



**Course Syllabus  
Spring Semester 2009  
School of Arts and Sciences**

**Course Name:** American Literature II  
**Course Number:** ENG 267  
**Section Number:** 002  
**Meeting Day(s) and Time(s):** TR 3.30-4.45  
**Credits:** 3  
**Contact Hours:** 3  
**Professor's Name:** Cory Hoover  
**Office Hours & Location:** TR 2-330pm in PA 118-D  
Online Office Hours: TR 10am-12pm  
**Campus Phone:** 567-661-7096  
**Campus E-mail:** cory\_hoover@owens.edu

**Catalog Description**

Covers literature from the mid-Eighteenth Century to the present. Covers texts by canonical and lesser-known writers in order to introduce a wide variety of authors and to give a sense of the complex and varied nature of the American Experience. (Arts and Humanities elective)

**Prerequisite:** ENG 111

**Textbooks:**

Lauter, Paul, ed. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. Vols. C, D, and E. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

**General Information**

For information on FERPA, Cheating and Plagiarism, Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes and Student Code of Conduct, please refer to the appropriate section of the current Owens Community College Catalog online.

**Course Objectives**

This course will:

1. introduce students to the various writing styles, points of view, and ideas demonstrated in American literature
2. explore how that literature changes and evolves from the mid-Eighteenth Century to the late-Twentieth Century.
3. explore various ways of evaluating texts and creating written responses to various texts to demonstrate knowledge of the literature.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will:

1. explore the variety of genres, themes, issues, and points of view that make up the literature of America from the 1860's to the 1990's.
2. improve their critical thinking skills by completing the readings, participating in class discussions and written exercises, and writing papers and exams.
3. become aware of the debate surrounding defining an American literature and the difficulties in determining what constitutes "Great Literature."
4. by discussing and participating in a variety of methods for critically evaluating the literature, develop the skills they need to interpret and evaluate the texts.

**Grading Procedure:**

Assessment for this course will be derived in the following way:

<b>Exam on Literature from 1865-1910</b>	<b>150pts.</b>
<b>Exam on Literature from 1910-1945</b>	<b>150pts.</b>
<b>Exam on Literature from 1945-present</b>	<b>150 pts.</b>
<b>Weekly Written Commentaries</b>	<b>350pts.</b>
<b>Analysis Paper 1</b>	<b>150pts.</b>
<b>Quizzes, Class Discussion</b>	<b>50pts.</b>
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<b>Total points possible</b>	<b>1000pts.</b>

**Grading Scale:**

- 900-1000= A
- 800-899= B
- 700-799= C
- 600-699= D
- 0-599 = F

**Exams:**

All exams for the course are essay exams to be written during class time. Students will be given essay choices prior to the exam, so that students can be adequately prepared for the exam. Notes and texts are permitted for use during exams.

**Weekly Commentaries:**

Weekly Commentaries are similar to keeping a reading response journal for class. The writing is meant to be informal. The intended purpose is to inspire good thinking about issues noticed within the literature assigned for the course. Often students are permitted to explore their own chosen topics within the literature; at other times, focused topics will be given. It is expected that students will complete commentaries on each of the readings assigned for class—unless otherwise specified on any given class day (especially when multiple selections or poems are assigned). Commentaries should be written legibly or typed, and should total two to four pages per week (or 400-1000 words per week). Commentaries can use creative or unusual forms like poetry, listing, or other techniques. Above all, students should demonstrate an awareness of deeper issues within selections. Commentaries should not be plot summaries. Commentaries will be collected on Thursdays.

**Analysis Paper:**

Students will write one paper for the course. The paper is to be an analysis of selections from one author, an analysis of literature representing one literary movement, or selections comparing and contrasting works by two authors. The paper should be formal in tone, follow conventions of standard English usage, contain an effective organization structure, and contain a clear thesis. The analysis paper will be 5-7 pages long (or 1250-1750 words). A more formal assignment sheet will be provided for this assignment. The paper will be due on our final exam day for the course. Be prepared, however, to share your ideas and argument for the paper during class time during our final regular course week.

**Participation:**

It is expected that all students will participate during class discussions. It is expected that students will have prepared the readings carefully for any given class day by reading thoroughly and by writing commentaries before class begins. Quizzes will be given when students are not reading assigned selections.

