



RCCC
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

English 232 American Literature II (Online)

Spring Semester 2011

Meets: January 10 thru May 10, 2011

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(email is always the best way to contact me)

Syllabus Addendum: The Governing Document for our Course

Hello, all--welcome to our American Literature II online course. This document is a one-stop source for information about the work required for this course, such as reading assignments, quizzes, discussion board assignments, and so on. It is not possible to pass this course without being aware of the information contained in this Syllabus Addendum, so please take time to carefully read all information in these pages from start to finish. Please contact me with any questions you may have once you have read this addendum. Also, remember to refer back to the addendum throughout the semester.

General Course Information:

This course covers important pieces of American literature from 1865 to the present. We will read a varied selection of literature from many great American authors. In the process, we will ask the following questions:

What is American Literature? What styles, topics, and ideas are represented in this body of writing? Who are Americans? What do Americans think about, care about, write about? And what can American literature teach us about America herself and the multitude of people and cultures found in the U.S.?

Important Note about Internet Coursework:

This section of English 232 is a distance course. We will not meet in person (although you may request telephone conferences), but we will remain in contact in several important ways:

You will post some of your writing to the public Discussion Board threads. This means you will read and comment on the work of others and vice versa. Remember that your classmates won't have the sound of your voice or the expressions on your face to provide clues to the tone you wish to convey, so make sure your contributions are mature, tactful and helpful, as well as considerate of differing opinions & viewpoints.

I will also respond to your writing on the Discussion Board. Again, the DB is a public area, so save any sensitive or personal conversation for the more private avenue of email.

You will complete other assignments that are not Discussion Board based. These will be listed in the Assignments area.

You will send and receive e-mail. You are to check your RCCC email on a daily basis. This is a requirement of the course. Failure to check and respond to email can result in failure of the course.

You will stay in touch with me concerning any problems or concerns you have during the course. I am most definitely not a mind reader—make sure you notify me of any problems you are having so that we can find the best solution to ensure you are successful in the course.

You will not be isolated, although you will be doing your work physically apart from me and your classmates. Stay in touch, and stay visible—this will help your class be productive and enjoyable!

Required Textbooks:

Baym, Nina. Gen. Ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Volumes C, D, and E, 7th edition, New York: W. W. Norton, 2007. ISBN-13: 9780393929942

****Pay close attention when picking up your textbooks. There are THREE required books—volumes C, D, & E. Make sure the book store gives you all three volumes. These may be separately wrapped, or they may be bundled together into a combination package of books. Regardless of the specific wrapping, there should be three separate books. If you plan to order your books through a non-campus source, note that you MUST arrange for expedited shipping so that your books arrive for the first block of readings and assignments, which will begin the second week of class. If you are unable to work on the first block of assignments it will be best to drop the class and retake it at a later date. I cannot offer extensions for students who order their books independently and do not get them on time to meet course deadlines, so make sure you keep this in mind when placing book orders. Also, you absolutely must have the correct edition of these anthologies—your books must be the 7th edition, and cannot be the condensed or compact volume. If you purchase the wrong textbook(s) through off-campus sources, you will still have to obtain the correct editions—older editions will not work, as some readings are either missing or contain different sections of larger works. When in doubt, email me a link to the item you are planning to purchase, so that I can verify for you whether the item is workable for our class.**

Readings

American Literature II is a reading survey course, so the basic requirement for the class involves a significant number of reading assignments. You will find a schedule of these reading assignments at the bottom of this addendum. Make sure you pay close attention to the schedule of readings, as it will be virtually impossible for you to maintain a strong academic performance in the Discussion Board and on quizzes and the final exam if you fall behind in the readings. Although I of course cannot look over your shoulders to ensure that you are in fact completing the readings, keep in mind that familiarity with all of these is necessary in order to perform well on the final exam. Reading assignments will be listed on even weeks, while Discussion Board (DB) work will be listed for odd weeks. Refer to the reading/assignment schedule that begins on page 6 for details.

