

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3469
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3469
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

**ENGL 30443 Seminar: American Literature
II**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Prerequisites or corequisites: ENGL 21143 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies
and ENGL 32503 Textual Research Methods

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Critical study of canonical American works from the middle of the nineteenth century through the twenty-first century.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Demonstrate familiarity and facility with fundamental terminology and concepts relevant to the analysis of American literature from the middle of the nineteenth century through the twenty-first century.
2. Formulate a critical argument related to American literature and support the thesis with evidence and argumentation.
3. Evaluate sources and arguments in scholarly works, or in various literary approaches and techniques employed by American writers from the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century.
4. Compare and contrast how various American writers' use of language is related to contemporary ways of thinking, cultural heritage, and cultural values.
5. Apply various critical approaches via the various lenses of cultural studies, such as: Post-Colonialism, Mass Culture Studies, Nationhood and National Identity Studies, Gender Studies, Class Studies, Trauma Theory, Transmedia studies, New Historicism, and Race and Ethnic Studies.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. 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 communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. 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 reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. 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. Realism and Naturalism: Howells, Bierce, Stephen Crane, London, James, Davis, Dreiser, and Norris
 - 1. Regionalism and Local Color: Twain, Harte, Jewett, Freeman, Dunbar-Nelson, Chesnutt
 - 2. Another Regionalism-A Sense of Place and Displacement: Chocise, Charlot, Native American Chants and Songs
 - 3. Seeking Liberation and Gesturing Toward Modernism: Chopin, Washington, Gilman, Du Bois, Wells-Barnett, James Weldon Johnson, Dunbar
- B. Modernism
 - 1. Modernist Prose: Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Dos Passos, Faulkner, Steinbeck, Anderson, Cather, Wharton, Porter
 - 2. Modernist Poets: H.D., Eliot, Pound, Stein, Williams, Moore, Millay, Cummings, Stevens, Masters, Robinson, Amy Lowell, Frost, Hart Crane
 - 3. The Harlem Renaissance: Grimke, McKay, Hurston, Toomer, Hughes, Cullen, Wright, Larsen, Georgia Douglas Johnson
 - 4. Modernist Drama: O'Neill, Williams, Miller, Glaspell
- C. Postmodernism.
 - 1. Bridging Modernism and Postmodernism in Poetry: Bishop, Roethke, Hayden, Berryman, Jarrell, Robert Lowell, W. S. Merwin, Sexton, Plath, Rich
 - 2. The Beat Generation and the Black Mountain and New York Avant-Garde: Ginsberg, Kerouac, Burroughs, Ferlinghetti, di Prima, O'Hara, Olson, Ashbery