English 2326: Readings in American Literature
Instructor: Dr. Gabriela Serrano
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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.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 or may schedule an appointment 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
Exam 1 20%
Exam 2 20%
Exam 3 20%
Literary Analysis (3) 15%
Quiz Grades 10%
Discussion Questions 10%
Participation 5%

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)
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<tr>
<th>Week One</th>
<th>Jan 16 Course Introduction/Course Policies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>African-American Spirituals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Cherokee Morning Song</td>
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<td>Winnebago</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Two</th>
<th>Jan. 23 Clip from <em>The Color Purple</em></th>
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<tr>
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<td>Alice Walker: &quot;Everyday Use&quot;</td>
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<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>Carmen Tafolla: &quot;La Malinche&quot;</td>
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<td>Rudolfo Anaya: Selections from <em>Bless Me, Ultima</em></td>
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<td><strong>Assignment (Due by Midnight 1/28)</strong></td>
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<td>Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard</td>
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<th>Week Three</th>
<th>Jan. 30 Emma Lazarus: “The New Colossus”</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Sook Ryul Ryu: “Poem by a Yellow Woman”</td>
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<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Clip from <em>Joy Luck Club</em></td>
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<td>Amy Tan: Selection from <em>Joy Luck Club</em></td>
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<td><strong>Assignment (Due by Midnight 2/4)</strong></td>
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<th>Week Four</th>
<th>Feb. 6 Booker T. Washington: <em>Atlanta Compromise Speech</em></th>
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<td>Ralph Ellison: “Battle Royal”</td>
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<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Charles Chestnutt: &quot;Po Sandy&quot;</td>
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<td>Joel Chandler Harris: “The Wonderful Tar Baby Story”</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment (Due by Midnight 2/11)</strong></td>
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<td>Upload Literary Analysis</td>
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<th>Week Five</th>
<th>Feb. 13 Flannery O’Connor: “Revelation”</th>
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<td>Review for Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td><strong>Assignment (Due on Blackboard by end of class period)</strong></td>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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Week Six
Feb. 20  Ernest Hemingway: "Hills Like White Elephants"
       Adrienne Rich: "Living in Sin"

Feb. 22  Writers Conference (No Class Meeting)
       Assignment (Due by Midnight on 2/25)
       Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

Week Seven
Feb. 27  Allan Ginsberg: “Howl”
       Emily Dickinson: "Wild Nights"

Mar. 1:  Selections from October Mourning
       Assignment (Due by Midnight on 3/4)
       Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

Week Eight
Mar. 6   Theodore Roethke: “My Papa’s Waltz”
       Sylvia Plath: “Daddy”

Mar. 8   Rachel Zucker:  “Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday”
       No Assignments Due This Week

Spring Break March 12-16

Week Nine
Mar. 20  John Updike: "The Persistence of Desire"
       Kristen Roupenian: "Cat Person"

Mar. 22  Rebecca Brown  “Forgiveness”
       Assignment (Due by Midnight 3/25)
       Upload Literary Analysis

Week Ten
Mar. 27Gene Luen Yang:  Selection from American Born Chinese
       Review for Exam II

Mar. 29  Assignment due on Blackboard by end of class period
       Exam II
**Week Eleven**

Apr. 3  The Individual in American Literature  
Boby Dylan: "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue"  
Joyce Carol Oates: “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”

Apr. 5  William E. Stafford: "At the Bomb Testing Site"  
Kurt Vonnegut: selection from *Slaughterhouse Five*

**Assignment (Due by Midnight on 4/8)**
Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Twelve**

Apr. 10  Nathalie Handal: "Ways of Rebelling"  
David Thoreau: “Resistance To Civil Government”

Apr. 12  Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Letter From A Birmingham Jail"

**Assignment (Due by Midnight on 4/15)**
Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Thirteen**

Apr. 17  Emily Dickinson: “The Brain--is wider than the Sky--”  
Octavia Butler: “Speech Sounds”

Apr. 19  Watch Clip from *A Wrinkle in Time*  
Madeleine L'Engle: Selection from *A Wrinkle in Time*

**Assignment (Due by Midnight on 4/22)**
Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard

**Week Fourteen**

Apr. 24  Mark Twain: selection from *Huckleberry Finn*  
J.D. Salinger: selection from *Catcher in the Rye*

Apr. 25:  David Berman: "Self Portrait at 28"  
Sandra Cisneros: “Eleven”

**Assignment due (Due by Midnight on 4/29)**
Upload Literary Analysis

**Week Fifteen**

May 1  Robert Frost: “The Road Not Taken”

May 3  *Review for Final Exam*  
*No Assignments due this week*

**Week Sixteen**

May 8  T/R 11:00 a.m.  **Final Exam due on Blackboard by 12:30 p.m.**
May 10  T/R 9:30 a.m.  **Final Exam due on Blackboard by 10:00 a.m.**