

# American Literature II - ENG 222

1865-current

Professor Janet M. Hagen

Office Hours: TR 1:00-2:30 and by appointment

E-mail: [jhagen@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:jhagen@trcc.commnet.edu)

Location: C216 / Phone: 860-215-9433

## Course Description

This course is a survey of American writers beginning from approximately 1865 to the present. Students will read the fiction, poetry, and drama of selected writers, and examine the dominant themes and literary movements that have shaped American literature. The multicultural dimensions of American literature will be explored, and a variety of relevant critical strategies will be used. Writing assignments will stress critical analysis including the incorporation of various critical approaches.

*Prerequisites: ENG\* K102 or permission of the instructor.*

**Our object will be to study some of the many voices that constitute what we call American literature, addressing questions such as:**

- What impact has literature had in the ongoing story of culture and history of the United States?
- How do gender, race, sexuality, and class shape the creation and reception of a literary text?
- What constitutes a literary canon?
- What does "American" literature as a category mean?
- What is the place of literature in the United States in the twenty-first century?

## **COURSE OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to

- demonstrate knowledge of the major historical forces that shaped the development of American literature from the Civil War to today;
- explain what the major literary movements are between 1865 to the present;
- explain what it means to struggle for a cultural identity in America through an analysis of how gender, class, and sexuality intersect with race and ethnicity;
- explain what the challenges, problems, and complexities are in developing a literary canon that represents American literature;
- identify common themes in American literature;
- ask thought-provoking questions and engage in productive dialog that lead to a deeper understanding of the works;
- interpret literary texts using critical strategies;
- formulate own perspectives about both meaning and structure in a work of literature, and support those perspectives with specifics from the text;
- incorporate independent research into both class discussion and written work;
- write analytical, evaluative essays about literature that present interpretations supported with evidence from the works;
- produce documents that adhere to MLA writing conventions.

## Required Texts and Resources

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volumes C, D, E* 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

## Grade Percentages

Three essays 60% (Essay One 15%. Essay Two 20%. Essay Three 25%)

Final Exam 20%

In-class participation, including discussions, homework assignments, in-class writing, and quizzes 20%

## EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENT AND GRADES

**ESSAYS (60%)** During this session you will be required to write three formal essays. The assignments will be handed out in class and will focus on the works we will have been reading and discussing.

**Paper Format:** All formal essays are to be formatted in MLA, including font size, spacing, titles, etc. For a refresher on what that means, go to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>. (Incorrectly formatted papers will affect your grade negatively.)

**CLASS PARTICIPATION, QUIZZES, HOMEWORK (20%)**: A literature course such as this requires class discussion, with your input vital for the success of the course. Thus, I will expect that you will have read the assigned material before class and will be able to fully participate, individually and, if designated, in a group. Homework will be assigned and periodically, I will give "pop" quizzes to see who is doing the reading. (If you haven't done the reading, you will not be able to participate in group work.)

*\*Homework assignments will be given out in class.*

**EXAMS (20%)**: Exams will be based on the readings and subjects covered in class. (More details to follow.)

## OTHER POLICIES

**Deadlines:** All work is to be submitted on the day it is due at the **beginning of class**. If you come in late or submit the work after class, it will be considered late (which includes essays). Regular class assignments will lose a grade per day or automatically receive a check minus. Late essays will be given either a pass or a fail (C or an F). Quizzes and in-class work may not be made up. **\*\*If you have an emergency, please contact me to make other arrangements. Only in a documented emergency will I accept late and/or email submissions.**

**Attendance:** In order for the class to be successful, it is important that you attend regularly. (Keep in mind that one night class constitutes a week of classes.) **If you must miss class, please remember that you will still be held accountable for the material covered in class and all assignments that are due that day.** (An excused absent includes, for example, illness and/or injury and requires written verification.) Extended unexcused absences will affect your grade negatively. (It is always a good idea to find someone early on to contact in case you have to miss a class.) **\*You must stay in class the entire time to be counted as present. (In other words, if you**

leave halfway through the class, you will be counted as absent for the entire class and any quiz or work you engaged in or completed in class will be considered null and void.)

