

English 2328
American Literature II

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A course syllabus is a contract between instructor and student. Whether or not you actually sign and return a copy of the syllabus or take a quiz over it is irrelevant; by remaining a student in a course, you agree to abide by all policies found in the syllabus. These policies exist to ensure fairness through clarity. They are direct and firm in order to deter abuse. If you feel that a situation warrants exception from any of the policies in this syllabus, you will be required to provide written documentation of the situation. The following policies constitute your contract with me:

My office hours can be found online: <http://www.odessa.edu/directories/PER.DIR.html>. If you would like to meet with me, the easiest way to set up a meeting is via email. **All responses, whether to emails, notes, or phone messages, will be sent via email to your OC email account.** Give me at least 24 hours to respond before you send additional inquiries. I may have to ask someone else or address a technical issue, either of which takes time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Consists of reading and analyzing significant works of American literature from the Realistic period through to the present day. Requires research paper or several short analytical papers. (SCANS 1, 2, 9) Prerequisite: ENGL 1302.

This is a literature course, which means you will have to read numerous works by various authors over the course of the semester. You will not do well in this course if you do not read!

REQUIRED TEXT

Anthology of American Literature. Vol. 2. 10th ed. Eds. George McMichael et al.

You also need to either know or have access to MLA style guidelines. A reliable online source for this information is the OWL at Purdue:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>.

My third suggestion is to purchase/acquire access to an English handbook. It will help with research in this course and basic skills for any other college course you take. It is not required but is definitely a good idea. Some possibilities are: *Hodges' Harbrace Handbook*, *The Little Brown Handbook*, and *QA Quick Access Handbook*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to

1. read assigned literary works;
2. write at least one analytical paper using approved research sources;
3. take exams over each of the time periods studied;
4. take quizzes over the assigned reading material;
5. participate in group work and class discussions;
6. take a final exam.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Demonstrate the ability to think critically about notable works of American literature from the Civil War to the present;
2. Demonstrate the ability to read assigned texts closely, develop interpretational analyses of these texts, and clearly articulate the findings of these critical interpretational analyses;
3. Recognize the major movements and periods of American literature from the Civil War to the present;
4. Discuss the basic and more abstract elements of different genres of literature of this period using appropriate literary terminology;
5. Recognize recurring cultural and literary themes as they appear in selected works of this period of American literature;
6. Communicate this understanding of American literature using clearly-written, well-organized, lucid prose.

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Specific due dates are announced as the class progresses, as class progress depends on student learning.

Item	Description
Unit 1	Focuses on analyzing poetry and Civil War/post Civil War literature, including works by Dickinson and Whitman; analysis will be in terms of what was happening in the development of America as a country; concludes with unit test
Unit 2	Focuses on analyzing works from Realism/Naturalism period in American history, including works by Twain, James, and Crane; analysis will be in terms of what was happening in the development of America as a country; concludes with unit test
Unit 3	Focuses on analyzing works from Modernist period in American history, including works by Faulkner, Eliot, O'Neill, and Cummings; analysis will be in terms of what was happening in the development of America as a country; concludes with unit test
Unit 4	Focuses on analyzing works from various cultural movements in America, including works by Hughes, Morrison, O'Connor, Silko, Erdrich, and Vonnegut.
Research Essay	Requires demonstration of understanding of and ability to apply knowledge from each unit and incorporation of research
Final Exam	Will be comprehensive

All assignments in this course will include a written portion of some sort. The last page of this syllabus is a rubric explaining the criteria I use when grading any written work.

GRADE DETERMINATION

Grades in this course are weighted as follows: class work x 10%; 4 tests x 15%; research essay x 12%; final exam x 18%.

At the end of the semester, grades will be determined based on the following scale:

- A = 100 – 90
- B = 80 – 90
- C = 70 – 79
- D = 60 – 69
- F = 59 and below

Note: A D in this course is considered passing. However, it most likely will not transfer to another institution or satisfy the requirements of specific programs (i.e. nursing program).

TESTING POLICY

You will know ahead of time when tests will be given. A 5-question, all-essay make-up test will be offered to anyone not taking the original test. It will be the only opportunity for anyone to make up a missed test no matter the reason for missing the original test. Any make-up test must be taken within one (1) week of the original test date. No make-up test will be offered for the final. Be sure to contact the instructor prior to the test with any problems; the day of the test does not count as prior to the test. At the instructor's discretion, you may be required to complete a proctored make-up test.