Discussion Board

On odd weeks, I will post a comprehensive discussion board topic. You will have two components to these assignments: Your own initial response and a minimum of four replies to classmates (details given below). Each DB topic will be posted no later than Sunday of odd semester weeks. All initial responses (that is, your own response to the week's topic) will be due by 12 midnight on the following Friday evening. Your four replies to classmates will be due no later than 12 midnight on the next day, Saturday. Please mark your calendar so that you don't forget your various deadlines. No DB credit will be given for any work submitted after each week's deadlines. Generally DB work cannot be made up, regardless of the circumstances, so it's important that you stay on top of these assignments and get them completed on time. As mentioned above, your required Discussion Board work consists of two components:

Initial Response: For each DB topic, you must post an initial individual response of at least **300** words. I deduct points rather heavily for posts that fail to meet the length requirement (and I **do** count how many words you post), so make sure you perform a word count before submitting your work. You can do this by pasting your work into Word and doing a word count there. Most importantly, make sure you address all components of the DB assignment—responses that answer only part of the week's assignment will receive heavy grading penalties, so make sure you address all aspects of the week's assignment. Last, your DB contribution should be your own words and ideas. You are strictly forbidden to use outside sources and are NEVER to include information gleaned from websites, outside sources, etc. I expect you to read the week's assignment and formulate your responses based **SOLELY** on the week's readings. Any student who uses outside material (particularly if that material is presented as the student's own work) will be subject to dismissal from the course and/or the issuing of an F. In general, students who meet length requirement, use grammatically correct English, and have something interesting to say earn a full 100 on these assignments. It's relatively easy to earn full points for this work, so please—don't ever give in to the temptation to "short-cut" your work by lifting ideas from online sources. I want to read YOUR great ideas :) Initial responses are due by 12 midnight on Friday evenings of odd class weeks (see reading/assignment schedule that begins on page 6 of this document).

Replies to Classmates: In addition to your own initial response to each DB topic, you must also reply to a minimum of 4 classmate responses. These replies should be focused on the material under discussion. Although it is okay to inject some personal anecdotes or ideas, the primary focus in your DB work (both initial responses and replies to classmates) should be critical commentary on the reading material and the topic at hand. Points will be deducted for replies that say little more than “good job!” or “I like what you have to say” or “I agree,” or they may earn no points at all, so make sure that your contributions make a point and give details for that point, rather than simply patting your classmates on the back for their ideas. Again, “I agree/good job” replies will grade low or not at all. Also, you are free to post as many replies beyond the four required as you like, but the four that I count towards your grade must be in four DIFFERENT classmate threads (in other words, no doubling up within the same thread for two or more of your four replies) and none of the ones I count towards your grade can be within your own thread. The point is to engage in conversation with your classmates, so make sure you keep an eye on meeting all of these requirements. The four replies to classmates are due by 12 midnight on Saturday evenings of odd class weeks (see reading/assignment schedule that begins on page 6 of this document).

You should also be aware that skipping even one reply to a classmate does very big damage to the week’s total DB grade. Missing one reply means that your highest possible DB grade is an 88. These deductions add up quickly, and I almost always have a student or two whose final course grade drops as much as a couple of letter grades simply because of failure to fully complete DB assignments, so don’t be that student!

Reading Quizzes

During this semester, you will complete a series of reading assignments. To go along with those readings, you will also complete a quiz for each reading block. These quizzes will be located in the Assignments folder.

Reading quizzes do not have set weekly due dates—complete these at your leisure throughout the semester. However, all 8 quizzes must be submitted no later than Saturday, May 7th at 12 midnight (this is also the final due date for the last DB assignment of the semester, as well as the final exam).

Final Exam

You will have a final exam for this course. The exam will be available on Blackboard beginning on Sunday, May 1st. The exam will appear as a Word file in the Assignments folder on that date. **Exams must be completed and sent VIA EMAIL as a Word file no later than Saturday, May 7th at 12 midnight (which is also the final due date for the quizzes and DB #8).**

Verification of File Submission

Make sure that you pay attention to both your RCCC email account and the class Blackboard site on a daily basis. Occasionally email systems let us down and you may miss important information if you skip checking into the class site. Also, it is your responsibility to make sure you check your email account and Blackboard every single day of the final ten days of class and the first four days after class ends. At that time, I will be emailing students if there are any issues with the submission of your work, such as a file that came through corrupted, a file that seems to be missing, etc. Once the final due dates for work submission have passed, I will ask all students to check the grade book to verify that a grade is visible for all work that was submitted.

Once I submit final course grades on Monday, May 9th, all grades are final, regardless if a student missed turning in a file or a file came through corrupted and could not be graded. So make sure you check, check, check those grades and email accounts!

