

Sul Ross State University
English 4308
American Literature II

Instructor: Dr. Ian Peddie
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Office Hours: by appt
Phone: 432-837-8154

Meeting Times: Th: 6:00-8:45

Required Materials

Baym, Nina, et al. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Ninth Edition, Vols C, D, E.

Course Description

Survey of a variety of literary modes and genres from different cultures and time periods.

Student Learning Outcomes
ENGLISH (UNDERGRADUATE)

Graduating students will demonstrate that they can

- Construct essays that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development
- Analyze literary works by applying principles of literary criticism or theory
- Produce research papers that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of acceptable sources, employ them effectively through quotations or paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using MLA format
- Demonstrate creativity or originality of thought in written or multimedia projects
- Compare/contrast and analyze major works and periods within World, English, and American literature.
- Edit their writing to conform to the grammar and punctuation rules of standard written English

Marketable Skills

1. Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking.
2. Students will use different research strategies to address problems and develop ideas that engage a variety of perspectives.
3. Students will recognize how social and cultural contexts shape meaning and language

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ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act)

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu .

Grading

Quizzes/Responses	15%
Participation	15%
Retrospective	10%
Paper One	20%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	20%

Grade Distribution

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 0-59%

Expectations of Students

Technology will be used to deliver content, provide resources, assess learning, and facilitate interaction both within this classroom and in the larger learning community. All students need to have access to a computer. If you do not have one, computer labs are available on campus. **Students must access the course materials and grades via Blackboard, and should therefore check Blackboard regularly (at least once per day) as course changes will always be announced and recorded on the course site. There will also be periodic small assignments announced only through Blackboard. Interacting with Blackboard is also part of your course participation.**

Class Policies/Attendance Practices

This course will require that students regularly prepare for, attend and actively participate in class. The classroom experience is a vital component of the college learning experience. Interaction with instructors and with other students is a necessary component to building an effective learning community. Students who are absent from classes bear the responsibility of notifying their instructors and keeping up with class assignments. Students are expected to be present at every class session. Two unexcused absences will be allowed. Excessive absences will impinge upon your grade and may result in failure. Many writing and revision exercises are completed in class and dependent upon students supporting their group activities. Only those on university officially sanctioned absences will be allowed to make up missing items. Students should attend all classes. Much of our exam material will be drawn from in-class lectures, activities, discussion etc.

Communication Policy

I prefer that you contact me initially via email for most situations. In most circumstances, you can expect me to respond within a reasonable amount of time. Please make sure you mention the course name, course meeting time, and a brief explanation when you email me. Communications received after 5:00 p.m. will usually be returned the next day. On the weekend or when I'm away from campus (i.e. at a conference, etc.), my response will be irregular. When corresponding by email, I will communicate with you using ONLY your Sul Ross email account. You should check your email account

Participation

Active and appropriate class participation in group and individual activities is one step toward getting the most out of this class. Active participation will help your course grade; lack of or inappropriate participation may hurt your course grade. **Additionally, please turn off all mobile phones and other similar devices before you enter the classroom. Anyone using a mobile phone will be asked to leave.**

Quizzes/Reading Responses

One ongoing part of this class will be weekly quizzes and reading responses. Think of them as a way to prepare for class discussion and to work through ideas for your essay/exams. All entries should be articulate and thoughtful. All quizzes and reading responses will be given in class and cannot be made up. I will drop your lowest three quiz scores.

Out-of-Class Essay Assignments

You will write one out-of-class essays for this class. All essays must be typed or word processed, with standard (1) margins and font size (12 point).

Plagiarism & Intellectual Honesty

All writing and quiz responses must be your own work. The sole exception applies to external material (ideas and quotes) appropriately incorporated and cited. Plagiarism or other forms of cheating will not be tolerated, and will be severely punished. They will result

in a “0” for the assignment and may lead to failure of the class and disciplinary action by the university.

Calendar

Assigned readings should be completed **before** class. Please bring the appropriate text to each class meeting. Readings assignments, and due dates are subject to change.

Jan

- 18 Introductions; class policies; syllabus
- 25 Introduction: American Literature 1865-1914,” (1-15); Whitman, “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed.” (78-84)

Feb

- 1 Booker T. Washington: *Up From Slavery* (701-724)
- 8 W.E.B Du Bois: *The Souls of Black Folk* (918-936)
- 15 “Realism and Naturalism” (955-963); Dreiser: *Sister Carrie* (984-993), London, “What Life Means to Me” (971-974)
- 22 Robert Frost: all selections (218-240); Exam review
- 29 T. S. Eliot, “The Waste Land” (365-378)

March

- 7 Mid-Term Exam
- 14 Spring Break
- 21 Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (73-139)
- 28 Paper Due: in-class workshop; peer review

April

- 4 Claude McKay; all selections (467-471); Langston Hughes, all selections (833-844)
- 11 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (218-251)

- 18 Robert Lowell: "The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket," "Skunk Hour," "For the Union Dead" (286, 290, 301, 303); Gwendolyn Brooks; all selections (305-315)
- 25 Last Class: Review