

English 2327.4
American Literature I

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WH 226
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A course syllabus is a contract between instructor and student. By remaining a student in a course, you agree to abide by all policies found in the syllabus. These policies exist to ensure fairness through clarity. They are direct and firm in order to deter abuse. If you feel that a situation warrants exception from any of the policies in this syllabus, you will be required to provide written documentation of the situation. The following policies constitute your contract with me:

My office hours can be found online: <http://www.odessa.edu/directories/PER.DIR.html>. If you would like to meet with me, the easiest way to set up a meeting is via email. **All responses, whether to emails, notes, or phone messages, will be sent via email to your OC email account.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Consists of reading and analyzing significant works of American literature from the Realistic period through to the present day. Requires research paper or several short analytical papers. (SCANS 1, 2, 9) Prerequisite: Pass ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302.

This is a sophomore literature course, which means you will have to read numerous works by various authors over the course of the semester; some may be long. You will not do well in this course if you do not read!

REQUIRED TEXT

Anthology of American Literature. Vol. 1. 10th ed. Eds. George McMichael et al.

You also need to know or have access to MLA style guidelines. A reliable online source for this information is the OWL at Purdue: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>.

An English handbook is not required but would be helpful. It will help with research in this course and basic skills for any other college course you take. Some possibilities are: *Hodges' Harbrace Handbook*, *The Little Brown Handbook*, and *QA Quick Access Handbook*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to

1. read assigned literary works;
2. write at least one analytical paper using approved research sources;
3. take exams over each of the time periods studied;
4. take quizzes over the assigned reading material;
5. participate in group work and class discussions;
6. take a final exam.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Demonstrate the ability to think critically about notable works of American literature from the colonial period up to the Civil War;

2. Demonstrate the ability to read assigned texts closely, develop interpretational analyses of these texts, and clearly articulate the findings of these critical interpretational analyses;
3. Recognize the major movements and periods of American literature from the Colonial period up to the Civil War;
4. Discuss the basic and more abstract elements of different genres of literature of this period using appropriate literary terminology;
5. Recognize recurring cultural and literary themes as they appear in selected works of this period of American literature;
6. Communicate this understanding of American literature using well-organized, lucid prose.

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENT & ACTIVITIES

Specific due dates are announced as the class progresses, as class progress depends on student learning.

Item	Description
Unit 1	Focuses on analyzing works from the Colonial period in American history. Analysis will be in terms of authors' backgrounds and what was happening in America; concludes with unit test
Unit 2	Focuses on analyzing works from 18 th century. Analysis will be in terms of authors' backgrounds and what was happening in America; concludes with unit test
Unit 3	Focuses on analyzing works from the early to mid 19 th century. Analysis will be in terms of author's background and what was happening in America; concludes with unit test
Research Essay	Requires demonstration of understanding of course content and incorporation of research.
Final Exam	Will be comprehensive

***All assignments in this course will include a written portion of some sort. The last page of this syllabus is a rubric explaining the criteria I use when grading all written work.

GRADE DETERMINATION

Grades in this course are weighted as follows: class work x 10%; 3 unit tests x 18%; research essay x 18%; final exam x 18%.

At the end of the semester, grades will be determined based on the following scale:

- A = 100 – 90
- B = 80 – 90
- C = 70 – 79
- D = 60 – 69
- F = 59 and below

Note: A D in this course is considered passing. However, it most likely will not transfer to another institution or satisfy the requirements of specific programs (i.e. nursing program).

TESTING POLICY

You will know ahead of time when tests will be given. A 5-question, all-essay make-up test will be offered to anyone not taking the original test. Any make-up test must be taken within one (1) week of the original test date. No make-up test will be offered for the final. At the instructor's discretion, you may be required to complete a proctored make-up test.

NON-TEST ASSIGNMENTS

You will know ahead of time when any non-test assignments are due. Late submission of these assignments is at the discretion of the instructor and based on the policies in this syllabus. You will have to contact the instructor to find out if you have any options for any missed assignments.

COMPUTER ACCESS

From time to time, you may need a computer to complete the work for this course. Due dates/assignments cannot be arranged around every student's computer/internet access and/or work schedule. Do not expect to be given extensions on assignments or tests due to computer/internet access or work schedule issues.

COMMUNICATION

Odessa College provides every student a free email account. This email system is the official communication method at the college. In addition, if you use the Send Email function in Blackboard, you are using your OC student email account. This means that when your instructor hits Reply, the reply goes to your OC student email account. It is your responsibility to monitor the account given to you by OC, either directly or by forwarding email to an external account. Failure to monitor your OC email account is not an acceptable reason for missing due dates or important information. For help with your OC email account, go to <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. If you still have issues with your OC student email account, let your instructor know, but requests for help must be addressed to the Student Success Center at 432-335-6673.

ATTENDANCE

I am required to take attendance. Retention alerts are sent to the OC Student Success Coaches in certain situations. They are a means of providing students with additional support.

Your attendance is mandatory if you want to do well in this course. You will not be able to successfully complete this course without regular, quality interaction with other students and the instructor. If you have a question, it is your responsibility to ask in a timely manner. Those who regularly attend and interact with classmates and the instructor perform better than those who do not.

I reserve the right to ask you to leave a class if your behavior is disruptive to other students. Disruptive behaviors include but are not limited to: using a cell phone, sleeping, and chatting.

I know things happen. However, not everything that happens is a crisis or emergency. Crises or emergencies include severe illness requiring a doctor's visit or hospitalization, death in the family, or college-excused events (which must be discussed ahead of time). They do not include not feeling well, oversleeping, forgetting, poor time management, or needing help from or for a friend, roommate, family member, or pet.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will not be tolerated. The first instance of plagiarism will result in a 0 (zero) on the assignment. The second time, will result in an F in the course.

A reliable website for information on plagiarism is <http://plagiarism.org/>.

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER

The library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the

LRC's [catalogue](#) (print books, videos, e-books) and [databases](#) (journal and magazine articles). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the "[Ask a librarian](#)" service provide additional help.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at (432)335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Without paperwork from the Office of Disability Services, I cannot make accommodations.

Other school policies can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

GRADING STANDARDS FOR ALL WRITTEN WORK

"A": Excellent / outstanding / fluent / thought-provoking / original

Follows all instructions, addresses question asked, carefully organized, contains an effective thesis, fluent style, clear and concise writing, few if any mechanical errors, shows thought and analysis, present original insights independent of the teacher/text, in-depth and detailed, goes well beyond what was expected

"B": Good / above average / clear / well-organized

Follows instructions, addresses question asked, contains a thesis, mechanical errors are not distracting to the reader, contains some detail, shows little thought or analysis independent of information given by teacher/text

"C": Average / adequate / competent / fair / unoriginal

Follows most of the instructions, addresses most of the question asked, weak thesis, lacks clarity, mechanical errors are obvious but do not interfere with reader's understanding of the work, little if no detail, thought or analysis; THIS IS AVERAGE WORK FOR ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS

"D": Below average / inadequate / ineffective / unclear / under-developed

Follows only the most basic assignment requirements, addresses question on a very general level, shows insufficient understanding of the material, significant mechanical errors make communication of ideas ineffective, no thesis, lacks organization

"F": Failure / blocked communication / plagiarism-cheating / major errors / illiteracy / directions not followed / badly underdeveloped

Instructions were not followed, question was not addressed, no thesis, no organization, mechanical errors make work unreadable and/or incapable of being understood, some or all of the contents were plagiarized, fails to address the given topic, no detail, thought, or analysis