A Note on Cheating & Plagiarism

All students should be aware that I have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy concerning students who cheat and plagiarize. Cheating is self-explanatory. Plagiarism is the act of submitting the intellectual work of another as your own. This covers paraphrasing passages from outside sources without citing them, quoting material out of context or so as to make it seem that the author was making points that are in fact not made, and word-for-word direct use of another’s words without crediting the author for that material. For online students, plagiarism most often involves copy-pasting information from websites into your own work. It is an enormous temptation to online students to perhaps skip reading assignments in favor of searching the internet for essays about the readings assigned for the class. I want to strictly warn you that ALL written

work for this semester must come squarely out of your own ideas about the readings in your textbooks. Absolutely NO outside sources are to be used in this class. It is okay to include direct quotes from the reading selections themselves (along with appropriate page numbers so that I can locate your source information), but you are NEVER to use outside reading material, websites, etc. for your work in this class. Know that I have a rather extraordinary ability to figure out when students have done so—in other words, if you skim work off of websites, I WILL catch you. Students who are found to have cheated or plagiarized will be immediately removed from access to the course and issued an F. It simply is not worth it—so make sure you maintain complete honesty in your work! It should also be noted that if you have previously taken a class with me and were dismissed for academic dishonesty, it's a given that I will be intensely scrutinizing all of your written work this semester. So I want to issue an extra caution to those of you who fall into this category—don't make the same mistakes again!

A Note Concerning Discussion Board Work

Keep in mind that you have no control over when your classmates choose to drop in their own **DB** postings. At times it may be necessary to check in with the **DB** over several days in order to locate enough classmate responses to post your own replies to. It is a wonderful courtesy to your classmates if you make an effort to post initial responses prior to midnight on the due date, so that everyone has ample opportunity to find interesting responses to which they can reply.

How your course grade will be calculated:

Your final course grade will be determined by combining the following percentages. Please refer to the Course Syllabus for a breakdown of numerical and letter grade equivalencies.

Discussion Board (Total of 8 grades—will be averaged together):	40%
Reading Quizzes (Total of 8—will be averaged together):	40%
Final Exam:	<u>20%</u>

These three percentages added together = final course grade

Final Course Grade/Course Credit: The three grading percentages above will be added together. There is no extra credit offered for this course. All work is due on time and generally cannot be made up at a later date. Consistent failure to complete and submit assignments may result in failure of the course.

NEW Withdrawal Policy Effective Fall Semester 2010 & Thereafter

If a student withdraws from a class after the end of the drop/add period and before the 65% point in the class, he/she will receive a grade of "W." A Grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript, but will not be considered as hours attempted in the accumulated Grade-Point Average. **If a student does not withdraw before the 65% point in the class, the student will receive a grade of "F" or the grade earned.** Courses may be dropped at any time during the drop/add period of the class. Courses dropped during this period will not appear on the student's record. Withdrawal from classes does NOT eliminate the student's obligation to pay any remaining balance due to RCCC. Once a student has enrolled in class and has paid fees, that student remains a member of the class unless:

A. Student Withdrawal

1. The on-campus student officially withdraws from the course by completing the necessary printed form.
2. The distance education student notifies the course faculty to officially withdraw him/her from the course. Such notification should be via email to the faculty or by completed form submitted to Student Services.

B. Administrative Withdrawal

1. Administrative withdrawal may be implemented as part of mediated resolution to violations of the Campus Code of Conduct and appropriate documentation may appear on the student's official transcript, as needed.

Note that these deadlines and grading rules are mandated by the college, NOT by individual instructors. I will absolutely be required to issue an F for any student who remains enrolled in the class after the official withdrawal deadline has ended on March 31 and has not completed enough graded work to earn course credit, so make sure you keep this date in mind as you move through the semester.

WITHDRAWAL DATES FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2011

The following are deadlines by which to withdraw to avoid a grade of "F":

- 1st 8-Week Classes (Minimesters): February 15, 2011
- 16-Week Classes (including Telecourses): March 31, 2011
- 2nd 8-Week Classes (Minimesters): April 20, 2011

Weekly Reading/Assignment Schedule

This is a higher level, college-transferable literature course. In practical terms, this means you must expect to invest a considerable amount of time in reading various pieces of literature. You will have two weeks in which to complete readings and DB work relating to the particular reading block. There is a lot of reading material—there's simply no avoiding that in a literature course. But you will have a full two week period in which to work with each of the reading blocks, with Discussion Board work due at the end of each two week period. So relax, take time to explore the readings, and pace yourself!

You will notice in the schedule below that every other week lists the particular readings you are responsible for, while the weeks in between list the DB work that is required for those readings. However, you are perfectly welcome to double up and complete both readings and DB work within the first of each two week cycle if you prefer. A word of caution, though, if you go that route: You of course cannot control if your classmates complete any DB work during that time, so it may still be necessary for you to come back in to the DB the next week in order to finish up replies to classmates. So keep an eye on that! If you are a slow reader or need extra time for reading comprehension, you may want to make a strong effort to read ahead in order to stay on top of your schedule of assignments. This will help you to stay on track without becoming overwhelmed.

