

Course Code & No. - Section: ENGL 327-1
Course Title (Credits): Contemporary American Literature (3)
Term & Year: Fall 2019
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 80215

Instructor: Chris Anderson
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Office Hours: Please make appointment.

Class Meeting Time: TTh 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Location: Prim Library 320
Prerequisites: English 104

Course Description: This course covers American literature from the early modern era to the present. All major genres are covered: novels, poetry, short fiction and drama. The literature is related to the cultural and historical dynamics of the American experience.

Required Texts and Materials:

1. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (Eighth Edition) (Vol. Package 2: Vols. C, D, E); Nina Baym (Editor); W.W. Norton and Company. ISBN 978-0393913101;
2. Various selected literature and articles;
3. A laptop computer that meets Sierra Nevada College's minimum requirements

Expectations: Students are expected to be active participants, showing respect to all members of the class. Students will review student handbook policies on plagiarism and will present only their own work to our community. Students will do their best work and will communicate with the instructor if having difficulties. Students are responsible for all material covered during the course, whether handed out in class, discussed in class, read as an assignment, or disseminated in any other way. If you are absent, make sure you check with your classmates to find out what information you missed that day.

Turn off your cell phone, iPod, and all other distracting devices in the classroom. If we are using computers during class, you are expected to refrain from activities not related to the lesson (i.e. web surfing, Facebook, YouTube, etc.)

Student Outcomes: On successful completion of this course, a student should possess:

1. A basic grasp of the literary, historical, and social dimensions of the American experience, 1856-2018;
2. A basic understanding of the major genres – poetry, novels, short fiction, and drama – of American literature;
3. A deeper appreciation for the manifold dimensions of American identity.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes:

1. Classroom participation;
2. Regular, submitted summaries and/or analyses of readings;
3. A midterm and final;
4. A research project to be approved by the instructor in advance;
5. A final classroom presentation.

Attendance: Because this class is largely based on attendance and participation, students are expected to attend every class. Each class will be interactive and different. Attendance is a significant part of the grade for this class. Please be on time. Chronic lateness is disrespectful of our class community and will adversely affect a student's grade. If a student is absent, **work due on that day is still due**. All work is due when the class begins. Some absences (cleared in advance) are excused and do not adversely affect students' grades. These include absences followed by a note from a medical facility identifying you were under medical care on that day at that time, and absences resulting from attending school-related trips that are **cleared in advance**. Other absences may be excused if the situation warrants, and it is the student's responsibility to see me to discuss the nature of the absence and to make up the class before the missed class or immediately after. The student must communicate with me about an action plan for making up missed content. The best policy is to come to class regularly and communicate with me if there is an excusable reason for an absence.

NOTE - Each unexcused absence will result in a deduction of 6 percentage points from the student's attendance grade for the course; e.g. one absence will result in an attendance grade of 94% for the semester, two absences will result in an attendance grade of 88% for the semester, and so on.

Late assignments, if accepted, will be marked down one grade level for each day after the due date. "My computer died" or "the printer is not working" or "you must not have gotten my email" are not excuses for late assignments.

Class Requirements: Students are required to do a significant amount of reading, writing, and revising. Retain digital and hard copies of all your work for this class until the final grades have been submitted. Back up your work consistently. **Keep ALL versions of your work, including drafts.**

Grading Policy: Grading will be based on the examinations, the summaries/analyses, the paper, the presentation, and classroom participation. Although the examinations, summaries/analyses, papers, classroom participation, and presentation will be the primary method of assessing the grade, improvement throughout the course will be very important in terms of the final grade. A simple average of the grades from the examinations, papers, classroom participation and the presentation will be the baseline for the final grade. If significant improvement occurs throughout the course, however, this fact will be taken into account.

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism The Honor Code: The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code: SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year. Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Note - This schedule provides a general plan for this course. Alterations may be necessary and students will be informed when changes in assignments are made. Students are responsible for the material covered and announcements made during all classes.

