English 3332  
American Literature After 1870

Instructor: Dr. Gabriela Serrano

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Office Hours: MW:  12:00 -2:00 p.m.  
TR 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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Course Description
This survey of American literature will focus on major literary movements from the twentieth to twenty-first centuries, and we will examine the social and political contexts that shaped the texts we will study for this course. In addition, we will study major authors of the period (for example Henry James, Stephen Crane, T.S. Eliot, Toni Morison, etc.). In addition, we will evaluate narratives by lesser-known writers. Moreover, we will come to an understanding of American culture by closely examining important issues of the time such as the individual’s place in society, social reform, etc.

Course Objectives
Students will evaluate the course at the end of the semester. The major objectives I emphasize from the course evaluations are:

1. “Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation for literature”
2. “Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view”

Text
The Norton Anthology of American Literature (Shorter Ninth Edition, Volume 2)

Semester Grade
Blackboard Research Assignments 10%
Mid-term Exam 20%
Survey Paper 40%
Final Exam 20%
Discussion Posts 10%

Exams
Students will take two exams over the course of the semester.
- The Midterm Exam will cover Realism and Naturalism and will consist of two essay questions
- The Final Exam will cover Modernism and Postmodernism and will consist of two essay questions
Discussion Posts

Discussion posts are vital because they 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, with the exception of week 16. Students 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.

Research Assignments

A survey paper takes an entire semester to work on, so students need to begin work on the paper as soon as the class begins. Every-other week, students will complete work that will aid them in the research and writing of the paper.

- Critical Review – A short 2-page paper that evaluates a critical secondary source about one of our readings for the semester. I will give everyone a list of readings from which to choose on the second day of class. This secondary source may come from a scholarly journal or a book found on the following databases: MLA, Academic Search Complete, or a book. Critical Reviews will be due on the end of the week for the author they had originally signed up for at the beginning of the semester. For instance, if a student signed up for Wallace Stevens on March 23, their assignment will be due by midnight at the end of Week 10 (3/29).

- Annotated Bibliography – A list of ten sources with a complete bibliographical citation for a critical work followed by two sentences explaining the overall argument of the critical work.

- Outline and Thesis statement – a 2-page outline that clearly describes the major topics and subtopics that will be discussed in the paper. The outline must be organized and well developed. At the top of the outline, students must include a thesis statement, which will be one sentence in length and convey the overall argument for the seminar paper.

Survey Paper

- Survey Paper – A longer 5-7 page paper over one or more major texts we will be evaluating over the semester. Students must read, evaluate, and respond to the text(s) critically to deepen their understanding of the text(s). Students must also use a minimum of five secondary sources and one primary source.

Classroom Civility

Extend to one another professional courtesies such as:
- Attending all class meetings and arriving on time
- Switching off cell phones and all other electronic devices
- Respecting and learning from differences of opinion

Open Door Policy

The health and safety of our students, staff, and faculty is of the most importance. I will not be holding any face-to-face meetings until further notice. If face-to-face meetings are deemed safe later in the semester, then I will make this announcement via Blackboard. The easiest and best way to contact me is to e-mail me (gserrano@angelo.edu). I will also be available via Skype at dr.gabrielaserrano. We may also use Blackboard Collaborate to set up a virtual meeting.

Student Handbook Statement of Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one’s own class and/or course work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Because education is a shared
effort to achieve learning through the exchange of ideas, students, faculty, and staff have the collective responsibility to build mutual trust and respect. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement, which then must be measured. Academic achievement includes scholarship, teaching, and learning, all of which are shared endeavors. Grades are a device used to quantify the successful accumulation of knowledge through learning. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures grades are earned honestly. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers.

Students must understand the principles of academic integrity and abide by them in all classes and/or course work at the University. Academic Misconduct violations are outlined in Part I, section B.1 of the Code of Student Conduct. If there are questions of interpretation of academic integrity policies or about what might constitute an academic integrity violation, students are responsible for seeking guidance from the faculty member teaching the course in question.

