

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ENGL 26503 Introduction to American Literature

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Introduces the genres of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama via American Literature. Emphasizes critical evaluations of texts within the backdrop of historical and writing conventions of their time. All four genres will be addressed. Writing is required.

B. Additional Information

None.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Correctly identify literary genres
2. Write a critical analysis of a literary text
3. Demonstrate understanding of cultural diversity
4. Successfully use technology in research and in writing;
5. Identify major works/tropes of American literature.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Fiction
- B. Non-Fiction
- C. Poetry
- D. Drama
- E. Writing Project