NON-TEST ASSIGNMENTS

You will know ahead of time when any non-test assignments are due. Late submission of these assignments is at the discretion of the instructor. My decision will be based on the policies in this syllabus. **I do not accept any work via email.** Do not send me work via email or post it where you are not instructed to. Anytime you submit a file for the course, be sure it is saved as a Rich Text Format file (this is not the file name; it is the file type). This ensures I am able to open your work no matter what program you use to create it. You will have to contact the instructor to find out if you have any options for any missed assignments.

COMPUTER ACCESS

You need to have access to at least two computers any time you take an online course or are going to be required to use a computer for work in a face-to-face course. If one computer breaks, gets a virus, or is incompatible with the course delivery system (OC uses Blackboard), you will still be held responsible for turning in any and all work by the given due dates and times.

Your instructor cannot arrange due dates/assignments around every student's computer, internet access, and/or work schedule. Do not expect to be given extensions on assignments or tests due to computer/internet access or work schedule issues.

Be sure you check your computer's compatibility with Blackboard prior to attempting to complete any work in any course. For help with Blackboard basics (logging in, what buttons mean/do, etc), go to <http://www.odessa.edu/blackboard.htm>. Problems with anything in the course itself must be addressed to the instructor!

COMMUNICATION:

Odessa College provides every student a free email account. This email system is the official communication method at the college. In addition, if you use the Send Email function in Blackboard, you are using your OC student email account. This means that when your instructor hits Reply, the reply goes to your OC student email account. It is your responsibility to monitor the account given to you by OC, either directly or by forwarding email to an external account. Failure to monitor your OC email account is not an acceptable reason for missing due dates or important information. For help with your OC email account, go to <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. If you still have issues with your OC student email account, let your instructor know, but requests for help must be addressed to the Student Success Center at 432-335-6673.

ATTENDANCE

You will not be able to successfully complete this course without regular, quality interaction with other students and the instructor. If you have a question, it is your responsibility to ask in a timely manner. Those who regularly attend/login and interact with classmates and the instructor perform better than those who do not.

In face-to-face classes, I reserve the right to ask you to leave a class if your behavior is disruptive to other students. Disruptive behaviors include but are not limited to: using a cell phone, sleeping, chatting, and playing on the computer.

I know things happen. However, not everything that happens is a crisis or emergency. Crises or emergencies include severe illness requiring a doctor's visit or hospitalization, death in the family, or college-excused events (which must be approved ahead of time). They do not include not feeling well, oversleeping, forgetting, poor time management, or needing help from or for a friend, roommate, family member, or pet.

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER

The library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the LRC's [catalogue](#) (print books, videos, e-books) and [databases](#) (journal and magazine articles). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the "[Ask a librarian](#)" service provide additional help.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism, whether by commission, omission, or collusion, will not be tolerated. The fact that the information was very easily accessed or came from a personal source does not negate your responsibility to give credit to the source of the information. The first time a student is caught plagiarizing, they will receive a 0 (zero) on the assignment. The second time, they will receive an F in the course. Not knowing is not an excuse.

A reliable website for information on plagiarism is <http://plagiarism.org/>.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at (432)335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Without paperwork from the Office of Disability Services, I cannot make accommodations.

Other school policies can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

GRADING STANDARDS FOR ALL WRITTEN WORK

"A": Excellent / outstanding / fluent / thought-provoking / original

Follows all instructions, addresses question asked, carefully organized, contains an effective thesis, fluent style, clear and concise writing, few if any mechanical errors, shows thought and analysis, present original insights independent of the teacher/text, in-depth and detailed, goes well beyond what was expected

"B": Good / above average / clear / well-organized

Follows instructions, addresses question asked, contains a thesis, mechanical errors are not distracting to the reader, contains some detail, shows little thought or analysis independent of information given by teacher/text

"C": Average / adequate / competent / fair / unoriginal

Follows most of the instructions, addresses most of the question asked, weak thesis, lacks clarity, mechanical errors are obvious but do not interfere with reader's understanding of the work, little if no detail, thought or analysis; THIS IS AVERAGE WORK FOR ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS

"D": Below average / inadequate / ineffective / unclear / under-developed

Follows only the most basic assignment requirements, addresses question on a very general level, shows insufficient understanding of the material, significant mechanical errors make communication of ideas ineffective, no thesis, lacks organization

"F": Failure / blocked communication / plagiarism-cheating / major errors / illiteracy / directions not followed / badly underdeveloped

Instructions were not followed, question was not addressed, no thesis, no organization, mechanical errors make work unreadable and/or incapable of being understood, some or all of the contents were plagiarized, fails to address the given topic, no detail, thought, or analysis