**Operating Policy 10.5 (student accommodation):**
Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. All students at Angelo State University must have the capacity and ambition to undertake, with reasonable accommodation from the faculty and administration, the academic challenges necessary to fulfill the academic requirements for the degree or certification programs which they are pursuing.

**Operating Policy 10.19 (Holy Day):**
“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

**Title IX at Angelo State University:**
The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

**Michelle Boone, J.D.**
*Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator*
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).
If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

**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.
Schedule of Readings and Exams (Tentative and Subject to Change)

**Week 1**
Jan. 13  
Course Introduction  
Lecture on American Realism

Jan. 15  
Walt Whitman: “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” (64)  
Emily Dickinson: “My Life had stood- a Loaded Gun” (91)

*Week 2*
Jan. 20  
No class meeting, holiday

Jan. 22  
Toni Morrison: From Introduction to Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (300)  
Discuss Critical Analysis  
Mark Twain: *Adventures Huckleberry Finn* (101, Chs. I-X)

*Week 3*
Jan. 27  
Mark Twain: *Adventures Huckleberry Finn* (Ch. XI-XX)

Jan. 29  
Mark Twain: *Adventures Huckleberry Finn* (Ch. XX-end)

*Week 4*
Feb. 3  
Booker T. Washington: Ch XIV from *Up from Slavery* (471)  
W. E. B. Du Bois: “Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others” (568)

Feb. 5  
Charles W. Chesnutt: “The Wife of His Youth” (488)  
W. E. B. Du Bois: “Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others” (559)

*Week 5*
Feb. 10  
Henry James: *The Art of Fiction* (574)  
Lecture on Naturalism

Feb. 12  
Stephen Crane: “The Open Boat” (614)

*Week 6*
Feb. 17  
Kate Chopin: “The Storm” (455)  
“Desiree’s Baby” (442)

Feb. 19  
Jack London: from *What Life Means to Me* (590)  
“To Build a Fire” (641)

*Week 7*
Feb. 24  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “The Yellow Wallpaper” (511)  
*Review for Midterm Exam*

Feb. 26  
Laila Lalami Selection

*Week 8*
Mar. 2  
Discuss Blackboard Research Assignments  
*Review for Midterm Exam*

Mar. 4  
Upload Midterm Exam by 3:15 p.m. on Blackboard
Week 10

Lectures
Lecture on American Modernism and T. S. Eliot's “The Hollow Men” (847)
William Faulkner: “A Rose for Emily” (1009)
Ernest Hemingway: “Hills like White Elephants” (1032)

Assignments (due 3/29 by midnight)
Discussion Board Post

Week 11

Lectures
Wallace Stevens: “Sunday Morning” (779)
William Carlos Williams: “The Red Wheelbarrow” (793)
e.e. cummings: Selections

Assignments (due 4/5)
Discussion Post
Annotated Bibliography for Survey Paper

Week 12

Lectures
Zora Neale Hurston: “How it Feels to be Colored Me” (598)
Langston Hughes: “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (1037)
Lecture on American Postmodernism and Ralph Ellison: Invisible Man, Ch. 1 (1210)

Assignment (extra credit due 4/9 by midnight)
Discussion Post

Week 13

Lectures
Elizabeth Bishop: “In the Waiting Room” (1115)
Sylvia Plath: “Daddy” (1447)
Allen Ginsberg: “A Supermarket in California” (1402)

Assignments (due 4/19 by midnight)
Discussion Post
Thesis and Outline for Survey Paper due by Midnight

Week 14

Lectures
Alice Walker: “Everyday Use” (1568)
Toni Morrison: “Recitative” (1429)
Maxine Hong Kingston: “No Name Woman” (1544)

Assignments (due 4/26 by midnight)
Discussion Post
Survey Paper

Week 15

Lectures
Stephen King: Selection from *The Stand*
Gloria Anzaldua: “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” (1558)
Art Spiegelman: selection from *Maus*

Review for Final Exam

No Assignments due this week

Week 16
May 4, 5:30  Upload Final Exam