

Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English and Foreign Languages
English 431, The American Novel
Fall 2009

I. Locator Information:

Instructor: Dr. E. McShane

Course # and Name: **ENGL431**

Day and Time Class Meets: TR 8-9:15 A.M.

Office Location: BU 123

Office hours: TR 9-11 am and by appointment

Email address: emcshane@uncfsu.edu

Semester Credit Hours: 3 credit hours

Total Contact Hours for Class: 3 hours

Office Phone: 672-1416

Email Policy:

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at

<http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

Your UNCFSU email address is a public email address – available to the UNCFSU community. Unless you provide and request that another address be used during the first week of class, this is the address we will use for correspondence in this course. Any other address you provide will be added to the open email list sent to everyone in this course.

II. Course Description: A Study of selected novels written in the United States from 1850 to 1969

III. Disabled Student Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. Textbooks: Cather, Willa . O. Pioneers *

Chesnutt, Charles: The House Behind the Cedars\$

Chopin, Kate: The Awakening *

Dreiser, Theodore: Sister Carrie*

Faulkner, William: The Sound and the Fury*

Fitzgerald, F.S. : The Great Gatsby \$

Hawthorne, Nathaniel : The Scarlet Letter*

Hemingway, Ernest : A Farewell to Arms \$

Howells, Wm.Dean : The Rise of Silas Lapham*

Larsen, Nell: Passing *

Hurston, Zora N.:Their Eyes Were watching God \$

Melville, Herman: MOBY DICK*

Norris, Frank McTeague*

Twain, Mark: Huckleberry Finn \$

Vonnegut, Kurt: Slaughterhouse Five \$

Wright, Richard: Native Son \$

- *These books are part of the bundle which you will receive as part of the rental plan
- \$ These books are not part of the rental plan; you may use any edition. They are readily available in used book stores. Each student will read two of these and will be a member of a panel discussing the two books.

V. Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Comprehend, interpret and evaluate texts from different historical periods and cultures, applying varied literary critical perspectives as means of interpretation and using appropriate literary terminology.
2. Compose diverse researched and original texts in varied genres and formats, using various composing processes, technologies and multimodal formats

3. Present materials effectively to various audiences using a variety of formats and appropriate technologies.
4. Compare and contrast language structures, and understand how language and culture work reciprocally
5. Locate and evaluate resources and incorporate and cite sources according to the MLA style manual.

I. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Attendance Requirements – “Students are expected to attend all class meetings, laboratories, and other instructional sessions for all courses in which they are enrolled. Students are also expected to arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire scheduled period. When students must miss class(es) for unavoidable reasons, i.e., illness, family emergencies, or participation in official university sponsored activities – they are responsible for informing faculty of the reasons for the absences, in advance if possible, and completing all missed assignments. During the first half of the semester/term, faculty will assign an interim grade of EA, Excessive Absences, for students whose class absences exceed 10% of the total contact hours for the class. Students who receive EA interim grades must either withdraw from the class or resume attendance. Students who resume attendance must consult with the instructor about completion of missed assignments. The EA is not a final grade, so students who are assigned an interim grade of EA, but do not withdraw from the class, will receive a final grade based on the evaluation criteria for the class.”

Additional attendance policies for this class include: arriving excessively late to class or leaving class excessively early is counted as an absence. Missing more than 4 class *hours* will affect your final grade in that 2% will be deducted from your final grade for each class hour missed (past 4). If you should miss a class, you are still responsible for the material covered during that period and any reading or assignment given during that class. It is your responsibility to get class notes from another student. Do not email instructor about what you missed. Quizzes and participation cannot be made up after the fact. You may reschedule a planned quiz only in advance of an absence.

Grades—

Work for the course will consist of:	1000 points
Planned quizzes 5X 64	320
Final Presentation	100
Paper 1	200
Paper 2	200
Discussion, in-class work, discussion leads, mini presentations, extra quizzes	180

Grades will be determined using this grading system:

A	90-100%
B	80-90%
C	70-80%
D	60-70%
F	below 60%

Final grades are calculated on a four-point system and affect a student's grade point average as indicated below.

Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points	Meaning
A	Hours attempted and earned	4 per credit hour;	Exceptionally high
B	Hours attempted and earned	3 per credit hour	Good
C	Hours attempted and earned	2 per credit hour	Satisfactory
D	Hours attempted and earned	1 per credit hour	Marginally passing
F	Hours attempted – Not earned	0 per credit hour	Failing
FN	Hours attempted – Not earned	0 per credit hour	Failing due to non-attendance. (Student registered, but <u>never</u> attended.)
W	Hours attempted – Not earned	No impact on GPA	Class withdrawal prior to deadline (see Academic Calendar)

P	Hours attempted and earned	No impact on GPA	Satisfactory - Assigned only in classes specified as Pass/Fail
WU	Hours attempted – Not earned	No impact on GPA	Withdrawal from all classes for semester or term
AU	Hours attempted – Not earned	No impact on GPA	Auditing

REVISION OF GRADES – STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The following revisions become effective on August 16, 2007.

WN GRADE DISCONTINUED:

- WN - Withdrawal due to non-attendance - discontinued, effective August 16, 2007.
STUDENTS: Do not expect faculty to withdraw you for non-attendance. Drop or withdraw* from classes according to the deadlines published in the catalog. *See warning below about class withdrawals.

NEW TYPE OF GRADE: INTERIM GRADES – (New name for “midterm grade,” with additional purposes). Interim grades will be assigned from the first week of the semester until the deadline for class withdrawals. Interim grades are used for informational and warning purposes only; they are not part of your permanent transcript and have no effect on your GPA. Instructors may assign interim grade of F to warn students of poor academic performance or they may assign “X” or “EA” grades. (See below for explanations) After midterm, faculty will assign all students an interim grade of A – F to inform students of their academic status as of midterm.

- INTERIM GRADE X = NO SHOW – Assigned to students who are on a class roster, but never attend class. For warning purposes only; NOT a final grade.
STUDENTS: Check interim grades early in the semester. If you have an X grade, either begin attending the class or withdraw* from it. *See warning below about class withdrawals. If you do not take action in response to an X grade, you will receive a final grade of FN. (See “FN” below)
- INTERIM GRADE EA = EXCESSIVE ABSENCES - Assigned to students whose class absences exceed 10% of the total contact hours. For warning purposes only, NOT a final grade.
STUDENTS: Check your interim grades often. If you have an “EA” grade for a class, you are in jeopardy of failure if you do not take immediate actions. Either resume attending the class or withdraw from it. *See warning below about class withdrawals.

NEW FINAL GRADE:

- FN = FAILURE DUE TO NON-ATTENDANCE – Assigned to students who are on class roster, but never attend the class. An FN grades is equivalent to an F grade in the calculation of the GPA.
STUDENTS: You must attend (or withdraw* from) all the classes for which you are enrolled. *See warning below about class withdrawals.

WARNING ABOUT CLASS WITHDRAWALS:

- When you withdraw from a class, you are wasting your money and time. You receive no refund for withdrawing from individual classes and you slow your progress toward degree completion.
- If you withdraw from or fail more than one-third of your classes, you will no longer be eligible for financial aid.
- **STRIVE TO EARN CREDIT FOR ALL THE CLASSES IN WHICH YOU ENROLL; WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES ONLY WHEN IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!**

Assignments —

Each student will be responsible for one or two mini presentations on a theme, article, or author. During the first few weeks of class, everyone will be assigned or will sign up for a mini presentation date. You can: research the subject, argue a point, demonstrate an experience, analyze an advertisement, write a song, perform a skit. You should plan to fill 5-10 minutes. This is part of your participation grade. If you seriously try to engage the article and the assignment, you get full credit. Please provide a short written outline *before* your presentation.

Once or twice during the semester, you will be asked to prepare discussion questions and lead class discussion or small group discussion. This gives you the opportunity to focus class attention on what you found interesting in our readings/material or to apply our readings to current events. This, too, is part of your participation grade.

