English 2326
Readings in American Literature

Instructor: Dr. Gabriela Serrano
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Office Phone: 486-6155
E-mail: gserrano@angelo.edu
Skype Profile: dr.gabrielaserrano

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Course Description
In this course, we will examine American literature, history, and culture. We will evaluate different genres of American literature from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries. We will also cover issues in American literature concerning psychology, nature, race, and gender. Understanding important themes in American culture will help us become critical readers, develop our analytical skills, and come to a better understanding of the social and political contexts that shape a country’s literature.

ASU Core Curriculum Objectives for Sophomore Literature and Related Course Assessments

Students in sophomore literature will practice the following core curriculum learning objectives in critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility. Students will then demonstrate their capabilities in these objectives through reading quizzes, written analyses, reflections, or examinations.

Critical thinking will be demonstrated in reading quizzes, written analyses, or examinations.
● Students will gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue by mastering a series of assigned literary works in terms of generic conventions and content.
Communication will be demonstrated in reading quizzes, written analyses, or examinations.
● Students will develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.
Social responsibility will be demonstrated in written reflection on public reading or lecture.
● Students will demonstrate ability to engage with locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally known literary artists and the texts they create, and to reflect upon
the shared traditions of literary expression, the debates that help shape literature, and the conflicts, cultural differences, and shared experiences.

Personal responsibility will be demonstrated in reading quizzes, written analyses, or examinations.

- Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions, and consequences by identifying, analyzing, and evaluating ethical decision-making in literary examples.

**Open Door Policy**
Students are welcomed and encouraged to visit me whenever they wish to discuss an exam, quiz, or any other problem as it relates to this class. If students cannot come during my office hours, they may schedule an appointment or contact me via Skype. The easiest and best way to contact me outside of my office hours is to e-mail me (gserrano@angelo.edu). I read my e-mail on a daily basis during weekdays and will reply promptly.

**Semester Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary Analysis (3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz Grades</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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**Exams**

Students will complete three exams over the course of the semester.

- Exam 1 will cover Race in American literature
- Exam 2 will cover Gender in American literature
- Exam 3 will cover Individuality in American literature

**Literary Analysis**

Students will complete three, one page responses over the short-stories and/or poems we will cover this semester. Students will be expected to read, evaluate, and respond to the text(s) critically to deepen their understanding of the text(s). I will post two prompts on Blackboard for each unit—Race, Gender, and the Individual—and students may choose from one of these two prompts to write about. These will be due by the end of the class period and must be uploaded on Blackboard, but students have unlimited submissions for these. I will not accept late, so make sure to upload them by the due date and time.

**Quiz Grades**

Quizzes will cover the assigned readings due for that day. Quizzes are unannounced and must be completed within the first five minutes of class. If students are more than five minutes late, they may not take the quiz for that day. Students may not make up any quizzes, but I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester in case of illness, a family emergency, car trouble, etc. Additionally, I will assign a grade of 0 on a student’s quiz if she/he leaves class early. Students may not simply take their quizzes and walk out of class.

**Discussion Questions**
Discussion Questions cover the assigned readings and lectures due for the week. I will not accept late, so make sure to upload them by the due date and time. You do, however, have unlimited submissions for these. I will, however, drop the lowest Discussion Question grade in case of illness, a family emergency, car trouble etc.

Use of Technology
Assignments must be uploaded on Blackboard as WORD or PDF documents. I will not accept excuses for any technical difficulties students may have with their assignments, which include computers crashing, difficulty uploading papers, Blackboard shutting down, etc. Also, students must have a competent knowledge of Blackboard. I addition, students need to make sure to give themselves enough time after finishing their assignments to manage any of these technical difficulties. I will not accept any assignments via email because it is a violation of your rights as students for me to discuss grades via email. Make sure to upload all assignments in the designated content area labeled “Assignments” on Blackboard.

“No Drama Clause”:
I will drop the lowest quiz and discussion question grade at the end of the semester, and I will drop one letter grade per day a paper is late in case of illness, a death in the family, car trouble, etc., but I do not want students to ask for special exceptions for such occurrences. Again, I drop the lowest daily and quiz grades and deduct 10 points per day a literary analysis is late in case of an emergency.

Departmental Policy on Academic Honesty
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook: http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf Failure to comply with the honor code will result in disciplinary action and a failing grade in this course.

I will assign a grade of “F” for the following violations:

I. Plagiarism “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or idea into one’s own work offered for credit” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Chapter VI, Section 5.32)

II. Cheating - this includes copying material from another member of the class, having someone in or outside of class complete an assignment or exam for you.

