

American Literature II, 1865-Present

ENGL3210 (Spring 2016)
Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:15 a.m. (Brown Hall 4025)

Instructor: Michael Marberry
Email: [INSERT]

Office: Sprau Tower 813
Office Hours: T/R 10:00-11:30 a.m. (by appt.)

Required Materials:

- Lauter, Paul (ed.). *The Concise Heath Anthology of American Literature, Volume II: 1865 to the Present*. [ISBN: 978-1285080000]
- Various handouts and readings provided on eLearning for daily discussions.
- Notebook for note-taking and various in-class writing assignments.
- \$5.00 copy-fee card, available for purchase at WMU bookstore.

Course Description & Goals:

American Literature II (ENGL3210) is a three credit-hour, upper-division undergraduate English course designed to provide students with a survey of American literature from 1865 to the present. Note that, for the purposes of this class, “American” refers to the United States. Also, “American” in this course refers not only to writers born/living in the U.S. but also writers who immigrated to and/or emigrated from this country. In order to take American Literature II, students must have previously taken ENGL1110 (or ENGL110) and must have received a minimum “C” grade in the course. Our primary goal for this class will be exploring seminal literary texts from this period and their socio-political, historical, and artistic aims/influence.

Course Requirements:

During this semester, you will complete assignments designed to challenge you intellectually and creatively, as you develop your reading, analytical, research, and writing skills. Regular quizzes will reinforce these skills and push you toward become a more knowledgeable and nuanced literature scholar. Readings will correspond with class discussions, while presentations will help you practice sharing your insights and your questions with peers as you explore these authors and texts critically.

Assignment:	Due Date:	Percent:
Daily Work & Participation	Throughout Semesters	10%
Daily Reading Quizzes	Throughout Semester	20%
Weekly Responses (5x)	Throughout Semester (weekly on Fridays)	20%
Group Presentations	Throughout Semester (weekly on Tuesdays)	10%
Midterm Exam	Thursday, March 3 (by end of class)	20%
Final Exam	Wednesday, April 27 (by end of class)	20%

Grade Scale:

Standard Percentage Value:	Standard GPA Value:
A = 93-100 B/A = 88-92	A = 4.0 B/A = 3.5
B = 83-87 C/B = 78-82	B = 3.0 C/B = 2.5
C = 73-77 D/C = 68-72	C = 2.0 D/C = 1.5
D = 60-67 E = 0-59	D = 1.0 E = 0

Late Assignment Policy:

Work must be completed and submitted on time. Because of the importance of regular attendance and participation in the class, any in-class work (e.g. daily work, reading quizzes, presentations, etc.) missed cannot be made-up or submitted late. The weekly reflections also cannot be submitted late for any reason. The midterm exam and final exam can be made-up only after requesting and then receiving approval from the teacher, though make-up exams will be in a different format than the regular exams (i.e. make-up exams are entirely essay-based format). Students who know they will miss class on the day of the midterm exam or final exam must contact the instructor in advance to arrange for an alternate test-taking day/time.

Attendance & Tardiness Policy:

Attendance is very important to the success of this class and to your development as a scholar. As such, you are expected to attend class regularly (and on time) and to participate fully. For this class, you are allowed to accumulate five (5) absences for any reason—i.e. this class does not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. Accumulating six (6) absences, for any reason, will result in automatic failure of the course. Because of this absence policy, I strongly suggest that you save your absences for actual instances of sickness and/or emergencies.

Tardiness is disruptive to the focused class environment, prevents full participation, and impairs the assimilation of class information. Any in-class work (e.g. quizzes) missed due to tardiness cannot be made-up. Arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early will result in an absence being recorded for you that day.

Class Cancellation & Late Instructor Instructions:

In the unlikely event of class cancellation, I will contact the class via email beforehand. If, for some unknown reason, I am late to class and haven't notified anyone via email about my tardiness or class cancellation, please wait 15 minutes. If I still have not shown up or emailed the class by that point, please send someone to or call the English Office (Sprau Tower 6th Floor, 269-387-2572) to notify them that I am missing from class unexpectedly.

