MHHS M492
The Literature of Addiction
Spring 2014
Tuesdays 6-8:40
CA 435
Emily Beckman
embeckma@iupui.edu
Office Hours: Monday 11-12 or by appointment (CA 141D)

Required Texts:

*Under the Influence: The Literature of Addiction* by Rebecca Shannonhouse

*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway

*The Tennis Partner* by Abraham Verghese

**Companion Books/Readings:** *readings from these texts will be posted in the Resources section of Oncourse.*

*Tender is the Night* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Smashed: Story of a Drunken Girlhood* by Koren Zailckas

*High Anxieties: Cultural Studies in Addiction* edited by Janet Farrell Brodie and Marc Redfield

*What’s Wrong with Addiction?* by Helen Keane

*The White Logic: Alcoholism and Gender in American Modernist Fiction* by John W. Crowley

*The Languages of Addiction* edited by Jane Lilienfeld and Jeffrey Oxford

*The Thirsty Muse: Alcohol and the American Writer* by Thomas A. Dardis

**Visual Texts** (We will screen two of the following films): *Drugstore Cowboys, Requiem for a Dream, 21 Grams, The Lost Weekend*

**Course Objectives:** This course explores the ways in which, through literature, certain understandings of addiction are constructed, represented, and proliferated throughout our culture. We will explore the ways in which the concept of addiction is represented in various cultural forms and in specific texts. Additionally, we will look closely at the
relationship between the idea of addiction and other categories such as gender, sexuality, normalcy, and creativity. In this course we will compare various literary texts and films to see if some seem more "realistic" than others, and explore, through writing and discussion, the possibilities for why this may be so. We will consider how we as individuals and as a society are affected by various representations of addiction, and how this translates into everyday interaction with others. Are some representations dangerous? Students will explore the possibility that representation plays a significant role in our understanding of the experience of addiction and will be encouraged to think critically about the ways various media (film, popular texts, biography) affect the way we live our lives and the relationships we develop with others. While this course is meant to explore certain literary content, it is also meant to help students develop and improve upon analytical and writing skills. Students should learn to not only address questions from the texts, but to raise new questions. Students will be expected to submit drafts of papers before final submission. Students will learn to situate course content within a broader, cultural context. As such, the course supports the following IUPUI Principles of Undergraduate Learning
http://www.iupui.edu/academic/undergrad_principles.html: Critical Thinking, Integration and Application of Knowledge and Understanding Society and Culture.

**Statement on academic integrity/academic misconduct:**

Be sure you understand the school’s policy on plagiarism. See the Student Code of Conduct available at http://bulletin2000.iupui.edu/introduction/code.html. Those guilty of it will be dealt with in accordance with the regulations spelled out in the code.

**Administrative Withdrawal**

A basic requirement of this course is that you will participate in all class meetings and conscientiously complete all required course activities and/or assignments. Keep in touch with me if you are unable to attend, participate, or complete an assignment on time. If you miss more than half of the required activities within the first 25% of the course without contacting me, you may be administratively withdrawn from this course. Example: *Our course meets once per week; thus if you miss more than two classes in the first four weeks,* you may be withdrawn. Administrative withdrawal may have academic, financial, and financial aid implications. Administrative withdrawal will take place after the full refund period, and if you are administratively withdrawn from the course you will not be eligible for a tuition refund. If you have questions about the administrative withdrawal policy at any point during the semester, please contact me.

**Resources for Students:**

**Student Advocate**
The Student Advocate Office is located in the Campus Center, Suite 350, and can be contacted by phone at 278-7594 or email at stuadvoc@iupui.edu. For more information, visit the Student Advocate website at http://www.life.iupui.edu/advocate/

Adaptive Educational Services
Students needing accommodations because of physical or learning disabilities should contact Adaptive Educational Services, Taylor Hall (UC), Room 137: http://aes.iupui.edu/

Counseling & Psychological Services
Students who wish to seek counseling or other psychological services should contact the CAPS office by phone at 274-2548 or email at capsindy@iupui.edu. For more information, visit the CAPS website at http://life.iupui.edu/caps/

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<td>January 21: Framing Addiction</td>
<td>Forward to <em>Under the Influence</em>, Pete Hamill; Introduction to <em>Under the Influence</em>, Rebecca Shannonhouse; Introduction to <em>What’s Wrong with Addiction?</em>, Helen Keane</td>
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<td>February 11: Gender Roles &amp; Relations</td>
<td><em>John Barleycorn</em>, Jack London (Excerpt in <em>Under the Influence</em>); “Big Blonde,” Dorothy Parker (in <em>Under the Influence</em>)</td>
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<td>The Poetry of Anne Sexton and Charles Bukowski</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Codependency &amp; Enabling</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
<td>Addiction and Creativity: The Addicted Writer</td>
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<td>Treatment/Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>Last Class</td>
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**Requirements:** Completion of the assigned readings (and films) prior to each class is required. The course will be conducted in a seminar format. It is imperative that students come to class prepared and ready to actively participate and learn. The course requirements include participation and *in-class writings, one presentation, and one significant writing assignment*. Participation will be evaluated in each seminar discussion throughout the semester.

*On occasion students will be asked to respond, in writing, to a prompt at the beginning of class. Responses are worth 10 points each, and will be included in the overall attendance/participation grade. Students who are not present when the prompt is given will not receive any points for the assignment. This means students should be in class, ready to participate, at 6:00 sharp. Prompts will be based on the reading assignments for the day.*
**Mid-term Presentation:** Students will, in pairs, give a 20-minute presentation on the life and writings of an “addicted writer.” Each student will submit a short paper (4 pages) summarizing the presentation. Paper must include complete bibliography and is due at the time of the presentation.

**Final Paper:** Students will submit final paper, 10-15 pages in length, on May 6. Paper must include bibliography with a minimum of 5 sources.

**Grading:**

Mid-term Presentation 40%
- Short Paper: 20%
- Presentation: 20%

*Final Paper: 40%
- Topic/Outline: 10% (submit via email *no later than* April 1)
- Final Paper Presentation: 5%
- Graded Paper: 25%

Attendance/Participation: 20%

**Honors Requirements:** See Dr. Beckman.

*Late papers will be deducted one letter grade for each day late.*

**Class Time:**

This class will be conducted as a seminar, and class time will be primarily devoted to discussion and exploration and, less so, on lectures.

**Participation:**

I expect everyone to come prepared for class by having read the readings for the day, and considered topics for discussion. Class participation is crucial.

**Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken each class period and contributes significantly to overall grade.