

Course Syllabus

Department : English & Foreign Languages
Course Title : American Literature I
Section Name : ENGL_2327_WB
Start Date : 08/22/2011
End Date : 12/09/2011
Modality : ONLINE
Credits : 3

Instructor Information

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Course Description

English 2327: American Literature I consists of reading and analyzing significant works of American literature from the Colonial period through the Romantic period. This course requires a research paper or several short analytical papers.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

English1301: Composition and Rhetoric and English 1302: Composition and Literature

Scans

Scans 1, 2, 9

Course Objectives

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

- Demonstrate the ability to think critically about notable works of American literature from the colonial period up to the Civil War;
- Demonstrate the ability to read assigned texts closely, develop interpretational analyses of these texts, and clearly articulate the findings of these critical interpretational analyses;

- Recognize the major movements and periods of American literature from the colonial period up to the Civil War;
- Discuss the basic and more abstract elements of different genres of literature of this period using appropriate literary terminology;
- Recognize recurring cultural and literary themes as they appear in selected works of this period of American literature;
- Communicate this understanding of American literature using well-organized, lucid prose.

Required Readings/Materials

a) You must purchase the following **required** readings/materials:

McMichael, George, ed., et al. *Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. I. Tenth edition. New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc., 2011.

Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)

This course will cover 4 Units:

Unit One: The Literature of Early America

Lecture notes will cover the author's background, the historical period and the literary period.

Select works will be covered.

Unit Two: The Literature of the Eighteenth Century

Lecture notes will cover the author's background, the historical period and the literary period.

Select works will be covered.

Unit Three: The Literature of the Early to Mid Nineteenth Century

Lecture notes will cover the author's background, the historical period and the literary period.

Select works will be covered

Unit Four: A Research Component

Course Evaluation

Final Exam: The final exam takes place in *Blackboard* and is not proctored, unless something has occurred that has prompted me to require you to take your exams at a testing center (see "Policies and Procedures" below). All learners are required to take a final exam for the class on the date that coincides

with a scheduled time. Failure to take the final exam will result in a failing grade for the class.

Discussion Requirements, Participation Guidelines, and Grading Criteria:

In addition to your textual reading assignments during the semester, you will have multiple on-line lectures; interactive discussions; analytical writing components; several exams, audio/video presentations/lectures, and a final exam. Periodically, you will post to the Discussion Board for interaction with other learners in conjunction with assigned topics. These postings are required class participation and do carry a grade.

Interactive Discussion Components:

Learners are required to participate in all posting or as extra credit options. Postings are usually weighted percentages of a grade unless it is offered as extra credit, then the points will be assigned by the instructor. A posting always counts as attendance. If a student fails to post, that student, in effect, missed class and will be counted "absent." A posting serves several purposes:

1. Topics are set up to assist you in better understanding the works so that you are better-prepared for exams;
2. They provide an arena for collegiality among learners;
3. They alert me if you are not understanding material or may be struggling with concepts; and
4. Postings count for attendance, so if you miss a posting then you are "absent" from class that week. For this course, if you miss the assigned postings, you are in academic jeopardy because of your absences in addition to the loss of grade points.
5. Postings have a deadline. A posting cannot be made-up. Each posting carries a weighted grade percentage. If a learner misses a posting, a zero will be entered for that posting.

You will respond to 3-5 discussion topics during the semester. Discussion topics will vary. The learner will be required to make at least one response or a *reply* to one of the other learners in class. You will have a determined time period to respond to a question. The posting period varies according to the time constraints of the class. After that period, the question will be locked (meaning the learner will not be able to respond).

Netiquette:

Anything a learner types in the discussion area is public – which means that every student in this class (including your instructor) will see what is written. Pay attention to the language used and adhere to the following:

Netiquette Guidelines:

1. Do not post information of sensitive nature;
 2. Do not use language that is inappropriate for a classroom setting (curse words, etc);
 3. Do not use language that is inflammatory or prejudicial in regard to gender, race, ethnicity, or religion;
 - 4) Do not post in all caps; and
 - 5) Remember your audience, which is an English instructor. So, use language that is appropriate. Do not use "text messaging" language/abbreviations. Be sure to adhere to basic grammar and punctuation rules and write in complete sentences.
- (If you do not adhere to the guidelines for any posting, you will lose the points that would have been granted, and I reserve the right to remove your posting and to deny you any further posting privileges.)

