American Literature Whitman to Present
English 222-03, Spring 2013
MWF 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m., Stevens Hall 404

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Office Hours: MWF 8:30 – 10:00, TR 8:15 – 9:30, and by appointment

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 111 & 112, or 121 & 122

Credit: 3 semester hours

WHAT TEXT BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS WILL I NEED?
Materials: Pens and pencils, paper, a three-ring binder, and a good dictionary and thesaurus

SO, WHAT IS THIS COURSE ALL ABOUT?
Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to
1. recognize significant writers in American literature (1865 to the present);
2. discuss and describe the historical periods that produced the literature;
3. comprehend genres and methods of literary interpretations;
4. recognize structural elements that comprise a literary work;
5. analyze a representative work;
6. write about literary masterpieces;
7. demonstrate improved command of the English language through vocabulary study;
8. demonstrate a wider appreciation for the value of reading.

A final objective, though not one which you must meet in order to receive a passing grade, is that you will enjoy some or all of the reading experiences you embark on as a student in this class. Reading can be a very serious, scholarly endeavor, but it can also be great fun.

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<th>Standard</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>290-3-3-.10(2)[a]5.(i)(I) Knowledge of works representing a broad historical and contemporary spectrum of United States, British, and world, including non-Western literature.</td>
<td>Short answer tests; essay tests; class discussion; summaries/annotations over the readings assigned. Texts selected by Sophomore Committee to reflect broad coverage.</td>
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<td>290-3-3-.10(2)[a]5.(i)(II) Knowledge of works from a wide variety of genres and cultures, including works by female authors and works by authors of color.</td>
<td>Short answer tests; essay tests; class discussion; summaries/annotations over the readings assigned. Texts selected by Sophomore Committee to reflect specific coverage of varied cultures, female authors, and a wide diversity of ethnic groups/races.</td>
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<tr>
<td>290-3-3-.10(2)[a]5.(i)(IV) Knowledge of a range of works of literary theory and criticism.</td>
<td>Short answer tests; essay tests; class discussion; summaries/annotations over the readings assigned. Texts selected by Sophomore Committee based on editorial/historical material specifically aimed at contemporary trends in varied literary periods and genres.</td>
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Class Format: The goal of this course is to immerse ourselves in the literature of “America.” Throughout the semester, we will particularly address the notions writers challenge and subvert, the questions they posit and answer, and the tenets they despise and embrace. The emphasis, therefore, is on the primary materials. Thus, we will examine in detail as much of the literature as possible. We will cover a range of literature by a diverse group of authors. The focus of our discussions will be on how the material reflects the trends, philosophies, styles, and attitudes of the time in which it was produced.

Class time will depend heavily on class discussion, so be prepared to talk in class. Our daily class goal will be to create a synthesis of these texts and understand how they speak to one another, reaching beyond the traditional boundaries of
culture, race, class, gender, and sexuality. Thus, we will discuss any number of things about the works we read—plot, theme, character motivation, style, setting, symbolism, and so on. Come to class with questions, observations, or complaints about each work. Whatever you do, come to class ready to participate. Nothing will make this class richer than everybody being ready to jump into our discussion; conversely, nothing will make this class more painful for you than forcing me to prattle on, all by myself, for fifty minutes. It is my hope that our class discussions will dictate the direction our class will take and that you will make the class your own and cut down on the amount of straight lecture.

You will be held accountable for what is said in class. Please take notes. You will often be introduced to key terms that are likely to show up on the exams. More importantly, your knowledge of terminology will aid you greatly when writing your reading responses.

A Word about Reading: Obviously, a survey course requires a healthy dose of reading. What may not be so obvious is that students in literature classes are expected to read closely, meaning that details matter. While I do not expect you to memorize texts verbatim (that doesn’t sound like a task which I would enjoy, either), I do ask that you read each story or poem or play carefully, looking up in a dictionary any words you do not know or cannot figure out from context. You may often need to read a text more than once in order to understand what’s happening or what the larger significance of a detail may be. And that fact means one should probably not postpone reading assignments until the last minute.

WHAT ARE THE “RULES” IN THIS CLASS?
Attendance: First, a frank observation: attendance on a regular basis is necessary. You will find that, in order to do well in this course, you must attend this class—and on time. Tardies and excessively early departures (which are discouraged) will be noted and counted as class time missed. Since emergencies do sometimes arise, you are allowed SIX (6) absences for whatever reason you choose; that’s equivalent to two weeks of class. There are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences; therefore, you do not need to show me an excuse of any sort when you are absent. In fact, I prefer you not show me an excuse because your absences are your personal business. Save your absences for genuine emergencies because any absence beyond SIX will result in a failing grade.