Students with Special Needs
Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact ASU’s Disability Services: http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
Schedule of Readings and Exams
(Tentative and Subject to Change)

**Week One**
Aug. 28  Course Introduction/Course Policies
Race in American Literature and The Harlem Renaissance

Aug. 30  Langston Hughes: “Slave on the Block”

Sept. 1   Terrance Hayes: "What I Am"

**Week Two**
Sept. 4   Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 6   Rudolfo Anaya: Selections from *Bless Me, Ultima*

Sept. 8   Gloria Anzaldua: “How to Tame a Wild Tongue”

**Assignment (Due by Midnight 9/10)**
Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Three**
Sept. 11  Maxine Hong Kingston: “No Name Woman”

Sept. 13  Emma Lazarus: “The New Colossus”
Sook Ryul Ryu: “Poem by a Yellow Woman”

Sept. 12  Sherman Alexie Selection from *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*

**Assignments (Due by Midnight 9/17)**
Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Four**
Sept. 18  Booker T. Washington: *Atlanta Compromise Speech*
Ralph Ellison: “Battle Royal”

Sept. 20  Joel Chandler Harris: “The Wonderful Tar Baby Story”

Sept. 22  **Assignment Upload on Blackboard by 2:50 p.m.**
Upload Literary Analysis

**Week Five**
Sept. 25  Flannery O’Connor: “Revelation”

Sept. 27  Charles Chestnutt: “Po Sandy”
*Review for Exam 1*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sept. 29</strong></th>
<th><strong>Assignment (Due on Blackboard by 2:50 p.m.)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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**Week Six**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>T.S. Eliot</td>
<td>“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Raymond Carver</td>
<td>“What We Talk About When We Talk About Love”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Gregory Corso</td>
<td>“Marriage”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>e.e. cummings</td>
<td>“Since Feeling is First”</td>
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**Assignment (Due by Midnight on 10/8)**

Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Seven**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>Allan Ginsberg</td>
<td>“Howl”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bishop</td>
<td>“In the Waiting Room”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Audrey Lorde</td>
<td>“The Black Unicorn”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Selections from <em>October Mourning</em></td>
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**Assignment (Due by Midnight on 10/15)**

Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Eight**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Kate Chopin</td>
<td>“The Story of an Hour”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alysia Harris</td>
<td>“That Girl”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Rebecca Brown</td>
<td>“Forgiveness”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>C.D. Wright</td>
<td>“Everything Good between Men and Women”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>No Assignments due this week</em></td>
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**Week Nine**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Theodore Roethke</td>
<td>“My Papa’s Waltz”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sylvia Plath</td>
<td>“Daddy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Shel Silverstein</td>
<td>“Whatif”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ogden Nash</td>
<td>“The Boy Who Laughed At Santa Claus”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td><strong>Assignment due on Blackboard by 2:50 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Upload Literary Analysis</td>
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**Week Ten**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Abraham Panther</td>
<td>“An Account of a Beautiful Lady”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Maya Angelou</td>
<td>“Phenomenal Woman”</td>
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</table>
Review for Exam II

Nov. 3

**Assignment due on Blackboard by 2:50 p.m.**

Exam II

**Week Eleven**

Nov. 6

The Individual in American Literature

Joyce Carol Oates: “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”

Nov. 8

Kurt Vonnegut: selection from *Slaughterhouse Five*

Nov. 10

Bob Dylan: Selected Works

**Assignment (Due by Midnight on 11/19)**

Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Twelve**

Nov. 13

Henry David Thoreau: “Where I Lived, and What I Lived For”

Nov. 15

Walt Whitman: “A Noiseless, Patient Spider”

William Carlos Williams: “The Red Wheelbarrow”

Nov. 17

Cormac McCarthy: Selection from *The Road*

**Assignment (Due by Midnight on 11/19)**

Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Thirteen**

Nov. 20

Watch Clip from *Paper Towns*

**Assignment due on Blackboard by 2:50 p.m.**

Extra Credit Quiz

Nov. 22

*Winter Holiday*

Nov. 24

*Thanksgiving Holiday*

**Week Fourteen**

Nov. 27

Mark Twain: selection from *Huckleberry Finn*

J.D. Salinger: selection from *Catcher in the Rye*

Nov. 29:

Iliana Rocha: “Self-Portrait with Headphones On”

Sandra Cisneros: “Eleven”

Dec. 1

**Assignment due on Blackboard by 2:50 p.m.**

Upload Literary Analysis
**Week Fifteen**
Dec. 4  Robert Frost: “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

Dec. 6  *Review for Final Exam*

Dec. 8  Final Questions about Final and Grades
*No Assignments due this week*

**Week Sixteen**
Dec. 11  *Final Exam 3 due on Blackboard by 5:30 p.m.*