Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree.

_Ezra Pound, How to Read_

Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts - the book of their deeds, the book of their words, and the book of their art.

_John Ruskin_

…the function of man is to live a certain kind of life, and this activity implies a rational principle, and the function of a good man is the good and noble performance of these, and if any action is well performed it is performed in accord with the appropriate excellence: if this is the case, then happiness turns out to be an activity of the soul in accordance with virtue.

_Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics_

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Ellery  
**Office:** A021B  
**Hours:** 8-9 and 2-3:30 MTWR

**Phone:** (325) 486-6142  
**E-mail:** cellery@angelo.edu

**Catalogue Description**

“A study of diverse works by American writers. Emphasis on reading, comprehending, appreciating, and thinking critically about the selected works within the context of American culture and literary history.”

Prerequisite: Credit for English 1301 and 1302 either by satisfactorily completing those courses or by receiving credit by examination.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The following outcomes are based on the “General Objectives” stated in the Department of English description of sophomore literature courses and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Required Core Objectives in the component area of Language, Philosophy, and Culture—Critical thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility:

- Students will be able to define and apply the four critical approaches to literature (as explained by M.H. Abrams in _The Mirror and the Lamp_): expressive, mimetic, objective, and pragmatic.
- Students will be able to analyze literature as an expression of values and an interpretation of the human experience.
- Students will understand the interaction among American history, culture, and literature and how the historical and social contexts of the selected works affect meaning.
• Students will know and apply critical terminology related to three literary genres: poetry, fiction, drama.

Beyond these outcomes, I hope you will come to enjoy and value literature and will plan for a lifetime of reading as you learn to process texts with greater insight and understanding and to apply what you read to your own intellectual, emotional, moral, and spiritual development.

Textbooks


• “Literary Vocabulary” web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms_M.html.

Grading

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<th>Grading Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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- Daily grades include frequent reading quizzes, short response essays, and miscellaneous class activities and exercises.
- The two exams will cover literary terms and concepts and the assigned authors and readings. The final will be comprehensive in its coverage of terms and concepts, but will not include primary works covered in the midterm.
- The 203 pages essays will require objective and pragmatic analysis.

Grading scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59.

“Whenever you find that you are on the side of the majority, it is time to reform.”
Mark Twain
## Attendance and Make-up Policy:

The following policy is consistent with ASU OP 10.04 (“Academic Regulations Concerning Student Performance”).

- **Regular attendance (remotely or in person) is essential for success in the class.** Roll will be taken at the beginning of every class period. Students who arrive late or do not answer the roll should inform the instructor after class to be sure they are counted present. Students who enter during a quiz or activity cannot be given extra time to complete it.
- **Be prepared for class each day.** An absence does not excuse the student from being prepared for the next class.
- **Stay home if you are ill, especially if you are or might be infectious!**
- **All graded assignments are posted on Blackboard and due at the posted deadline.** Being permitted to submit work after the deadline gives students an advantage over those who turn work in on time; thus late work will be accepted without penalty only if approved by the instructor. Contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the reason for a late submission of any assignment and to request a waiver of the penalty for late work. The usual penalty for an unexcused late assignment is one-half letter grade for each day late.
- **Daily grades cannot be made up, except in the case of extended illness or other unusual circumstances.** Two daily grades will be dropped.

### Social Conduct and Personal Responsibilities

“I am interested in people living in the margins of society, and I do have a mission to tell the stories of women of color in particular. I feel we've been present throughout history, but our voices have been neglected.”

Lynn Nottage

In this and all college courses, you should conduct yourself with professionalism and collegiality, and you should take responsibility for your own learning and performance. Excellent students are motivated, dedicated, and self-reliant; they have a positive attitude and a good work ethic. You will improve your chances of succeeding in this class by following these rules:

- **Stay focused.** Attend class and be actively involved as often and as much as possible. Pay attention and participate in discussions. Ask questions when you have them and consult your professor when you have concerns.
• **Commit to learning.** Keep up with your work. Critically read all assigned readings. Conscientiously complete written assignments. Review and study daily.
• **Follow instructions carefully,** especially those on assignment prompts, and prepare assignments according to the guidelines provided.
• **Encourage learning and collaborate** with classmates and support the instructor in the goal of learning.
• **Be courteous.** To avoid distracting others, arrive on time. Avoid talking in class except when appropriate. While it is sometimes acceptable and even desirable to question opinions and even facts offered by others (including the teacher), you should do so respectfully and thoughtfully, with learning goals in mind.
• **Use cell phones and other personal electronic devices only for class purposes.**
• **Take good care of your body and mind.** Keep yourself nourished and rested.

