

English 2326: Introduction to American Literature

Instructor: Dr. Gabriela Serrano

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Office Hours: M-W 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

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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

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Exam 1 | 20% |
| Exam 2 | 20% |
| Exam 3 | 20% |
| Literary Analysis (3) | 10% |
| Quiz Grades | 10% |
| Discussion Questions | 20% |

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

Pop quizzes will cover the assigned readings due for the day, and they will be due during the first 5 minutes of class. I will, however, drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester in case of 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 Questions

Discussion Questions allow students and the instructor to exchange ideas and learn from one another. These assignments will be due at the end of the week. .

“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.

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 know 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/>

Not Optional for Vaccinated Students, Faculty, and Staff

Texas Tech University System Facial Covering Policy

The TTU System and its component institutions ("University") require all members of the University Community (students, faculty, staff, visitors, vendors and contractors) to wear protective face coverings on University campuses or in University facilities as provided below:

I. Requirements

- A. In common areas on campus including, but not limited to, classrooms and other spaces used for teaching, research, and creative activity, Student Union, libraries, hallways, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, break rooms, foyers, event rooms and lobbies;
- B. In patient care units, ambulatory clinic spaces, or procedural areas; or
- C. Other areas where physical distancing of at least 6 feet is not maintained. Even when physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained, face coverings are strongly recommended.

II. Exceptions

- A. When eating or drinking, which should still be conducted maintaining physical distance;
- B. In accordance with applicable law (e.g., an accommodation, including for medical reasons, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or pursuant to a bona fide religious belief);
- C. For children under the age of 2 years old; or
- D. By an instructor/presenter in a classroom or event room when a physical distance of at least 6 feet can be maintained from the class members/audience.

With prior University approval, units and departments may set other reasonable guidelines and policies that are particularly tailored to their specific workplace, healthcare, or learning environment (e.g., residence halls, recreation centers, athletics facilities, performance venues, research facilities, medical clinics).

Although failure to comply with this facial covering policy may lead to disciplinary action, efforts will first be made to educate members of the University Community of the need for facial coverings to control the spread of COVID-19. Warning will be given before disciplinary action is taken.

For More information, please consult the following link:

<https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/returning-to-campus/health-and-safety.php>

Schedule of Readings and Assignments (Tentative and Subject to Change)

Week One

- July 12 Course Introduction/Course Policies
Race in American Literature
Terrance Hayes: “What I Am”
- July 13 Langston Hughes: “Theme for English B”
“Dream Deferred”
“Slave on the Block”
- July 14 Carmen Tafolla: “La Malinche”
Rudolfo Anaya: Chapter 10, *Bless Me, Ultima*
Gary Soto: “Mexicans Begin Jogging”
- July 15 Gene Luen Yang: selection from *American Born Chinese*
Emma Lazarus: “The New Colossus”
Sook Ryul Ryu: “Poem by a Yellow Woman”
- July 16 Booker T. Washington: *Atlanta Compromise Speech*
Ralph Ellison: “Battle Royal”

Assignments (Due by Midnight 7/18)

Upload Literary Analysis
Discussion Questions

Week Two

- July 19 *Review for Exam 1*
Assignments(Due by Midnight 7/19)
Exam I
- July 20 Gender in American Literature
Edgar Allan Poe: “Annabel Lee”
Gregory Corso: “Marriage”
Adrienne Rich: “Living in Sin”
- July 21 Emily Dickinson: “Wild Nights”
Frank Bidart: “Queer”
Excerpt from *Middlesex*
- July 22 Theodore Roethke: “My Papa’s Waltz”
Sylvia Plath: “Daddy”
Sandra Cisneros: “Eleven”
- July 23 Zora Neale Hurston: “Sweat”

Rebecca Brown: "Forgiveness"
Alysia Harris: "That Girl"

Assignments (Due by Midnight 7/25)

Upload Literary Analysis
Discussion Questions

Week Three

July 26 Charlotte Perkins Gilman: "The Yellow Wallpaper"
Eudora Welty: "Petrified Man"

July 27 John Updike: "The Persistence of Desire"
James Thurber: "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

July 28 Ernest Hemingway: Selections

July 29 Students' Choice

July 30 *Review for Exam 2*

Assignments(Due by Midnight 8/1)
Exam 2

Week Four

August 2 Emily Dickinson: Selections
Walt Whitman: "A Noiseless, Patient Spider"
William Carlos Williams: "The Red Wheelbarrow"

August 3 Tim O'Brien: selection from *The Things They Carried*
William E. Stafford: "At the Bomb Testing Site"

August 4 Ernest Hemingway: "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place"
F. Scott Fitzgerald: "An Alcoholic Case"

August 5 Mark Twain: selection from *Huckleberry Finn*
J.D. Salinger: selection from *Catcher in the Rye*

August 6 Kurt Vonnegut: selection from *Slaughterhouse Five*
Brian Turner: "The Hurt Locker"

Assignments (Due by Midnight 8/8)

Upload Literary Analysis
Discussion Questions

Week Five

August 9: Edgar Allan Poe: selections

August 10: Walt Whitman: selections

August 11: Students' Choice

August 12: Review for Exam 3

August 13: Exam 3 due by 12:15 p.m.