Academic Misconduct, Plagiarism, & Classroom Conduct:

Western Michigan University's Office of Student Conduct lists the following values as those which every student, instructor, and staff-member should strive for: academic honesty, integrity, fairness, trustworthiness, personal responsibility, respect for others, and ethical conduct. These values foster, promote, and protect the core mission of the university. In the classroom, academic misconduct is any activity that tends to compromise the university's academic integrity or subvert the educational process. Forms of academic misconduct include cheating, fabrication, falsification, forgery, multiple submitting, complicity, computer misuse, and plagiarism.

Western Michigan University defines plagiarism as the act of intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e. without proper acknowledgement of the source). It is a serious academic offense and counterproductive to a course in which the goal is for students to create original intellectual work. More information about academic misconduct and plagiarism can be found here: <http://www.wmich.edu/conduct/index.html>

In addition to academic honesty, individuals are expected to behave respectfully toward others and avoid disruptive and obstructive behaviors. Such negative behavior includes (but is not limited to): physical abuse, verbal abuse, verbal and written threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, hazing,

possession of controlled substances, possession of alcoholic beverages, irresponsible computer use, cell phone use (including texting), etc. If there is an emergency situation that requires you to text during class, please let me know beforehand.

One of the best aspects of college life is that it brings together people with a wide array of different personal/cultural beliefs and experiences. Because of this, for our class to be successful, a modicum of trust, decorum, and respect must exist among all participants. Such empathy is especially crucial in a course like this one, where we will occasionally be reading and discussing difficult materials and potentially sensitive topics. Any act that compromises, endangers, and/or disrespects the instructor or your peers will absolutely not be tolerated.

Student Disabilities:

To ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), faculty members at Western Michigan University need to know how a disability will impact student participation and work in the course. Any student registered with Disability Services for Students who would like to discuss any accommodations for this class should contact the instructor of record in a timely manner. Students with documented disabilities who are not registered with DSS should call the office (269-387-2116) or visit the website (wmich.edu/disabilityservices). Students are not allowed to request any academic accommodations without scheduling an appointment and meeting with a DSS staff member. If the student does not register with DSS, their academic accommodations cannot be executed.

Counseling Services:

Students face many challenges in a myriad of personal and professional contexts. Western Michigan University is fully committed to providing its students with avenues for identifying and addressing any emotional, physical, and/or psychological difficulties that arise – including relationship conflicts, stress and anxiety, grief or loss, social and peer pressure, sexual identity questions, trauma and post-traumatic stress, adjusting to college life, feelings of depression, body image or eating disorders, etc. If any of these difficulties occur during the semester, I encourage you to contact Counseling Services by visiting the Sindecuse Health Center or by making an appointment (269-387-1850). Discussions with Counseling Services are confidential.

WMU Writing Center:

The WMU Writing Center is a free consultation service for all WMU students, where experienced writing consultants help writers of all levels and all abilities. Our consultants help writers determine strategies for effective communication and make academically responsible choices at any stage of the writing process and on assignments in any field of study. Both appointments and drop-in sessions are available. The Writing Center is located in 1343 Ellsworth Hall. More information can be found at the Writing Center website: www.wmich.edu/casp/writingcenter.

WMU eLearning:

We will use eLearning as an online hub for supplemental readings, handouts, assignment prompts, project submissions, weekly responses, etc. Please let me know if you have problems finding and accessing our eLearning page, and I will gladly help you.

Extra Credit Opportunity:

For extra credit, students must choose two of the films listed below to watch critically and then craft a thoughtful reflection that puts the two films into dialogue with each other, paying special attention to the degree to which these films seem to reinforce, complicate, challenge, etc. an understanding of U.S. history, society, culture, politics, literature, themes, etc. within the contexts of our course. More information about this extra-credit opportunity can be found on the assignment sheet on eLearning.