A hard copy of any essay paper or take-home test is due on the due date at the *beginning* of class. Late work will receive a grade deduction. **Always keep a copy of every assignment**, whether on disk, computer, or hard copy. Never turn in an assignment by slipping it under my office door. If you must turn something in when I am not around, put it in my mailbox in BU123. If you submit any work on computer disk or by email, be sure to save it as an MSWord file. Emailed work must be in the form of an MSWord attachment. Convert all .docx files to .doc files. University computers cannot read Word Perfect or Lotus

Participation grade includes: additional written responses to assigned readings, pop quizzes, discussion during class, participation in small group breakout sessions, leading group discussions, active attention during class. Occasionally, I will ask for a written response to an assigned reading during class. You may use your texts, any notes you’ve already taken, and

class discussion. Unannounced closed-book quizzes are always a possibility. Missed quizzes and written responses cannot be made up. **You may reschedule a planned quiz only in advance of an absence.**

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty —

According to the Student Handbook Code of Conduct at FSU:

Academic dishonesty is the giving, taking, or presenting of information or material by a student with the intent of unethically or fraudulently aiding oneself or another on any work which is to be considered in the determination of a grade or the completion of academic requirements.

It is expected that all members of the University community will work to actively deter academic misconduct and thus will share in the responsibility and authority to challenge and make known to the appropriate authority acts of apparent academic dishonesty.

1. Violations A student shall be guilty of a violation of the Academic Dishonesty Policy if he or she engages in act(s) of:

a. Aiding and Abetting Others to Cheat or Plagiarize. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, giving unauthorized assistance to another in order to assist that person in cheating or plagiarizing.

b. Attempt. Such conduct shall include attempting any act that if completed would constitute a violation as defined herein.

c. Cheating. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, a student receiving unauthorized aid or assistance on any form of academic work.

d. Falsification. Such conduct shall include the unauthorized changing of grades or conduct involving any untruth, either spoken or written regarding any circumstances related to academic work.

e. Plagiarism. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, copying the language, structure, ideas and/or thoughts of another, without giving appropriate recognition and/or adopting the same as one's own original work.

In short, plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's words or ideas *as your own*. Besides being unethical, it is stealing, illegal, and prosecutable. When it comes to writing within the adult world, it is especially important to understand and avoid any taint of plagiarism, as you can lose not only your job but also your reputation and livelihood. Plagiarism includes forgetting to place quotation marks around a quotation; not documenting that quotation, or summary, paraphrase, illustration, original idea, data; allowing a friend or relative to write or rewrite a paragraph in your paper; submitting a paper that has been written by anyone other than yourself. Evidence of plagiarism, either intentional or not, will result in an automatic F for the assignment and perhaps in the course.

Please note: If these evaluation criteria must be revised because of extraordinary circumstances, the instructor will distribute a written amendment to the syllabus.

Student Behavior Expectations —

The instructor will respect all students and will make every effort to maintain a classroom climate that promotes learning for all students. Students must accept their responsibility for maintaining a positive classroom environment by abiding by the following rules:

1. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, remain in class until dismissed by the instructor, and refrain from preparing to leave class until it is dismissed.
2. Student/teacher relationships, as well as relationships among peers, must be respectful at all times.
3. Students are not permitted to wear headphones or other paraphernalia that may be distracting to the classroom environment.
4. Students must refrain from any activity that will disrupt the class. Turn off cell phones and pagers. (Student police officers, EMTs, etc., must see instructor on first day of class for dispensation). No text messaging or picture taking during class.
5. Students are not permitted to use profanity in the classroom.
6. Students will not pass notes or carry on private conversations while class is being conducted.
7. Student participation is a required part of class. Participation means that you have read the assigned readings, have prepared meaningful comments on them, attend class regularly and take an active, cooperative role in class discussion. Participation requires your alertness, preparation, and involvement and it requires that you bring the textbooks to each class. If you are doing other course work, reading the newspaper, or sleeping, you are not participating and participation points will be docked.
8. During exams, tests, and quizzes, all phones and PDAs must be turned off and stowed away. Taking one out during the testing period means you are finished with the test, and your test paper will be collected. Students are not permitted to leave the room and then return during an exam. This means that you need to take care of all bathroom needs before the exam begins. If you are too ill to remain in the room for an exam, you must make prior arrangements to take a make-up exam; you cannot decide that you are ill after test papers have been passed out to students.

