

Course Syllabus

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change during the semester . Please check the online version of this syllabus on a regular basis for any updates.

Department : English & Foreign Languages
Course Title : American Literature II
Section Name : ENGL 2328.12
Start Date : 01/18/2011
End Date : 05/13/2011
Modality : FACE-TO-FACE
Credits : Three credit hours

Instructor Information:

Name : Dr. Mark W. Jordan
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Course Description:

Catalog description: "Consists of reading and analyzing significant works of literature from the Realistic period to the present day. Requires research paper or several short analytical papers."

Professor's supplementary description: At its deepest level, the purpose of this course is to teach critical thinking skills which may be applied in any walk of life; more immediately, the course gives the student a historical grounding in the periods of literature which have helped form our culture and thus have helped form us as well. How well the first purpose is accomplished depends on how much effort and thought the student invests in the second. Students will also apply the principles of effective writing studied in ENGL 1301 and 1302. Compared to ENGL 1302, our study of literature will be a more systematic, historical exploration of major works of our nation from the literature of the mid-nineteenth century to the present day.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: ENGL 1302 or its equivalent

Scans: SCANS 1, 2, 9

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes):

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

Course Policies:

- 1.0 Absence is not an excuse for coming to the next class meeting unprepared. Work submitted late for any reason, including absence, may be penalized five points per weekday (or in shorter terms, ten points per weekday) at my sole discretion. If absent, contact another student or me to learn of upcoming assignments.
- 2.0 Major tests missed must be taken within one week in the Testing Center, after which the grade becomes a zero. The penalty taking the test late is five points per weekday (not per class meeting).
- 3.0 Daily assignments which depend on timeliness to be effective (e.g., pop quizzes) may not be made up. The grade is a zero; the lowest daily grade is dropped.
- 4.0 No student can pass this course without completing the final exam. Any student missing the final exam may receive a grade of F for the entire course.
- 5.0 Cell phones and pagers must be set on silent and put away. Repeated violations may be considered chronic disruption of class and dealt with as such.
- 6.0 As adults, you may take restroom breaks without asking permission, but students who abuse this privilege will be considered to be disrupting class. You are encouraged to utilize restroom facilities either before class or during formal breaks (in longer evening sections).
- 7.0 Chronic class disruption may result in a student being dropped from my course. This is a last resort and would occur only after repeated warnings, the last warning being delivered in writing.
- 8.0 Plagiarism in any form is not allowed. Various forms, intentional and unintentional, will be discussed. The penalty for intentional plagiarism is an F for the course.

Required Readings/Materials :

- 1.0 You must purchase the following **required** readings/materials: *Anthology of American Literature, Volume II*. 10th edition. Ed. McMichael and Leonard. 2011.
- 2.0 You are encouraged to buy the following **optional** books/materials: A standard dictionary.

Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments):

- 1.0 **Careful reading of the selected literature**, with the understanding that while this receives no direct credit, it is the foundation for all graded assignments;
- 2.0 **Participation in class**, including attendance, timely arrival, and discussion (**5 % of the course grade**);
- 3.0 **Various short daily quizzes and other daily assignments (10 % of the course grade)**. Most quizzes will be pop quizzes over assigned readings and thus cannot be made up (see Course Policies);
- 4.0 **Two unit tests (15 % each)**. In general, the tests consist of two sections: an objective section, usually short answer questions, followed by a section of essay questions which call for more thorough, well developed responses. All questions focus on the course concepts and assigned readings, all of which are discussed in class;
- 5.0 **One three-to-five-page analytical essay (15 %)**. In this essay the student applies the course concepts and terminology to his or her own life according to specific instructions given;
- 6.0 **One three-to-five-page analytical essay which may use secondary sources (20%)**. This essay asks the student to choose a work from the text which has not been covered in class, and to place it in its historical period by using the various concepts applied to assigned readings in the class discussions.

Students may use secondary sources but may choose not to; a paper using secondary sources will not automatically receive a higher grade.

- 7.0 **A comprehensive final exam covering all historic periods studied (20 %).** The final exam consists of two sections, the first being similar to that in previous tests. The second section is a formal essay of three pages or more, choosing from several topic options, and written in class during the final exam period. Students may bring an outline which they prepare beforehand.

Summary of Assignments & Activities

Item Name	Type	Description	Time Frame
Unit One	Late 19 th Century: Late Romanticism to Realism	Unit One first introduces several course concepts which are useful throughout the course. Various works are studied, beginning with the poets Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, who bridge the transition from late Romanticism to Realism. There are two major assignments for Unit One: the self-focused analytical essay and the first unit test.	Unit One usually spans roughly five to six weeks of the course. <i>This time frame is dependant on variables such as the pace of student learning, which may also change the list of readings. All specific due dates are announced in class.</i>
Unit Two	Early 20 th Century to 1945: Modernism	Unit Two continues to use most of the same concepts and terminology from Unit One. This unit focuses primarily on poetry and short fiction in the works of such authors as T. S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Willa Cather, Ernest Hemingway, and Katherine Anne Porter. The one major assignment for Unit Two is a unit test.	Unit Two usually lasts about five to six weeks of the course.
Unit Three	Late 20 th Century to Present: Post-Modernism	Unit Three continues to build on course concepts and terminology, showing how these change from the Modernist to Postmodernist periods. The previous unit's focus on the genres of poetry and short fiction is also maintained, for the most part, though emphasizing the greater Postmodernist diversity of authorship. This period is not tested separately but rather in one section of the final exam, the rest of which is comprehensive. The one major assignment due in Unit Three is the second analytical paper	Unit Three lasts the remainder of the semester, usually about four to five weeks of the course.

Grading Policy:

- 1.0 **Final grade for course:** 90 through 100 = A; 80 through 89 = B; 70 through 79 = C; 60 through 69 = D; below 60 = F
- 2.0 **Individual assignments:** Plus sign (+) = 8 (e.g., B+ = 88); minus sign (-) = 2 (e.g., B- = 82); neither + nor - = 5 (e.g., B = 85)
- 3.0 See Course Policies regarding **late submissions, penalties for plagiarism**, etc.

Special Needs:

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.

Learning Resource Center (Library):

The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (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.

Student E-mail:

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. All online assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.

Technical Support:

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm.

Important School Policies:

Information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students' and instructors' rights to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.