**Specific Course Policies:****Instructional Methods:**

Class will be conducted via lecture, discussion, in class exercises and quizzes, and through written responses to the literature. Occasionally, I will set aside time to lecture on various pertinent topics. This is especially the case when introducing the major shifts, developments, and movements in American literature. For the most part, however, the class is designed for students to be actively engaged in discussion and writing activities. Each student should engage all aspects of the course and seek my assistance frequently throughout the semester.

### **General Classroom Procedures and Policies:**

#### **Deadlines:**

All assignments are to be handed in at the **beginning of class** on the date they are due. Assignments submitted after they are collected in class are late and will be marked down two letter grades. Homework that is completed during class time set aside for another class activity will receive zero points. **Late work will be marked down two full letter grades for each class day late.** Upon the third class day late, assignments will be given zero points. Informal assignments, tests, quizzes, in class writings, weekly written commentaries, and group work **will not** be accepted late.

If an emergency arises that will prevent you from completing your work on time or coming to class to take a test, contact me immediately to work something out. Also remember that any dates on the course calendar are tentative and can change. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to stay informed about any calendar changes that occur. Obviously, the best way to stay informed is to attend all class meetings.

**In-class writings, exercises, group work, and quizzes cannot be made up.** If you miss class it is **your responsibility** to find out what you missed. It would be to your advantage to get the phone number of someone in class who can fill you in on any missed assignments or notes prior to the next class meeting.

#### **Student Responsibility:**

- The student is responsible for material assigned on this syllabus as well as for additional material announced in class.
- The instructor will not rely totally on material from the textbooks, so the student is responsible for any additional material covered in class lectures and presentations.
- It is each student's responsibility to be aware of changes that are made to the syllabus as well as those announced in class.
- The student is responsible for being aware of and understanding all course policies and procedures as stated in the syllabus, in individual assignment sheets, and in class sessions during the course of the semester, should new policies be created.
- The student must turn in all assignments and meet the minimum requirements of each assignment to be eligible to receive a grade above "F" for the course.

- The student should keep in close contact with the instructor throughout the semester. The student can set up meetings with the instructor to discuss the work that they are doing for the course.
- If a student misses a class session, it is his/her responsibility to find out what was missed.

### **Attendance:**

Because this course focuses on analyzing our literary heritage through class discussion, class **attendance is necessary (and mandatory)**. Absences will influence your final grade:

Students who miss more than four (4) classes will have their final grade lowered twenty points. Upon the sixth (6th) absence and every absence thereafter, the final grade will be lowered 20 points.

**Excessive tardiness and leaving early will also adversely affect your grade.** Leaving class early or being tardy three times, or a combination of both, will be counted as one absence. So, for example, if you are late four times and leave early twice during the semester, you will be counted absent twice.

### **Using Electronics during Class:**

The use of cellular phones, beepers, and any other **electronic equipment** that is disruptive to others is **prohibited during class time**. Cellular phones, Blackberries, iPods, and beepers should be turned off during class. If they are made use of during class time, you will be marked absent for that particular class session. If any of the equipment mentioned above is used during tests or quizzes, students will receive zero points on the test or quiz and will be reported to the Dean for cheating. Laptops can be used during class for purposes of notetaking and completing in class writings. Laptops cannot be used on exam days or when quizzes are given.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Plagiarism of **any type** will not be tolerated. For further information, see the college catalog. Plagiarism is the act of stealing intellectual property.

### **Plagiarism includes:**

- Using ideas, information, or exact language from a source without properly citing it.
- Failing to both quote and cite a source when exact language is used.
- Failing to properly cite a source according to the citation format used.
- Passing off the work of another person or organization, in part or in full, as ones own.
- “Recycling” papers written for other courses during past or during the current semester.
- Getting others to revise your work under the guise of peer response. When asking others for their response to your writing, comments can be very helpful in pointing to sections in a paper that need further development or pointing out sentences that

are unclear. When those consulted replace your words with theirs or create a new organization for you, it is plagiarizing.

- Using electronic equipment, the help of another student, or copying from another student's test to aid in taking an exam or quiz.

Student plagiarizing in Business Communications will be reprimanded according to the Plagiarism policy set forth in the college catalog. Refer to the college catalog for details concerning the handling of this serious offence.

Cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating on quizzes or exams will immediately have the quiz or exam taken away and will receive zero points.

When taking exams and quizzes, all electronic gadgetry must be turned off and stowed away. Their use during exams is prohibited.