**Breaks:** Unless it is an emergency, **refrain from leaving the class at all times.** Doing so is very disruptive and annoying. For safety reasons, I will also be locking the classroom door and will not open it if you leave. (You will be given a break half-way through each class.)

**Late Arrivals:** Please be in class on time. Habitual lateness will affect your grade negatively (under class participation).

**Academic Integrity:** See contract.

**Writing Center:** Three Rivers has an excellent writing center located next to the library, C117. Receiving help through email is also available. Include your name, student ID, and a brief explanation of the assignment and send your work as an attachment to [TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu). (Because of the large amount of students receiving assistance, I recommend that you set up an appointment ahead of time; if you submit your essay via email give yourself 24-48 hours turnaround time.)

**Cell phones:** School regulations require that all electronic devices be turned off in learning environments. (**No text messaging during class.**) Consequences to be discussed. (If you need your cell phone on for a specific reason, please talk to me.)

**Class cancellations:** If class is cancelled, a notice will be posted outside the door. I will also try to send out an email, so make sure you are signed up for a TRCC email account. School cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on the TRCC homepage. To receive alerts on your cell phone, sign up for myCommNet Alert on your Commnet page.

**\*Disability Information**

\*If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

<b>TRCC Disabilities Service Providers</b> Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119	
<b>Matt Liscum</b> (860) 383-5240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Sensory Disabilities</li> <li>• Medical Disabilities</li> <li>• Mental Health Disabilities</li> </ul>
<b>Chris Scarborough</b> (860) 892-5751	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Disabilities</li> <li>• ADD/ADHD</li> <li>• Autism Spectrum</li> </ul>

--	--

## **Title IX**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that prohibits sex-based discrimination of any kind in the educational programs or activities of federally-financed institutions, which includes Three Rivers Community College.

Three Rivers Community College will not tolerate any form of sex-based discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence (domestic violence, dating partner violence), stalking, and sexual assault.

## **How to Report an Incident**

There is no time limit for reporting sexual misconduct. At any time, you may report an incident of sexual misconduct by contacting the Dean of Students or the College's Title IX Coordinator. For a detailed breakdown of the Title IX Coordinator's services, please visit the [Title IX Coordinator page](#) off of TRCC's homepage.

### **On campus contacts**

**Victoria Baker**  
**Title IX Coordinator**  
 Three Rivers Community College  
 574 New London Turnpike  
 Norwich, CT 06360  
 Room E-110, (860) 215-9208  
[VBaker@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:VBaker@trcc.commnet.edu)

**Christine Languth**  
**Director of Student Success**  
 Three Rivers Community College  
 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, CT  
 06360  
 Room A-128, (860) 215-9260  
[Clanguth@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:Clanguth@trcc.commnet.edu)

### **Local Confidential Counseling Resources**

#### **Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut**

**New London Office**, 78 Howard Street, 2nd Floor, New London, CT 06320, Office: 860-442-0604

Hotline: 860-437-7766 or Toll Free (888) 999-5545

<http://www.saccec.org/>

## Course Outline Fall 2015, American Literature 1865-present

### *Voices in American Literature*

#### 1865-1914 (Volume C)

#### Week One

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- 3 Introduction to course.

#### Week Two

- 10 *American Literature 1865-1914*-read 3-19  
Mark Twain (118) “The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” 121. W.E.B. Du Bois (883) From *The Souls of Black Folk* 885-891; “Charles Chestnutt (698) “The Passing of Grandison” 714; Zitkala Ša (Gertrude Simmons Bonnin) (1085) “*From Impressions of an Indian Childhood and The School Days of an Indian Girl*” 1087

#### Week Three

- 17 Kate Chopin (550) “The Story of an Hour” 555 and “The Storm” 557; Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins (728) “A Dash for Liberty” 730; Sarah Orne Jewett (525) “A White Heron” 526; Sui Sin Far (864) “Mrs. Spring Fragrance” 865

