

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ENGL 47943 Twentieth Century American Literature

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 21143 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

Prerequisite or Corequisite: ENGL 32503 Textual Research Methods

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A reading intensive and focused study of the literature and print culture of twentieth-century American literature. Students will engage in the process of critical analysis as they study twentieth-century American texts.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

1. Investigate major literary themes, figures, and movements in twentieth century American literature;
2. Appraise and apply major critical theories to a broad range of twentieth century American literature;
3. Collaborate with peers to perform research on a series of critical, historical, or cultural issues relevant to current course topics;
4. Formulate in-depth research on a relevant topic generated during the course and integrate that research into a paper.

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. Introduction: Outlining the Major Movements and Key Figures
- B. The Modernists: Liberation from Convention, WWI Aftermath, Order from Chaos
- C. The Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Politics, Culture, and Migration
- D. Critiquing Racial Literary Divisions: Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance
- E. Literary Passing: Eliot and Pound Imbibe Uncle Remus vs. “the mess of pottage” in Johnson and Larsen
- F. Documentary Activism in American Literature of the 1930s
- G. The Changing of the Avant-Garde: WWII, Mass Destruction, and the Postmodernists
- H. Blending Genres and Invoking Popular Culture in Postmodernist Literature
- I. Gender and Race: Postmodernist Historicism and Intertextuality