Teacher's Lounge (Asynchronous):

You will have the opportunity to ask me questions in the virtual "Teacher's Lounge" for each unit. This lounge is open at specific times for you to clarify an assignment or to ask questions about the course, and that communication is asynchronous. The reason for the "Teacher's Lounge" is to provide opportunities

for students to ask specific questions of me about the course and for other students to see those questions and responses. I have found that a question that one student asks is a question that another 10 students want to know, so to put that type discussion in one arena helps everyone. Therefore, I will ask that all students check the "Lounge" even if they are not asking a question because there could be a conversation going on there that answers questions for them. The Teacher's Lounge is asynchronous, which means we will not be in that forum at the same time; however, I will post the dates that I will respond to your questions. The Teacher's Lounge is not mandatory

Student Lounge (Asynchronous):

Periodically, I will open an area for you to discuss readings, study questions, test reviews, and other pertinent material with each other. I have found that this option is quite helpful because it gives you a place to chat among yourselves about the assignments. The Student Lounge is optional and differs from an Interactive Discussion because there is no specific topic given to you--it is a place for you to congregate with other learners to discuss the weekly assignment, upcoming essays, or study questions. I do not participate in these discussions, but I will monitor them.

Letter Grade Explanation:

The learner's grade will be determined by weighted activities (postings, papers, and exams) noted in Blackboard.

90 to 100	= A
80 - 89	= B
70 – 79	= C
60 – 69	= D
59 and below	= F

Policies and Procedures:

Testing: Tests are handled through Blackboard on-line. The dates are fixed and the exams are timed, and this is non-negotiable except for extreme situations. When there is an exception, a late test penalty is imposed. The highest possible grade for a late test is a 70. You will not be required to come to any campus for testing unless there is some question of plagiarism/cheating or a question of whether the student who has signed up for the course is really the student taking the exams and turning in work.

IMPORTANT: I reserve the right to require you to come to the OC campus (or to a campus near you) for proctored testing if this should occur. You need to know two things:

- a) that this has happened, and I have required proctored testing; and
- b) that all I need is to suspect cheating to require this of you.

Written Work/Essays: Your analytical paper/s will follow standard MLA guidelines for documentation. Writing components should illustrate an appropriate level of critical thinking, which incorporates independent thought, self-awareness, recognition of relevance, intellectual curiosity, and academic integrity. All assignments and course activities that you submit to me must have the following in the name of the file: Your last name/ Section # and Assignment Name. All essays must be submitted in Rich Text (RTF) format. If you submit in an incorrect format, your work will be counted late. Work submitted incorrectly will be counted as late. Work is submitted through the "Assignment" Tool in BB. The Digital Drop Box is reserved for late and/or revised papers.

Late Submission Policy for Written Work:

An essay needs to be submitted on or before the deadline. Late work is not accepted on essays or tests or assignments unless extenuating circumstances occur. I have sole discretion over whether the circumstances warrant and extension and a late penalty of a no higher than a 70 can be earned. No late papers, etc. will be accepted after five consecutive days (including weekends).

Disabilities: In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, Odessa College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment and admission of students, the employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of any of its programs and activities. Students with disabilities should contact the ADA Accommodation/Support counselor, Becky Rivera-Weiss, directly: brivera@odessa.edu. All requests, including VCT, for accommodations must be channeled through the Accommodation counselor.

Withdrawal Policy: See the current schedule for withdrawal policy criteria. Students who cannot complete the course must take the responsibility upon themselves to drop. The instructor will not drop students. Failure to drop before the deadline (see catalog or schedule of classes for the deadline) will result in a grade of F.

Incomplete Policy: An Incomplete (I) may be given only if the student has earned a passing grade on all submitted coursework and if the student has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of "I" will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student. Furthermore, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to complete the missing assignments. Remember, an Incomplete will automatically roll to an F at the end of the first long semester after the Incomplete was issued.

Instructor Response Time: I check my email daily and will respond to your email within 48 hours. If you do not receive a timely response from me, please assume that I did not receive your email and resend it.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

If you plagiarize or cheat, you will receive an "F" in the course. Here is an excellent source of information in regard to plagiarism: <http://www.plagiarism.org/>

Grades:

All OC learners must access their grades through Web Advisor.