Date	Class Plan	Assignment Due
9/17 Tuesday	Introduction American Literature: 1865-Present Realism and Naturalism Modernism Postmodernism	
9/19 Thursday	Mark Twain – Who was he? What is Naturalism? Realism? How does Twain fit into these concepts? Discuss “Jumping Frog”	About Twain (Vol. C, 118-121) “Jumping Frog” (Vol. C, 121-125)
9/24 Tuesday	Mark Twain – Discuss “Roughing It” <i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	Roughing It – Ch. 23 (Vol. C, 125-129) Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Vol. C, 130-309)
9/26 Thursday	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (Vol. C, 130-309)
10/1 Tuesday	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (Vol. C, 130-309)
10/3 Thursday	Mark Twain <i>Huck Finn</i> – Literary Criticisms	Literary Criticisms of <i>Huck Finn</i> (Vol. C, 310-324)
10/8 Tuesday	Henry James Kate Chopin	About James (Vol. C, 417-420) “Daisy Miller” (Vol. C, 421-459) About Chopin (Vol. C, 550-551)
10/10 Thursday	Kate Chopin Edith Wharton	“Desiree’s Baby” (Vol. C, 551-555) “The Story of an Hour” (Vol. C, 555-557) “The Storm” (Vol. C, 557-561) “Roman Fever” (Vol. C, 828-836)
10/15 Tuesday	Charlotte Perkins Gilman Stephen Crane Susan Glaspell	About Gilman (Vol. C, 790-791) “The Yellow Wallpaper” (Vol. C, 792-804) “Why I Wrote ‘The Yellow Wallpaper’?” (Vol. C, 804) About Crane (Vol. C, 943-946) <i>Maggie: A Girl of the Streets</i> (Vol. C, 946-989)
10/17 Thursday	Modernism American Lit. Between the Wars Robert Frost	“The Figure a Poem Makes” (Vol. D, 250-252) “Mending Wall” (Vol. D, 232-233) “The Death of the Hired Man” (Vol. D, 233-237) “The Road Not Taken” (Vol. D, 241-242) “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” (Vol. D, 245) “Birches” (Vol. D, 242-244)
10/22 Tuesday	Wallace Stevens William Carlos Williams Ezra Pound Marianne Moore	About Stevens (Vol. D, 281-283) “The Emperor of Ice Cream” (Vol. D, 284-285) “Anecdote of the Jar” (Vol. D, 288-289) “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” (Vol. D, 291-292) About Williams (Vol. D, 302-304) “The Young Housewife” (Vol. D, 304) “To Elsie” (Vol. D, 307-309) “Landscape with the Fall of Icarus” (Vol. D, 313) About Pound (Vol. D, 314-316) “To Whistler, American” (Vol. D, 316)

		“The River Merchant’s Wife: A Letter” (Vol. D, 318-319) About Moore (Vol. D, 357-359) “To a Snail” (Vol. D, 360) “What Are Years” (Vol. D, 360-361)
10/24 Thursday	Midterm exam	
10/29 Tuesday	Eugene O’Neill	About O’Neill (Vol. D, 400-402) <i>Long Day’s Journey Into Night</i> (Vol. D, 402-480)
10/31 Thursday	Eugene O’Neill	<i>Long Day’s Journey Into Night</i> (Vol. D, 402-480)
11/5 Tuesday	F. Scott Fitzgerald William Faulkner John Steinbeck	About Fitzgerald (Vol. D, 658-659) “Babylon Revisited” (Vol. D, 675-689) About Faulkner (Vol. D, 695-698) “Barn Burning” (Vol. D, 800-812) About Steinbeck (Vol. D, 881) “The Leader of the People” (Vol. D, 882-892)
11/7 Thursday	Zora Neale Hurston Katherine Anne Porter Langston Hughes Richard Wright	About Hurston (Vol. D, 528-530) “The Gilded Six-Bits” (Vol. D, 541-549) About Porter (Vol. D, 484-486) “Flowering Judas” (Vol. D, 486-494) About Hughes (Vol. D, 869-871) “Theme for English B” (Vol. D, 880) “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (Vol. D, 871) About Wright (Vol. D, 898-899) “The Man who was Almost a Man” (Vol. D, 898-907)
11/12 Tuesday	T.S. Elliot Flannery O’Connor John Cheever	About Elliot (Vol. D, 365-368) “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (Vol. D, 368-371) About O’Connor (Vol. E, 436-437) “The Life You Save May Be Your Own” About Cheever (Vol. E, 156-157) “The Swimmer” (Vol. E, 157-165)
11/14 Thursday	American Literature since 1945 Tennessee Williams	About Williams (Vol. E, 90-93) <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (Vol. E, 93-155) – Shown in class.
11/19 Tuesday	Tennessee Williams	About Williams (Vol. E, 90-93) <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (Vol. E, 93-155) – Shown in class.
11/21 Thursday	Adrienne Rich Sylvia Plath Anne Sexton	About Rich (Vol. E, 566-568) “Diving Into the Wreck” (Vol. E, 573-576) About Plath (Vol. E, 623-625) “Lady Lazarus” (Vol. E, 625-628) “Ariel” (Vol. E, 628) “Daddy” (Vol. E, 629) About Sexton (Vol. E, 558) “The Truth the Dead Know” (Vol. E, 559) “Sylvia’s Death” (Vol. E, 560-562)

11/26 Thanksgiving Tuesday	Thanksgiving –No Class	
11/28 – Thanksgiving Thursday	Thanksgiving – No Class	
12/3 Tuesday	Allen Ginsberg Thomas Pynchon Raymond Carver	About Ginsberg (Vol. E, 490-492) “Howl” 11/16 Williams’ “Introduction to Howl” (Handout)

		About Pynchon (Vol. E, 723-725) “Entropy” (Vol. E, 725-736) About Carver (Vol. E, 736-737) “Cathedral” (Vol. E, 737-747)
12/5 Thursday	David Mamet	About Mamet (Vol. E, 1007-1009) Glengarry Glen Ross (Vol. E, 1009-1042)
12/10 Tuesday	David Mamet	Glengarry Glen Ross (Vol. E, 1009-1042)
12/12 Thursday - FINAL	Final Exam	