English 2326
Introduction to American Literature

Instructor: Dr. Gabriela Serrano
Office: Academic Building 0019 A
Office Phone: 486-6155
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
E-mail: gserrano@angelo.edu

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. I will be logged on to Skype during my office hours, so feel free to contact me at the aforementioned Skype Profile during this time. If I am away for a few minutes or attending to a student, I will return your call promptly. 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**

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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Literary Analysis (3)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz Grades</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/Discussion Posts</td>
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**Exams**

Students will complete three exams over the course of the semester. **I will not accept late submission for exams**, so make sure to complete them by the due date and time. **You may only submit the exam once**, so make sure not to be ready to sit for two full, consecutive hours to complete the exam. **Follow the instructions carefully, and do not press the browser button.**

- 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 submissions**, so make sure to upload them by the due date and time.

**Quiz Grades**

Quizzes will cover the assigned readings due for the week, and they will be due at the end of the week. **I will not accept late submission**, so make sure to complete them by the due date and time. You will have a maximum of two submissions for the quizzes, just in case something goes wrong—the most common error is pressing the browser button—but **I will not reset quizzes if you fail to submit them successfully**. I will, however, drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester in case of technical difficulties, illness, a family emergency, car trouble, etc.

**Discussion Questions**

Discussion Questions cover the assigned readings and lectures due for the week. **I will not accept late submissions**, 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 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. This is an online course, and students must have a competent knowledge of Blackboard. In 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.

**Discussion Posts**
Discussion posts are vital because allow us to mimic a face-to-face classroom experience. They allow students and the instructor to exchange ideas and learn from one another. These posts will be due at the end of the week, and although students must post at least one comment per week, except on weeks when I have scheduled an exam, they may post as many times as they wish and respond to as many posts as they like. Although I encourage students to feel free to voice their opinions when they relate to the subject being discussed, I expect members of this class to respect and show concern for all members of the class when participating in these discussion boards.

“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.

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**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](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.

Inclusion Statement
We will be addressing controversial topics related to underprivileged groups throughout the semester. I support a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honor all identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). Please let me if there is a particular name or pronouns by which you identify. Also, please let me know if anything I or your peers may say in class makes you feel excluded or marginalized. You may come see me in my office, leave me a note, and your concerns will remain anonymous.

Disability Services
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
Lectures
Course Introduction/Course Policies
Race in American Literature and The Harlem Renaissance
Langston Hughes: “Theme for English B”
“Dream Deferred”

Week Two
Lectures
Carmen Tafolla: “La Malinche”
Rudolfo Anaya: Chapter 10, Bless Me, Ultima
Gary Soto: “Mexicans Begin Jogging”

Assignment (Due by Midnight 9/9)
Post on Discussion Board
Take Quiz on Readings for the Week

Week Three
Lectures
Gene Luen Yang: selection from American Born Chinese
Emma Lazarus: “The New Colossus”
Sook Ryul Ryu: “Poem by a Yellow Woman”

Assignments (Due by Midnight 9/16)
Post on Discussion Board
Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard
Take Quiz on Readings for the Week

Week Four
**Lectures**
Booker T. Washington: *Atlanta Compromise Speech*
Ralph Ellison: “Battle Royal”
Joel Chandler Harris: “The Wonderful Tar Baby Story”

**Assignments (Due by Midnight 9/23)**
Post on Discussion Board
Upload Literary Analysis
Take Quiz on Readings for the week

**Week Five**

**Lecture**
Toni Morrison: “Recitatif”

**Review for Exam 1**

**Assignment (Due by Midnight 9/30)**
**Exam 1**

**Week Six**

**Lectures**
Gender in American Literature
Edgar Allan Poe: “Annabel Lee”
Gregory Corso: “Marriage”
Adrienne Rich: "Living in Sin"

**Assignments (Due by Midnight on 10/7)**
Post on Discussion Board
Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard
Take Quiz on Readings for the week

**Week Seven**

**Lectures**
Emily Dickinson: “Wild Nights”
Frank Bidart: “Queer”
David Sedaris: selection from *Me Talk Pretty One Day*

**Assignments (Due by Midnight on 10/14)**
Post on Discussion Board
Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard
Take Quiz on Readings for the week

**Week Eight**

**Lectures**
Theodore Roethke: “My Papa’s Waltz”
Sylvia Plath: “Daddy”
Sandra Cisneros: “Eleven”
*No Assignments due this week*

**Week Nine**
- **Lectures**
  - Zora Neale Hurston: “Sweat”
  - Rebecca Brown: “Forgiveness”
  - Alysia Harris: “That Girl”

**Assignments (Due by Midnight on 10/28)**
- Post on Discussion Board
- Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard
- Take Quiz on Readings for the week

**Week Ten**
- **Lectures**
  - Ernest Hemingway: "Hills Like White Elephants"
  - Review for Exam II

**Assignments (Due by Midnight 11/4)**
- Exam 2

**Week Eleven**
- **Lectures**
  - The Individual in American Literature
  - Emily Dickinson: “This is My Letter to the World”
  - J.D. Salinger: selection from *Catcher in the Rye*

**Assignments (Due by Midnight on 11/11)**
- Post on Discussion Board
- Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard
- Take Quiz on Readings for the week

**Week Twelve**
- **Lectures**
  - Ernest Hemingway: “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”
  - F. Scott Fitzgerald: “An Alcoholic Case”

**Assignments (Due by Midnight on 11/18)**
- Post on Discussion Board
- Upload Discussion Questions on Blackboard
- Take Quiz on Readings for the week

**Week Thirteen**
- **Lectures**
  - Walt Whitman: “A Noiseless, Patient Spider”
No assignments are due this week

**Week Fourteen**

**Lectures**
- Tim O’Brien: “The Things They Carried”
- William E. Stafford: "At the Bomb Testing Site"
- Kurt Vonnegut: selection from *Slaughterhouse Five*

**Assignments (Due by Midnight on 12/2)**
- Post on Discussion Board
- Upload Literary Analysis
- Take Quiz on Readings for the week

**Week Fifteen**

**Lectures**
- Robert Frost: “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
  
  *Review for Final Exam*

*No Assignments due this week*

**Week Sixteen**

*12/12, Upload Final Exam 3 by Midnight*