Film:	Director:	Writer:	Year:
Double Indemnity	Billy Wilder	James M. Cain	1944
All the King's Men	Robert Rossen	Robert Penn Warren	1949
A Streetcar Named Desire	Elia Kazan	Tennessee Williams	1951
To Kill a Mockingbird	Robert Mulligan	Harper Lee	1962
In Cold Blood	Richard Brooks	Truman Capote	1967
Catch-22	Mike Nichols	Joseph Heller	1970
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Milos Forman	Ken Kesey	1975
The Shining	Stanley Kubrick	Stephen King	1980
Blade Runner	Ridley Scott	Philip K. Dick	1982
Little Women	Gillian Armstrong	Louisa May Alcott	1994
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas	Terry Gilliam	Hunter S. Thompson	1998
The Virgin Suicides	Sofia Coppola	Jeffrey Eugenides	1999
American Psycho	Mary Harron	Bret Easton Ellis	2000
Brokeback Mountain	Ang Lee	Annie Proulx	2005
No Country for Old Men	The Coen Brothers	Cormac McCarthy	2007

(Disclaimer: Some of the films above may have difficult themes, imagery, content, etc. Please feel free to talk to me if you have questions regarding which film might be a good fit for you and your particular interests.)

Course Schedule

* This course schedule is subject to revision at my discretion.

** Be ready to read, to write, to think, and to talk each day in class.

*** Bring all relevant course readings/materials with you to class each day.

Week:	Date:	Readings Due:	Projects Due:
1	Tuesday, January 12 - Syllabus Review - Assignment Review - Diagnostic Review		
	Thursday, January 14 - Historical Contexts		- Signed AMS due by 8:00 am - Group sign-ups due by 9:15 am
2	Tuesday, January 19 - Native-American Writing	- <u>Ghost</u> : "Ghost Dance Songs" - <u>Zitkala-Sa</u> : "The School Days" - <u>Oskison</u> : "Old Harjo"	- Group #0 due by 8:00 am [SAMPLE]
	Thursday, January 21 - Native-American Writing	- <u>Harjo</u> : "New Orleans," "We Must Call..." & "Anchorage" - <u>Erdrich</u> : "The Red Convertible" - <u>Alexie</u> : "What You Pawn..."	- Reflection #0 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL) [SAMPLE]
3	Tuesday, January 26 - Hispanic-American Writing	- <u>Corridos</u> : "Kansas I," "Gregorio Cortez," & "Cesar Chavez" - <u>Gonzalez</u> : "Shades of the Tenth..." - <u>Valdez</u> : "Los Vendidos"	- Group #1 due by 8:00 am
	Thursday, January 28 - Hispanic-American Writing	- <u>Anzaldua</u> : "Borderlands" - <u>Cisneros</u> : "Mericans" - <u>Diaz</u> : "Fiesta, 1980"	- Reflection #1 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
4	Tuesday, February 2 - Middle-Eastern & Asian-American Writing	- <u>Far</u> : "Mrs. Spring Fragrance" - <u>Buleson</u> : "Freedom from Want" - <u>Yamada</u> : "The Question..." "The Night before..." & "Thirty Years..."	- Group #2 due by 8:00 am
	Thursday, February 4 - Middle-Eastern & Asian-American Writing	- <u>C. Lee</u> : "Coming Home Again" - <u>Nye</u> : "Ducks," "My Father..." & "Blood" - <u>Lahiri</u> : "When Mr. Pirzada..."	- Reflection #2 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
5	Tuesday, February 9 - African-American Writing	- <u>AA Folktales</u> : "Animal Tales" - <u>Washington</u> : "Up from Slavery" - <u>Du Bois</u> : "The Souls of Black Folk"	- Group #3 due by 8:00 am
	Thursday, February 11 - African-American Writing	- <u>Toomer</u> : "Cane" - <u>Hughes</u> : "The Negro Speaks..." "The Weary Blues," & "Harlem" - <u>Hurston</u> : "The Gilded Six-Bits"	- Reflection #3 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
6	Tuesday, February 16 - African-American Writing	- <u>Wright</u> : "Living Jim Crow" - <u>Brooks</u> : "The Mother," "We Real Cool," & "The Last Quatrain..." - <u>Baldwin</u> : "Sonny's Blues"	- Group #4 due by 8:00 am