#### Week Four

- 24 William Dean Howell (374) “Editha” 376; Lawrence Dunbar (1028) “Sympathy” 1034, “Harriet Beecher Stowe” 1034, “We Wear the Mask” 1033; Jack London (1042) “The Law of Life” 1043; Theodore Dreiser (927) “From *Sister Carrie*” 929

#### 1914-1945 (Volume D)

#### Week Five

#### **OCTOBER**

- 1 **ESSAY ONE DUE.** “Introduction” 3-22; Amy Lowell (191) “New Heavens for Old” 196, “Venus Transiens” 193; Mina Loy (338) “Feminist Manifesto” 338; *World War I and Its Aftermath* 214. Robert Frost (230) “After Apple-Picking” 240 and “Out, Out—” 244; William Carlos Williams (302) “The Young Housewife” 304, “To Elsie” 307, and “The Red Wheelbarrow” 309

#### Week Six

#### **OCTOBER**

- 8 Ezra Pound (314) “In the Station of the Metro” 318; T.S. Eliot (365) “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” 368; Langston Hughes (869) “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” 871, “I, Too” 872, “Visitors to the Black Belt” 875, “Theme for English B” 880

**Week Seven**

- 15 Ernest Hemingway (824) “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” 826; and handout; William Faulkner (695) “A Rose for Emily” 794

**Literature Since 1945  
(Volume E)**

**Week Eight**

- 22 **ESSAY TWO DUE.** Introduction 3-19; Ralph Ellison 206 “From *Invisible Man*” “Prologue” and “Chapter 1” 208; Gwendolyn Brooks (322) 323 (all poems)

**Week Nine****NOVEMBER**

- 5 Tennessee Williams (90) *A Streetcar Named Desire* 93 (read entire play)

**Week Ten**

- 12 Jack Kerouac (351) “From *Big Sur*” 353; Allen Ginsberg (490) “Howl” 492 and “Footnote to Howl” 500. Ursula K. Le Guin (588) “She Unnames Them” 594; Toni Morrison (608) “Recitatif” 609; Adrienne Rich (566) “Transcendental Etude” 576 and “Power” 576

**Week Eleven**

- 19 Amy Tan (1120) From *The Joy Luck Club* 1121; Sandra Cisneros (1130) “Woman Hollering Creek” 1131; Sherman Alexie (1207) From *Tourists* 1210, “The Exaggeration of Despair” 1211

**Week Twelve**

- 26 *\*Thanksgiving break. No class.*

**Week Thirteen****DECEMBER**

- 3 **ESSAY THREE DUE.** *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* – read complete novel

**Week Fourteen**

- 10 Finish discussion

**Week Fifteen**

- 17 **FINAL EXAM**

*The syllabus may change at any time and you are responsible to stay current on any updates. You are also responsible for any work missed in class. Find a study partner to contact if you should have to miss class.*

*Final grades will be available December 30*

## Student Contract

Please read and sign acknowledging that you understand what academic integrity is and what the consequences are for violating it. *(Read this contract carefully, as it is a formal and binding contract.)*

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

*General Definition (Student Discipline Policy, section 2:10, Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges)*

Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to

- (a) cheating on an examination,
- (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course,
- (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own. In other words, **ALL** submitted written work must be your own; if you consult other sources, such as class readings, articles or books from the library, *\*material on internet databases or web sites, etc.*, these sources **MUST** be properly documented, or you will be charged with plagiarism and will receive a zero on the assignment and possibly an F in the course as well.
- (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials,
- (e) falsifying records of laboratory or other data,
- (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and
- (g) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the *student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.*

*\*Deliberately looking up information on a work of literature on a website and using that information in your critique constitutes plagiarism.*

**By reading and signing this contract, I am acknowledging that I understand what the general definitions are that constitute Academic Integrity and that if I partake in any of these activities I will receive a zero. I also understand that repeatedly plagiarizing will result in failing the course (more than one time). Further, I understand that the Academic Dean will be notified of all incidents of plagiarizing and they will become a part of my permanent file.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_