

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

English 232 – American Literature II

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Study of American literature which explores literary works and their contexts from 1860 to the present. Reading selections may consist of poetry, short stories, novels, and nonfiction prose from major literary figures as well as marginalized or lesser-known authors. Students read, discuss, analyze, and interpret texts, with a focus on the relationships between literature, national identity, and social movements.

Prerequisite

Placement into ENGL C1000 (formerly ENGL 120) or ESL 122

Recommended Preparation

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in ENGL C1002 (formerly ENGL 122) or equivalent

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Critically read and analyze college-level texts.
- 2) Write clear and well-organized essays that integrate sources in MLA format.

Course Content

The organization of the course content may be chronological, thematic, dialectic, etc. and will incorporate the following topics:

- 1) Introduction to American Literature
 - a. Overview of American literary history
 - b. Writing about literature; key concepts in literary studies
 - c. Literary canonicity and marginalization
- 2) The Civil War and Reconstruction (1860s-1870s)
 - a. Impact of the Civil War on American literature
 - b. Writings on slavery, abolition, and the aftermath of war
- 3) Realism and Naturalism (Late 19th Century)
 - a. Emergence of Realism and Naturalism in response to rapid industrialization and urbanization
 - b. Focus on everyday life, social mores, and the influence of environment on character
- 4) The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era (Late 19th - Early 20th Century)
 - a. Literature reflecting societal changes, industrial wealth, and social problems
 - b. Early feminist writings and social critique
- 5) Modernism (Early to Mid-20th Century)
 - a. The Modernist revolution in form and content
 - b. Exploration of themes like alienation, fragmentation, and the loss of traditional values
- 6) The Harlem Renaissance (1920s)
 - a. African American literary and artistic movement celebrating Black culture and identity
 - b. Examination of race, culture, and social issues
- 7) The Great Depression (1930s)
 - a. Literature and social injustice

- b. Regionalism and the American experience
- 8) Post-War Literature and the Beat Generation (1940s-1950s)
 - a. Post-WWII literature exploring themes of disillusionment and questioning of traditional values
 - b. The Beat poets and their impact on American culture and literature
- 9) The Civil Rights Movement and Social Change (1960s)
 - a. Literature reflecting the struggles and changes of the Civil Rights era
 - b. Emergence of diverse voices and perspectives
- 10) Postmodernism (Late 20th Century)
 - a. Postmodern literature, metafiction, and questioning of objective truth
 - b. Exploration of consumerism, media saturation, and technological influence
- 11) Contemporary American Literature (21st Century), Current Trends and Future Directions
 - a. The diverse range of styles and narratives in the 21st century
 - b. Exploration of globalism, multiculturalism, and identity
 - c. Emerging trends in American literature
 - d. Digital literature, cross-genre experimentation, and the evolving literary landscape

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Utilize vocabulary necessary for engaging in thoughtful analysis of the assigned literature in class discussion and written assignments.
- 2) Describe the major literary periods in the United States from 1860 to the present.
- 3) Describe the various literary genres and their common elements.
- 4) Identify the literal, symbolic, and inferred meaning of prose, poetry, and/or plays in class discussions and in written analyses.
- 5) Situate literary texts in their various historical, political, literary, and cultural contexts and discuss how those contexts inform their meanings, values, and roles.
- 6) Discuss how authors use, resist, and alter conventions of genre to inform representations of key concepts, subjects, and themes in assigned literature.
- 7) Account for intersectional formations such as race/ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, religion, national identity, etc. in assigned readings.
- 8) Write critical analyses of the literature by making a claim (thesis) and supporting it with specific evidence from the text, documented in MLA format.
- 9) Evaluate the roles of literary and cultural production in formations of national identity, social movements, and debates over ideologies, customs, and norms.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on student achievement of the course objectives and outcomes, as determined by multiple measurements of evaluation and/or student self-assessment.

- 1) Summaries
- 2) Annotated bibliographies
- 3) Reader responses, journals, and/or notes
- 4) Quizzes on assigned texts
- 5) Analysis, interpretation, and discussion of literature
- 6) Student reports and/or presentations on selected topics, texts, or authors
- 7) Contributions to group activities and/or workshops
- 8) Group and individual projects
- 9) Evidence-based analytical essays (in MLA format) that may require outside research
- 10) Reflection activities in which students examine their own learning and writing processes

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lectures and presentations by the instructor, visiting writers, and/or speakers
- 2) Facilitation of student analysis, interpretation, and discussion of literature
- 3) Student-led inquiry into relevant literature and theoretical frameworks via discussion groups, presentations, and other projects
- 4) Collaborative small group activities
- 5) Whole class discussion of sample writing (student and/or professional), peer workshops, and instructor-student conferences to help students successfully complete assignments
- 6) Multi-modal texts (i.e., films, short video content, podcasts, social media, and audio clips), including culturally relevant and diverse interpretations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Read and take notes on assigned texts.
- 2) Maintain journals or other types of informal writing.
- 3) Research various assigned texts and/or authors.
- 4) Create content for presentations, projects, or other assignments.
- 5) Participate in workshops, peer reviews, or other collaborative assignments.
- 6) Write evidence-based analytical essays, annotated bibliographies, and other shorter assignments.
- 7) Attend literary arts events and readings on campus, online, and in the greater literary community.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Levine, Robert S., et al., editors. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature: 1865 to the Present*. Shorter Tenth Edition, Volume 2. W.W. Norton, 2022.
 - b. Belasco, Susan and Linck Johnson. *Bedford Anthology of American Literature, Vol. II*. 2nd edition. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013.
- 2) Supplemental: Novel(s) chosen by instructor

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Use literary terminology to discuss, interpret, analyze, and synthesize key concepts and elements in American literature.
- 2) Create evidence-based literary analyses demonstrating close reading and interpretive skills, logical reasoning, and argumentative strategies.
- 3) Evaluate how literature informs, reinforces, challenges, alters, resists, or otherwise influences formations of American national identity and related ideologies.