

Winter 2023

Prof. Melanie Sherazi

TTH 2:30-3:55p

En 180. Special Topics in English: Cold War American Modernism

This course will engage the complexities and contradictions of US Cold War culture with a focus on literary modernism. The 1950s saw the rise of McCarthyism and the threat of nuclear war, as well as landmark events that galvanized the civil rights movement and demands for social justice. We will explore these contexts through readings in Cold War fiction, drama, and poetry that demonstrate how mainstream social identities were being challenged and subverted in ways that would intensify and take on collective expression in the 1960s. Course authors may include Gwendolyn Brooks, William Demby, Lorraine Hansberry, Carson McCullers, John Okada, Sylvia Plath, and Mitsuye Yamada.