Make-up Policy: However, absence from a major exam must be excused in order to make up the exam. If the instructor excuses the absence, the student must arrange a convenient time with the teacher to take the missed exam within one week of the absence. Daily grades, such as reading responses and quizzes, cannot be made up or turned in late. Thus, you must be present in class in order to turn in daily assignments; e-mail submissions or assignments left on my office door or in my mailbox will not receive credit.

Civility Statement—All students are expected to attend class fully prepared with appropriate materials (textbooks included) and all devices that make noise turned to the off position (e. g., cellular phones, pagers, personal stereos, etc.). Any student behavior deemed disruptive by the instructor will result in expulsion of the student from the classroom, with an absence for the day and possible disciplinary action.

HOW MUCH DOES EVERYTHING COUNT? HOW AM I GOING TO BE GRADED?
Grades: The class will break down into the following percentages for the purpose of grading:
Exam One = 25%
Exam Two = 25%
Final Exam = 25%
Reading Responses/Daily Grades = 25% (quizzes, homework, group work, class participation, etc.).

Grading Scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (below 60)

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?
Academic Honesty and Plagiarism: Academic honesty is discussed in the The University of North Alabama Catalog. Guidelines on avoiding plagiarism can be at http://www.una.edu/library/help/plagiarism-students.html. Additional information and links to more sites on plagiarism are included on the English Department’s Web page at http://www.una.edu/english/plagiarism-policies.html. Penalties for plagiarism at UNA may range from a failing grade for a specific assignment to a failing grade in the course to suspension from the University in repeat cases. Students must submit a signed copy of the “Plagiarism Awareness Form” (available on Angel) BEFORE the instructor will accept any work to be graded.

Withdrawal Policy: The following statement is from The UNA Catalog published by the University:
A student may withdraw from a course with a grade of W up to and including the Friday that falls one week after the designated midterm date by bringing a completed withdrawal slip (signed by the instructor) to the Registrar’s office. After that deadline and up to the Wednesday that falls two weeks prior to the last day of class, a student may withdraw from a course with a grade of WP (withdraw passing) or WF (withdraw failing) assigned by the instructor. During the final two weeks of class, withdrawal is not permitted except in extraordinary circumstances. Permission of both the instructor and department chair is required, and the grade of WP or WF will be assigned by the instructor.

Accommodation Statement: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the University offers reasonable accommodations to students with eligible documented learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act of 2008, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to an average person in the population. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Disability Support Services to initiate the process to develop an accommodation plan. This accommodation plan will not be applied retroactively. Appropriate, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, but no fundamental or substantial alteration of academic standards will be made. Students needing assistance should contact Disability Support Services.

EN 222-03 Tentative Syllabus
(This is a living document and subject to change with appropriate notice.)

January
W 9—Introduction: Course Policies & Syllabus
F 11—Introduction to Literary Criticism and Theory (Read “Critical Approaches” handout posted on Angel)
M 14—Unit 1: American Literature 1865-1914
W 16—Whitman
F 18—Whitman
M 21—No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
W 23—Dickinson
F 25—Twain
M 28—Chopin
W 30—Freeman

February
F 1—Gilman
M 4—Washington
W 6—Du Bois
F 8—Catch-up/Review
M 11—Unit 1 EXAM
W 13—Career Services and Development Presentation
F 15—No Class: Winter Break
M 18—Unit 2: American Literature 1914-1945
W 20—Frost
F 22—Frost
M 25—Glaspell
W 27—Anderson

March
F 1—Stevens (Midterm)
M 4—Eliot
W 6—Eliot
F 8—Hurston (Last day to “W”)
M 11—Cummings (Begin “WP/WF” period)
W 13—Fitzgerald
F 15—Faulkner
M 18—Hughes
W 20—Catch-up/Review
F 22—Unit 2 EXAM
MWF 25-29—No classes: Spring Break

April
M 1—Unit 3: American Literature since 1945
W 3—Roethke
F 5—Bishop
M 8—Williams
W 10—Williams
F 12—Jarrell
M 15—Brooks
W 17—O’Connor (Last day to drop a class or completely withdraw)
F 19—Sexton
M 22—Carver
W 24—Kingston
F 26—Walker
M 29—Creative Nonfiction selections

May
W 1—Catch-up/Review
R 2—NO CLASS—Study Day

EN 222-03 Final Exam: Monday, May 6th @ 8:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the regular classroom