Contemporary American Fiction

This course will engage works of contemporary American fiction, from the post-WWII period to the present, with an emphasis on their artistic and social contexts. We will explore our course authors' experimental narrative strategies, such as non-chronological storytelling, metafictionality, and narrative omissions, and their effects. Our course discussions will consider how social movements, including the civil rights and women's liberation movements, inform these works of American fiction in and across time. Authors studied may include John Okada, Octavia Butler, Joan Didion, Toni Morrison, and Susan Choi.