

American Literature (ENGL 2326)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 (Composition I)

Course Description

A survey of American literature from the period of exploration and settlement to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from among a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character.

Required Textbook and Materials

A textbook is not required for this course. Students will need internet access and working knowledge of Blackboard.

Individual professors may require additional materials.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

Core Objectives

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement:

1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others.
4. Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

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Course Syllabus

Course Outline

A. The Basics of Literature

1. Critical Analysis

Purpose, Audience

2. Critical Approaches

Selecting, Framing

3. Research Methods

B. Beginnings to 1700

C. American Literature 1700-1820

D. American Literature 1820-1865

E. American Literature 1865-1914

F. American Literature 1914-1945

G. American Literature Since 1945

This course will cover the above listed periods in American Literature, with attention to each period's relevance and impact on American societal and cultural issues, as well as specific authors making significant contributions to each.

Grade Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

Course Evaluation

Response Paper 1-	10%
Response Paper 2-	10%
Response Paper 3-	10%
Mid-Term Exam-	10%
Final Exam-	20%
Final Project-	20%
Daily Grades-	20%

Total- 100

Course Requirements

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Three 500-700 word response papers.
2. One 1000 word (minimum) research project.
3. One graded mid-term exam.
4. One graded final exam.

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Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Beepers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. No late assignments will be accepted.
5. Tests. Students that miss a test are not allowed to make up the test. Students that miss a test will receive a grade of '0'.
6. Attendance Policy. Two absences are allowed. If a student is tardy to class or departs early three (3) times, it will be equal to one (1) absence. Each absence beyond two absences will result in a 5 point deduction from your final grade.
7. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
8. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reference
Week One	Course introduction and policies	Syllabus and other materials
Week Two	The Basics of Literature	Critical Analysis Critical Approaches Research Methods.
Week Three	Puritanism	Online Materials
Week Four	The Enlightenment	Online Materials
Week Five	Romanticism	Online Materials
Week Six	Transcendentalism	Online Materials
Week Seven	Realism	Online Materials
Week Eight	Naturalism	Online Materials

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Week Nine	Modernism	Online Materials
Week Ten	Harlem Renaissance	Online Materials
Week Eleven	Post Modernism	Online Materials
Week Twelve	Contemporary	Online Materials
Week Thirteen	Contemporary	Online Materials
Week Fourteen	Research Project	Online Materials
Week Fifteen	Research Project	Online Materials
Week Sixteen	Final Exam- Date TBA by official exam schedule	

Contact Information: Varies by instructor