Consequences for Failing to Meet Behavioral Expectations — The first time a student violates one of these rules, the instructor will warn him or her. (Faculty members reserve the right to warn students publicly if needed.) The second time a student violates the guidelines, the instructor may deduct as many as 20 points from the student's final grade. If a student violates the guidelines three times, the instructor will report the student to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action according to the FSU Code of Student Conduct.

Below is FSU's formal statement on Disruptive Student Behavior. Although it is written with the traditional classroom in mind, we will employ within our virtual classroom the principles upon which the policy is based

FSU Policy on Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom

The *Code of the University of North Carolina* (of which FSU is a constituent institution) and the *FSU Code of Student Conduct* affirm that all students have the right to receive instruction without interference from other students who disrupt classes.

FSU Core Curriculum Learning Outcome under Ethics and Civic Engagement (6.03): All students will "prepare themselves for responsible citizenship by fulfilling roles and responsibilities associated with membership in various organizations." Each classroom is a mini-community. Students learn and demonstrate responsible citizenship by abiding by the rules of classroom behavior and respecting the rights all members of the class.

The FSU Policy on Disruptive Behavior (see FSU website for complete policy) identifies the following behaviors as disruptive:

1. Failure to respect the rights of other students to express their viewpoints by behaviors such as repeatedly interrupting others while they speak, using profanity and/or disrespectful names or labels for others, ridiculing others for their viewpoints, and other similar behaviors;
2. Excessive talking to other students while the faculty member or other students are presenting information or expressing their viewpoints.
3. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices
4. Overt inattentiveness (sleeping, reading newspapers)
5. Eating in class (except as permitted by the faculty member)
6. Threats or statements that jeopardize the safety of the student and others
7. Failure to follow reasonable requests of faculty members
8. Entering class late or leaving class early on regular basis
9. Others as specified by the instructor.

The instructor may take the following actions in response to disruptive behavior. Students should recognize that refusing to comply with reasonable requests from the faculty member is another incidence of disruptive behavior.

1. Direct student to cease disruptive behavior.
2. Direct student to change seating locations.
3. Require student to have individual conference with faculty member. At his meeting the faculty member will explain the consequences of continued disruptive behavior.
4. Dismiss class for the remainder of the period. (Must be reported to department chair.)
5. Lower the student's final exam by a maximum of one-letter grade.
6. File a complaint with the Dean of Students for more severe disciplinary action.

Students who believe the faculty member has unfairly applied the policy to them may make an appeal with the faculty member's department chair.

VII. Academic Support Resources: www.turnitin.com, University College Learning Center

If you have questions concerning Blackboard, phone **Student Blackboard Assistance 24/7: 910.672.2085** and "Press 1" or toll free, **1-866-518-3955** or visit the site at blackboard.uncfsu.edu/

VIII. Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Week 1 — 8/20 Intro to Course

Week 2 ----8/25 The Awakening

Week 3 — 9/1 Hawthorne: The Scarlet Letter

Week 3 — **9/8 Their Eyes Were Watching God; Quiz 1**

Week 4 — 9/15 Moby Dick

Week 5 — 9/22 Moby Dick; Twain
QUIZ 2

Week 6 — 9/29 Twain

Week 7 — 10/6 Howells and Chesnut

Week 8 — 10/13 NORRIS; Quiz 3

Week 9 — 10/20 Dreiser;

Week 10 10/27 Hemingway

Week 11 —11/3 Fitzgerald and Willa Cather

Week 12 —11/10 Faulkner

Week 13 —11/17 Larsen

Week 14 — 11/24 Wright

Week 15 —12/1 Vonnegut

FINAL EXAM , TBA

IX. Teaching Strategies

This course will be discussion-oriented and student-centered. Although most classes will follow a discussion/lecture format, other strategies will include oral presentations, small-group discussions, workshops, multimedia review and analysis, and testing and quizzes.