### **The Writing Center:**

The Writing Center works with students and instructors to address each student's individual writing needs so they can become more competent and confident writers. In order to accomplish this goal, the Writing Center offers students one-to-one conferences with trained writing consultants. This service is also available on the Findlay campus via a computer connection.

During these thirty- or sixty minute conferences, the student and consultant engage in constructive, non-evaluative dialogue about the student's work. Through this "writers' talk," students are encouraged to engage in the critical and creative thinking necessary to produce effective writing. Following the conference, the consultant completes a brief conference report, which the student can have sent to his/her instructor.

In addition to offering one-to-one writing conferences, the Center also offers several Macintosh computers, style manuals, dictionaries, thesauruses, and handbooks available for client use. Training in the use of these resources is also available.

Students may call 419-665-7351 to schedule an appointment; however, the Writing Center staff encourages students to bring their writing in early enough to allow ample time for revision (this may require more than one conference). The Writing Center is located in

College Hall, room 156-D. Hours of operation vary per semester; the [Student Noteboard](#) lists current hours of operation.

**Disability Resources Services:** If you have a disability or acquire one, you may be entitled to receive individualized services and/or accommodations intended to assure you an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the program. To receive more information or to apply for services, please contact the Disability Resources Services Office.

**The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as deemed necessary and will communicate such amendment to the students in the course.**

### Assignment Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
R Jan 8	Introduction	
T Jan 13	<b>Regionalism:</b> Clemens “The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg” 70-101	
R Jan 15	<b>Regionalism:</b> Chesnutt “The Goophered Grapevine” 126-135 “What is a Whiteman?” 120-126 Howells 267-269	
T Jan 20	<b>Realism:</b> James: Daisy Miller: A Study 281-320	
R Jan 22	Continue with James Bierce: Chickamauga 455-459	
T Jan 27	Chopin: Desiree’s Baby 359-363 The Story of an Hour (handout) Gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper 578-590	
R Jan 29	Continue with Chopin and Gilman	
T Feb 3	<b>Naturalism:</b> Crane: The Open Boat 497-513 The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky 513-521	
R Feb 5	<b>Naturalism:</b> London: South of the Slot 526-537	
T Feb 10	Standing Bear 540-542 Charles Eastman 543-554	
R Feb 12		<b>Exam on volume C</b>
T Feb 17	Booker T. Washington: 881-894 WEB Du Bois: 894-911	
R Feb 19	Ellison: Battle Royal (handout) Johnson: 923-939	
T Feb 24	<b>Modernism</b> <b>Imagism:</b> Williams, Moore,	

	Pound, H.D.	
R Feb 26	Eliot: 1280-84, 1291-1306 Stevens: 1426-1436	
T Mar 3	Conclude discussion of Modernism	
R Mar 5	<b>Fiction:</b> Dreiser: 1086-1099 Fitzgerald: 1360-1386	
<b>March 9-15:</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
T Mar 17	Anderson: 1073-1076 Porter: 1395-1403	
R Mar 19	Hemingway: 1422-1426 (and handout) Faulkner: 1464-1476	
T Mar 24	<b>Harlem Renaissance:</b> Toomer, Huston (pages TBA)	
R Mar 26	Hughes, McKay (pages TBA)	
T Mar 31		<b>Exam on Volume D</b>
R Apr 2	<b>Beat Poets:</b> Ginsberg: 2229-2243 Kerouac: 2243-2251 Snyder: 2267-2273	
T Apr 7	Conclude discussion of Beats	
R Apr 9	<b>Confessionalist Poets:</b> Sexton: 2307-2312 Rich: 2321-2330 Plath: 2330-2340	
T Apr 14	Brooks: 2142-2154 Lorde: 2489-2498 Sanchez: 2525-2533	
R Apr 16	Clifton: 2541-2548 Bambara: 2639-2646	
T Apr 21	<b>Native American Renaissance:</b> Momaday: 2479-2489 Ortiz: 2724-2731	
R Apr 23	Silko: 2829-2837 Rose: 2837-2847	
T Apr 28	Harjo: 2950-2960 Alexie: 3079-3086 (and handouts)	
R Apr 30	<b>Course Wrap-up</b>	<b>Present Analysis Paper ideas</b>
T May 5	Final exam—2.15-4 <b>Exam on Volume E</b>	<b>Analysis Paper Due</b> <b>Exam on Volume E</b>