	Thursday, February 18 - African-American Writing	- <u>King</u> : "Birmingham Jail" - <u>Malcolm X</u> : "Autobiography" - <u>Baraka</u> : "An Agony," "Ka'Ba," & "Black People"	- Reflection #4 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
7	Tuesday, February 23 - African-American Writing	- <u>Walker</u> : "Laurel" - <u>Morrison</u> : "Recitatif" - <u>Lorde</u> : "Power," "Master's Tools," & "Never Take Fire..."	- Group #5 due by 8:00 am
	Thursday, February 25 - African-American Writing	- <u>Knight</u> : "The Idea...," "The Violent Space," & "Ilu, the Talking Drum" - <u>Everett</u> : "The Appropriation..." - <u>Packer</u> : "Drinking Coffee..."	- Reflection #5 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
8	Tuesday, March 1 - In-Class Essay		- Essays due by 9:15 am (in class)
	Thursday, March 3 - Midterm Exam		- Midterm due by 9:15 am (in class)
9	Tuesday, March 8 - No Class! (Spring Break)		
	Thursday, March 10 - No Class! (Spring Break)		
10	Tuesday, March 15 - Realism & Naturalism	- <u>Crane</u> : "The Open Boat" - <u>Frost</u> : "Mending Wall," "The Road Not Taken," & "Out, Out—" - <u>Carver</u> : "What We Talk About..."	- Group #6 due by 8:00 am
	Thursday, March 17 - American Regionalism	- <u>Twain</u> : "Buck Fanshaw's Funeral" - <u>Jewett</u> : "A White Heron" - <u>Anderson</u> : "Hands"	- Reflection #6 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
11	Tuesday, March 22 - American Regionalism	- <u>Steinbeck</u> : "The Red Pony" - <u>O'Connor</u> : "A Good Man..." - <u>Silko</u> : "Lullaby"	- Group #7 due by 8:00 am
	Thursday, March 24 - War Literature	- <u>Bierce</u> : "Chickamauga" - <u>Komunyakaa</u> : "Tu Du Street," "Facing It," & "Thanks" - <u>Updike</u> : "Varieties..."	- Reflection #7 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
12	Tuesday, March 29 - Modernist Fiction	- <u>Fitzgerald</u> : "Babylon Revisited" - <u>Hemingway</u> : "White Elephants" - <u>Faulkner</u> : "Barn Burning"	- Group #8 due by 8:00 am
	Thursday, March 31 - Modernist Poetry	- <u>Williams</u> : "The Young Housewife," "Red Wheelbarrow," & "To Elsie" - <u>Eliot</u> : "Love Song...," "Journey of the Magi" (eL), "Hollow Men" (eL) - <u>Stevens</u> : "Sunday Morning," "The Snow Man," "Anecdote of the Jar"	- Reflection #8 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
13	Tuesday, April 5 - The Woman Question	- <u>Gilman</u> : "The Yellow Wall-paper" - <u>Wharton</u> : "Roman Fever" - <u>Bishop</u> : "The Fish," "Man-Moth,"	- Group #9 due by 8:00 am

		& "Waiting Room" (eL)	
	Thursday, April 7 - The Woman Question	- <u>Plath</u> : "Daddy," "Lady Lazarus," & "For a Fatherless Son" - <u>Oates</u> : "Where Are You Going..." - <u>Rich</u> : "Diving into the Wreck," "From a Survivor," & "Power"	- Reflection #9 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
14	Tuesday, April 12 - Political Literature	- <u>Standing Bear</u> : "What I Am Going to Tell You..." - <u>Rukeyser</u> : "Absalom," "To Be a Jew," & "The Minotaur" - <u>Vonnegut</u> : "Harrison Bergeron"	- Group #10 due by 8:00 am
	Thursday, April 14 - Experimentalism	- <u>Cummings</u> : "i sing..." "my sweet old etcetera," & "Buffalo Bill's" - <u>Ginsberg</u> : "Supermarket," "Howl," & "America" - <u>Stein</u> : "Making an American"	- Reflection #10 due by Friday 10:00 am (eL)
15	Tuesday, April 19 - Comics Literature	- <u>Spiegelman</u> : <i>Maus</i> - <u>Bechdel</u> : <i>Fun Home</i> - <u>Ware</u> : <i>Jimmy Corrigan</i> (eL)	
	Thursday, April 21 - Course Evals - Course Review		
16	Wednesday, April 27 - Final Exam		- Final due by 9:15 am (in class)