Last, it is absolutely imperative that you do read the historical background pieces (for example, the Introduction that is listed for the first reading block, or the introductory and/or author material that precedes each reading selection in the textbook), as these readings will give you necessary insight into the various reading selections. Don't skip these—you need them in order to understand the readings!

WEEK 1—First Week of Classes. This week will be devoted to giving you time to complete a few introductory activities before we dive into next week, when formal assignments will begin. In the meantime, please make you complete all of the following this week:

- Read all course documents, messages, etc. Print out the syllabus and this syllabus addendum and keep hard copies on hand and refer to them throughout the semester. Email me with any questions you may have about assignments, requirements, etc.
- Click into the Discussion Board and post an introduction on the **Getting to Know You** thread. You should also post replies to your classmates as they introduce themselves—get to know one another! Please respond to this thread by Sunday, January 16th.
- Purchase books and begin first reading block (listed below).

WEEK 2—Readings

Volume C: *Introduction* (1-13); Volume C: Mark Twain (100-108 and 303-307); Volume C: *Ambrose Bierce* (359-366); Volume C: *Native American Oratory* (382-387); Volume C: *Sarah Winnemucca* (501-512)

WEEK 3—Complete DB Assignment #1:

Initial response: By midnight on Friday, January 28

Four replies: By midnight on Saturday, January 29

WEEK 4—Readings

Volume C: *Henry James* (388-391 and 429-447); Volume C: Emma Lazarus (516-520); Volume C: Sarah Orne Jewett (520-528); Volume C: Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (635-645)

WEEK 5—Complete DB Assignment #2

Initial response: By midnight on Friday, February 11

Four replies: By midnight on Saturday, February 12

WEEK 6—Readings

Volume C: *Booker T. Washington* (663-top of 680); Volume C: Hamlin Garland (752-762); Volume C: *Charlotte Perkins Gilman* (806-808 and 822-828); Volume C: Sui Sin Far (879-886); Volume C: *Mary Hunter Austin* (886-893)

WEEK 7—Complete DB Assignment #3

Initial response: By midnight on Friday, February 25

Four replies: By midnight on Saturday, February 26

WEEK 8—Readings

Volume C: *W. E. B. Du Bois* (893-910); Volume C: *Zitkala Ša* (1105-1132)

WEEK 9—Complete DB Assignment #4

Initial response: By midnight on Friday, March 11

Four replies: By midnight on Saturday, March 12

WEEK 10—Readings

Volume C: *Americanization* (1147-1166); Volume D: *Introduction* (1177-1192); Volume D: *World War I and Its Aftermath* (1371-1379); Volume D: *Robert Frost* (1388-1389 and poems titled “Mowing,” “Mending Wall,” “The Road Not Taken”); Volume D: *Modernist Manifestos* (1499-1505); Volume D: *Claude McKay* (1687-1690)

WEEK 11—Complete DB Assignment #5

Initial response: By midnight on Friday, March 25

Four replies: By midnight on Saturday, March 26

WEEK 12—Readings

Volume D: *William Faulkner* (1858-1860 and 1955-1967); Volume D: *Langston Hughes* (2026-2037); Volume D: *Carlos Bulosan* (2076-2081); Volume E: *Introduction* (2083-2096); Volume E: *Eudora Welty* (2146-2157)

WEEK 13—Complete DB Assignment #6

Initial response: By midnight on Friday, April 8

Four replies: By midnight on Saturday, April 9

WEEK 14—Readings

Volume E: *John Cheever* (2248-2257); Bernard Malamud (2284-2297); Volume E: Glossy Photo Insert in center of Volume E—take a look at pictures and read info for each one; Volume E: *Ursula K. Le Guin* (2664-2672); Volume E: *Toni Morrison* (2684-2698); Volume E: *Raymond Carver* (2827-2838)

WEEK 15—Complete DB Assignment #7

Initial response: By midnight on Friday, April 22

Four replies: By midnight on Saturday, April 23

WEEK 16—Readings

Volume E: *Writing in a Time of Terror* (3205-3216 and 3239-3248) Note that the biography for Sherman Alexie contains two major errors:

- The title of one of his books is not “The Business of Fancy Dancing” (as listed on page 3239); rather, it is “The Business of Fancydancing.” Fancydancing is a specific type of American Indian dance and does not carry the sense of a “fancy” dance in the Western sense of dancing.
- Alexie is NOT “still living on the reservation” (3240). Alexie makes his home in Seattle, Washington.

Final Week of class meetings/exam week (technically Week 17):

Complete DB Assignment #8 by the usual Friday/Saturday deadlines (this would be May 6th and 7th). Also complete Final Exam and all outstanding Reading Quizzes. Final exam and quizzes are all due no later than 12 midnight on Saturday, May 7th.