**Course Syllabus Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class At Angelo State University**

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory **Facial Covering Policy** to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

**Student Disability Services**

ASU 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 of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of
reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Ms. Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
325-942-2047  
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu  
Houston Harte University Center 112

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

**Title IX Statement**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form  
Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
Phone: 325-942-2022  
Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu  

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.
Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

ASU Core Curriculum Objectives and Assessment

The ASU Core Curriculum Committee has designated English 2326 a core course in the component area of Language, Philosophy, and Culture, emphasizing on the core learning objectives of critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

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.

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**Tentative Schedule**

The following assignments are subject to change; therefore, if you miss a class, always check with a classmate or with the instructor to make sure of the assignment. Inclusive page numbers for assigned literature are given in brackets and refer to the course text. Read the biographical introduction for each author in addition to the assigned writings.

### Week 1 – Approaching Literature

**M 8/17**
Introduction: Course Policies and Procedures

**W 8/19**
Finding Meaning: Four Critical Approaches
Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants” [1030-1035]

**F 8/21**
“Hills Like White Elephants”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2 – The Elements of Fiction</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M 8/24</strong> Setting, Point of View, and Tone and Style</td>
<td>Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron” [432-441]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W 8/26</strong> Plot and Characterization</td>
<td>“A White Heron” (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F 8/28</strong> Symbolism and Theme</td>
<td>“A White Heron” (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3 – The Elements of Poetry</th>
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| **M 8/31** Imagery and Voice | William Carlos Williams, “The Red Wheelbarrow” [784]  
| | Yusef Komunyakaa, “Facing It” [1538-1539] |
| **W 9/2** Metaphor and Other Figures of Speech | T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” [819-825] |
| **F 9/4** Sound and Meter (Prosody) | Robert Frost, “Design” [740] |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4 – The Elements of Drama</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>M 9/7</strong> HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W 9/9</strong> Susan Glaspell, “Trifles” [743-752]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F 9/11</strong> Glaspell, “Trifles”</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5 – A Theory of Reading: Literature and Values</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M 9/14</strong> Literature and Values</td>
<td>E.A. Robinson, “Richard Cory” and “Miniver Cheevy” [674-675]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W 9/16</strong> William Dean Howells, “Editha” [307-317]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F 9/18</strong> Realism as a Value</td>
<td>“Editha” (cont.)</td>
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<th>Week 6 – Two Women in Pursuit of Happiness</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M 9/21</strong> Anne Sexton, “The Starry Night” [1374]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W 9/23</strong> Sandra Cisneros, “Woman Hollering Creek” [1588-1595]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F 9/25</strong> “Woman Hollering Creek” (cont.)</td>
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Week 7
M 9/28 Review
W 9/30 Midterm Essay
F 10/2 Midterm Exam

Week 8 – American Business and the Jewish Ethos
M 10/5 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* Act One [1235-1264]
W 10/7 *Death of a Salesman* Act Two and Requiem [1264-1298]
F 10/9 *Death of a Salesman*

Week 9 – Native Voices
M 10/12 Louise Erdrich, “Dear John Wayne” [1597-1598]
Sherman Alexie, Pawn Shop” [1679]
F 10/16 “The Soft-Hearted Sioux” (Cont.)

Week 10 – Race and the Irony of American Values
M 10/19 James Baldwin, “Going to Meet the Man” [1330]
W 10/21 “Going to Meet the Man” (cont.)
F 10/23 Langston Hughes, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” [1038]
Lucille Clifton, “the mississippi empties into the gulf” [1481]

Week 11 – American “Civilization”
M 10/26 Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Chs. 1-7 [105-127]
W 10/28 *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Chs. 8-11 [127-143]
F 10/30 *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Chs. 12-18 [143-176]

Week 12 – The American Epic
M 11/2 *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Chs. 19-23 [176-200]
W 11/4 *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Chs. 24-31 [200-236]
F 11/6 *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Chs. 32--Chapter the Last [237-278]
Week 13 – Amnesty, American Style, OR An American Love Story
M 11/9 Lynn Nottage, Ruined Act One
W 11/11 Ruined Act Two
F 11/13 Ruined

Week 14
M 11/16 Review
W 11/18 Final Essay

Week 15
M 11/23 Final Exam

“But I reckon I got to light out for the Territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she's going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can't stand it. I been there before.”