the following criteria, in general order of emphasis:

- Argumentation: clear thesis, logical sequence of argument, logical conclusions
- Use of appropriate evidence from the texts
- Demonstrated understanding of contextual issues in relation to works discussed (accurate explication of concepts and arguments; accurate use of terminology and historical information; accurate application to texts)
- Mechanics: punctuation, spelling, word choice and usage, sentence construction, paragraphing
- Proofreading and citations

### Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <u>https://disability.ufl.edu/ registered/ commodation</u>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor. Students needing accommodations should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## Academic Honesty Policy

Students are required to review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code

(https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/ @

(https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/)). Plagiarism or any other violation of the Student Honor and Conduct Code will result in an automatic failure of the assignment. A report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office. <u>https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/</u> (https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/)

According to the Student Conduct Code,

- "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
- 1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
- 2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- 3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- 4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

# **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <u>https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals</u> <u>(https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals)</u>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <u>https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/</u> <u>(https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/)</u>.

### **Campus Resources**

#### Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend are in distress, please contact <u>umatter@ufl.edu</u> (mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <u>http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc</u> 
   <sup>™</sup>
   <u>(http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc)</u>, or 352 392-1575.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department: 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <u>http://www.police.ufl.edu/</u> 
   <u>/(http://www.police.ufl.edu/)</u>.

#### Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to <u>Learning-support@ufl.edu</u> (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <u>https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml</u> <u>▲ (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml)</u>.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <u>https://www.crc.ufl.edu/ 2 (https://www.crc.ufl.edu/)</u>.
- Library Support, <u>http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask</u> 
   <u>\_\_\_\_(http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask)</u>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <u>https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/</u> <u>(https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)</u>.
- Writing Studio, 2215 Turlington Hall, 846-1138. Help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <u>https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/ regionality/writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)</u>.
- Disability Resource Center, Reid Hall. 392-8565. Help with academic and other accommodations. <u>https://disability.ufl.edu/</u> <u>(https://disability.ufl.edu/)</u>

### **Schedule of Readings and Discussions**

The schedule, located on the Canvas calendar, represents my current plans for readings and discussions. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change based on the interests and needs of the class as a whole. Any such changes will be communicated early, in class and via Canvas. Students are responsible for staying informed about any changes in the class schedule by regularly consulting e-learning.

# **Course Summary:**

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 6, 2020	Introduction: Review syllabus (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297950&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Jan 8, 2020	Introduction: Traditional views of consumption (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297949&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm

Fri Jan 10, 2020	Introduction: Value, commodity, consumption (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297948&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Jan 13, 2020	PART 1: Learning to Consume in the 1920s: New Technologies, new media, new attitudes (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297947&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Jan 15, 2020	PART 1: Learning to Consume in the 1920s: Alcohol consumption and prohibition (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297946&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Jan 17, 2020	PART 1: Learning to Consume in the 1920s: Henry Ford (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297918&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Jan 20, 2020	<b>NO CLASS: MLK Holiday (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?</b> <u>event_id=1297945&amp;include_contexts=course_388143)</u>	12am
Wed Jan 22, 2020	PART 1: Learning to Consume in the 1920s: The Great Gatsby (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297944&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Jan 24, 2020	PART 1: Learning to Consume in the 1920s: The Great Gatsby (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297919&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Jan 27, 2020	PART 1: Learning to Consume in the 1920s: The Great Gatsby (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297943&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Jan 29, 2020	PART 1: Learning to Consume in the 1920s: The Great Gatsby (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297942&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Jan 31, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: American Prosperity Defined (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297917&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Feb 3, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: Consumerism and the ( (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297916&include_contexts=course_388143)	<mark>Cold War</mark> 11:35am
Wed Feb 5, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: Suburbia (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297941&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm

Fri Feb 7, 2020 🗰	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: female rebellion (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297915&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Feb 10, 2020 🗰	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: All That Heaven Allows (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297914&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Feb 12, 2020 🗰	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: All That Heaven Allows (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297940&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Feb 14, 2020 🗰	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: the Male Rebellion (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297939&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Feb 17, 2020 🗰	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: Howl (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297938&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Feb 19, 2020 🗰	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: Howl (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1298048&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Feb 21, 2020 🗰	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: Howl (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297913&include_contexts=course_388143)	9:35am to 10:25am
Mon Feb 24, 2020 🗰	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: Howl (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297936&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Feb 26, 2020 🛗	PART 2: Consumer Society for all? (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297912&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
₩ Fri Feb 28, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society for all? (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297935&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Ð	FIRST PAPER (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/388143/assignments/4046892)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 2, 2020 🗰	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar event_id=1297934&include_contexts=course_388143)	<u>?</u> 12am
Wed Mar 4, 2020	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar event_id=1297933&include_contexts=course_388143)	<u>?</u> 12am

Fri Mar 6, 2020	MO CLASS: SPRING BREAK (https://ufl.instructure.com/calenda event_id=1297932&include_contexts=course_388143)	ar? 12am
Mon Mar 9, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: The Bluest Eye (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297931&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Mar 11, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: The Bluest Eye (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297930&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Mar 13, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: The Bluest Eye (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297929&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Mar 16, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: The Bluest Eye (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297927&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Mar 18, 2020	PART 2: Consumer Society Achieved: The Bluest Eye (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297928&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Mar 20, 2020	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: Chicken nuggets (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297926&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Mar 23, 2020	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Meats (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297925&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Mar 25, 2020	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Meats (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297924&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Mar 27, 2020	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Meats (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297923&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Mar 30, 2020	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Meats (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297922&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Apr 1, 2020	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Meats (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297921&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Apr 3, 2020	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: Supreme and appropriation (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?	11:45am to 12:35pm

	<u>event_id=1297920&amp;include_contexts=course_388143)</u>	
Mon Apr 6, 2020 🗰	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Rest and Relaxation (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297907&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Apr 8, 2020 🗰	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Rest and Relaxation (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297906&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Apr 10, 2020 🗰	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Rest and Relaxation (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297905&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Apr 13, 2020 🗰	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: My Year of Rest and Relaxation (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297904&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Apr 15, 2020 🗰	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: Kids These Days (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297908&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Apr 17, 2020 🗰	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: Kids These Days (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297909&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Apr 20, 2020 🗰	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: Kids These Days (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297910&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Apr 22, 2020 🗰	PART 3: Millennial Consumption: Kids These Days (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=1297911&include_contexts=course_388143)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Apr 27, 2020	SECOND PAPER DUE (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/388143/assignments/4046894)	due by 12pm
	Roll Call Attendance (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/388143/assignments/4046893)	