

IDH 2930: (Un)Common Read

Instructor Noah Mullens

Spring 2025, Honors, Class Number 25887 (*Infinite Jest*)

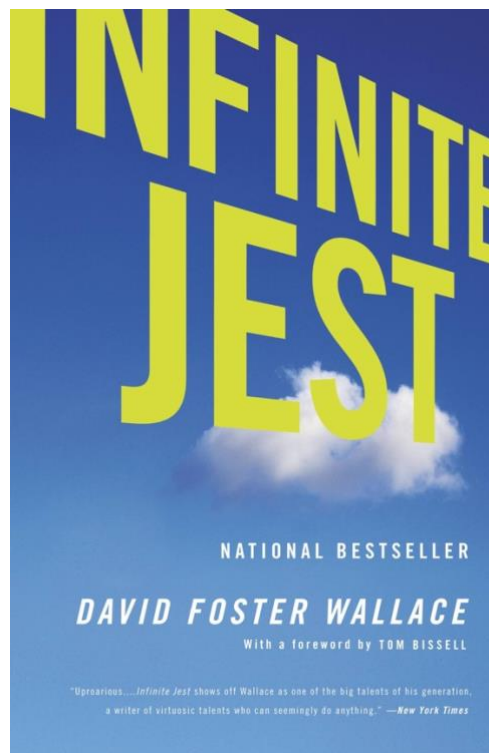
Time: Monday, Period 5 (11:45am-12:35pm)

Location: Little Hall 117

Office Hours: TBA

Email: noahmullens@ufl.edu

Course Description



Textbook

Wallace, David Foster. *Infinite Jest*. ISBN 9780316066525. **Paperback copy required.**

Course Calendar

Week One: January 13

M – Course Introduction

Week Two: Holiday

M – *Hamlet* (Adaptation)

Week Three: January 27

M – pgs. 3-95 (93 pages)

Week Four: February 3

M – pgs. 95-181 (86 pages)

Week Five: February 10

M – pgs. 181-258 (77 pages)

Week Six: February 17

M – pgs. 258-321 (64 pages)

Week Seven: February 24

M – pgs. 321-395 (75 pages)

Week Eight: March 3

M – pgs. 395-489 (95 pages)

Week Nine: March 10

M – pgs. 489-553 (65 pages)

Week Ten: Spring Break

M – N/A

Week Eleven: March 24

M – pgs. 553-620 (68 pages)

Week Twelve: March 31

M – pgs. 620-716 (97 pages)

Week Thirteen: April 7

M – pgs. 716-809 (94 pages)

Week Fourteen: April 14

M – pgs. 809-896 (88 pages)

Week Fifteen: April 21

M – pgs. 896-981 (86 pages)

***** Note about the course schedule:** You may notice a disparity in how much you are reading per week. These sections have been split up deliberately. The page distributions do not include the endnotes.

Assignments:

Class Prep: Every Sunday students will be expected to submit notes related to the assigned reading. These notes should prepare you for class discussion the following day. Consider the following: what did you find important? What piqued your interest? Do you have any questions? Is there anything you would like to ask your colleagues? Please limit these to 4-5 bullet points each. (65%)

Class Presentation: For each week there will be at least one presentation. Days will be assigned after Drop/Add. Students will choose music for the class to walk in to. Afterwards, they are expected to give a 5–7 min. presentation on the readings for that week. Presentations should go beyond summary by offering a critical analysis or insight into the material. (20%)

Hamlet Reflection: Students will need to have some familiarity with *Hamlet* in order to fully engage with *Infinite Jest*. The most accessible version is Kenneth Branagh's film adaptation of *Hamlet* (1996), though there are many different avenues to read or watch the text. After reading/watching, students will write and submit a one paragraph reflection on the play. (5%)

Active Participation / Attendance: Daily and engaged participation is a priority in this course. All students should participate every day in some fashion by offering points of view, raising questions, asking for clarification, participating in group activities, and/or writing when it is required. (10%)

Course Policies:

1. You must complete all *assignments* at the minimum word count to receive credit for this course.
2. *Attendance*: Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily. You will fail the course if you accrue six 50-minute absences. You will earn a lowered course grade if you accrue 4 absences. Note that missing a double session counts as 2 absences. Absences will be excused only in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and those absences covered by UF's twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).
3. Latecomers receive partial absences, and must see me after class so I know you attended.
4. Laptops may only be used for notes, opening up links provided in class, or for accessibility course. If you are using your device in any other way will result in an absence. If a group or person is presenting you must close your laptop. Students are expected to take notes, come to class everyday with thoughts, and to respect each other
5. *UF's policy on Sexual Harassment*: The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/about/title-ix-rights/>
6. *Paper Format & Submission*: All assignments are due via Canvas prior to the start of class on the noted due date. If an emergency occurs that affects your ability to complete your work, please notify your instructor as soon as possible. Your papers should be formatted according to MLA style and should be in 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced with 1- inch margins with the appropriate heading and pages numbered. Students are required to also bring a paper copy.
7. *Late Papers/Assignments*: Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>), there will be no make-up option for a missed exam or late assignment. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged by email or in person prior to the expected absence. In case of illness, student should contact instructor on his or her return to classes and produce documentation of their illness or emergency.
8. *Paper Maintenance Responsibilities*. Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.
9. *Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism*. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'" The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.
UF Student Honor Code:
A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.

- b. 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.
 - c. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
 - d. 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.>
10. Students with *disabilities* who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>), which will provide appropriate documentation to give your instructor early in the semester.
 11. Students who are in distress or who are in need of counseling or urgent help: please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to you. UF's Counseling and Wellness Center offers additional support: 352-392-1575, or contact them online: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>
 12. For information on UF Grading policies, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
 13. *Grade Appeals*. In 1000- and 2000-level courses, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant, in the Department office (4008 TUR). Please contact Ms. Blount at cblount@ufl.edu Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.
 14. *Course Evaluations*. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages requesting that you do this online: <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>
 15. Classroom Behavior: Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.
 16. Recording Policy: A Student may record a class lecture for three specified purposes as outlined in House Bill 233/Section 1004.097, Florida Statutes:
 - a. For the student's own personal educational use;
 - b. In connection with a complaint to the University where the recording is made
 - c. As evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding.

Students may audio or video record a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled. Students do not need advance permission, or to provide notice, to record.

A class lecture is defined as an educational presentation delivered by faculty (instructor of record) or guest lecturer, as part of a University of Florida course, intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Lecture is inclusive of faculty-led discussions that are integrated into the educational presentation.

A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, assessments

(quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

A recording of a class lecture may not be published without the consent of the lecturer.

- a. Publish is defined as sharing, transmitting, circulating, distributing, or providing access to a Recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section.
- b. A recording, or transcript of the recording, is considered to be published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper or leaflet.

A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

17. *Writing Studio*: The University Writing Studio is located in Turlington 2215 and is available to all UF students. Free appointments can be made up to twice a week. They are currently offering online appointments. Extra credit is offered when you go. See <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> to learn more.

Grading/Assessment Rubric:

GRADING SCALE

A	4.0	94-100%	930-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-92%	900-929	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89%	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	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	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

Assessment Rubric

You should strive to excel in all three of these areas in each written assignment:

- 1) Content: How strong is your argument, development, and support?
- 2) Organization: How well-structured are your paragraphs? Do your overall ideas flow well?
- 3) Mechanics: How frequently do you make errors in grammar, style, and spelling?

An A level assignment is complete in content, is organized well, and has few to no mechanical errors. An assignment of this level also demonstrates originality and creativity, showing that the student took extra steps beyond what was required.

A B level assignment is solid overall in terms of content, organization, and mechanics, but may need some minor revision to one of these three areas. An assignment that receives this grade fulfills assignment expectations, but is also complete in content and relatively free of grammatical or mechanical errors.

A C level assignment has promise in some areas, but lacks the command, organization, persuasiveness or clarity of the A or B assignments. An assignment that receives this grade may be overlooking an important component of the assignment, or need significant revision.

A D level assignment does not yet demonstrate the basic lower division writing expectations. The paper has major issues in content, organization and / or mechanics. Assignments that receive this grade will often be incomplete, or have major issues with organization.

An “E” is usually reserved for students who do not do the assignment or fail to attend class. However, an “E” may also be given if an essay blatantly ignores instructions or has major problems in all three areas of evaluation.

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings:
<https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>