

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

SYLLABUS

I. LOCATOR INFORMATION

English 322.01 American Literature II	Fall 2009
Class meets Th. 6:00-8:45 pm SBE 109	Three Semester Hours
Instructor: Dr. Maria Orban	Telephone: 672-1049
Butler 125	e-mail: morban@uncfsu.edu
Office hours: TR 12:15 – 2:00 pm ; 3:30-3:45pm; 5:00-5:30pm; W 3:00-6:00pm; 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.

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 30, and November 18.

The first paper, due at the beginning of class on September 30, 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 18, 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.

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 14 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 26: Introduction

September 2: Emily Dickinson

September 9: Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

September 16: Henry James, *Daisy Miller: A Study; The Real Thing*

September 23: Charles W. Chesnutt, *The Wife of His Youth; The Passing of Grandison*

September 30: **FIRST PAPER DUE**; Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*

October 7: Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night*

October 14: MIDTERM

October 21: Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*

October 28: Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

November 4: W. Faulkner, *A Rose for Emily; Barn Burning*

November 11: Veteran's Day University Closed

November 18: **SECOND PAPER DUE**; Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

November 25: Louise Erdrich

December 2: Sherman Alexie

FINAL EXAMINATION Wednesday, December 9 at 6:00pm

