

**FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

SYLLABUS

I. LOCATOR INFORMATION

English 322.01 American Literature II Fall 2011
Class meets M. 6:00-8 :50 pm SBE 108 Three Semester Hours
Instructor: **Dr. Maria Orban** Telephone: 672-1049
Butler 125 e-mail: morban@uncfsu.edu
Office hours: MWF 11:00 – 11:50 pm ;3:00-4:00 —
M 3:00-6:00 pm; and by appointment

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II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A continuation of the survey of American literature, extending from 1865 to the present. Requirement for English majors. *Prerequisites: ENGL 223, or ENGL 240*

III. TEXTBOOKS

The Norton Anthology of American literature Volume 2: 1865 to the Present
ISBN-10: 0-393-93055-6 • ISBN-13: 978-0-393-93055-9

IV. SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed (a) to give students an introductory acquaintance with works of American literature from 1865 to the present (be aware of the gaps in coverage), (b) encourage close readings of the texts, (c) develop scholarly research skills, and (d) increase competence as a literary critic. Students will articulate cultural ideas from alternate perspectives.

V. COURSE COMPETENCIES

The student will analyze texts in close detail, making connections among the works, identifying stylistic and technical elements characteristic of the writer under study, becoming aware of the social, political, historical, and aesthetic context in which the works are produced.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- 1) Identify major features that characterize the Late 19th-Century, Modern, and Contemporary American Periods.
- 2) Evaluate cultural/historical influences on the construction of texts.
- 3) Develop research skills, including using and citing sources.
- 4) Develop close textual analysis employing relevant literary terms.

VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Because class participation is crucial, students missing more than four class meetings will not receive credit for the course. Note that the four permitted absences include provision for genuine emergencies like illnesses and childcare problems.

Two papers, the first 3-5 pp. (15%), the second 7-10 pp. (25%) are due **at the beginning of class** September 26, and November 21.

The first paper, due at the beginning of class on September 26, will consist of a text analysis. Select a short excerpt from a work that has been discussed in class and provide a persuasive interpretation. You will need no research for this assignment. Analyze the style, imagery, tone, setting, theme, symbolism, character and argue how they combine to provide a certain overall effect.

For the second paper, due on November 21, you can choose your own topic related to the American literary tradition and **run it by the instructor**. You will need to do research. An assignment sheet will be provided for this paper. You will discuss your first draft individually with me two weeks before the deadline.

Assume your papers will be shared with your classmates.

The papers and the examinations will be graded for originality, thoroughness of analysis and attentiveness to detail, writing skills.

The midterm, October 10 is worth 15%. The Final Examination is worth 20%. The Final Examination will cover all (or potentially all) the selections on this syllabus.

Class activity and presentation 10%.

In-class writing 15%.

VII. COURSE OUTLINE WITH ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE PROVISIONAL!

This schedule might be adjusted as the interests and capacities of the class develop. Because of the unavoidable gaps in coverage, the instructor will consider requests from the class for changes.

Do the readings **BEFORE** class begins. Otherwise there will be no way to participate in discussion, or understand what other people are saying, and class will be VERY BORING.

Do read the *Norton* editors' introductions to each selection, but read those introductions after you have read the selection itself. Pay attention to the editors' footnotes.

Read more than the listed works: those listings are a minimum, not a maximum, and certainly not an ideal. You will need to read more, anyway, both to find what you like and to do the papers.

August 22: Introduction

August 29: Emily Dickinson

September 5: **Labor Day – University closed**

September 12: Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

September 19: Henry James, *Daisy Miller: A Study; The Real Thing*

September 26: **FIRST PAPER DUE**; Charles W. Chesnutt, *The Wife of His Youth; The Passing of Grandison*

October 3: Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*

October 10: MIDTERM

October 17: MIDTERM BREAK

October 24: Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night*

October 31: Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*

November 7: Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

November 14: W. Faulkner, *A Rose for Emily; Barn Burning*

November 21: **SECOND PAPER DUE**; Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

November 28: Louise Erdrich; Sherman Alexie

FINAL EXAMINATION Monday, December 5 at 6 pm