

AML2070, Sect. 1623: Survey of American Literature (What is *American Literature*?)

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Period 2

Office Hours: 9:45 - 11:45 / By appt.

Class Time/Place:
MAT 0117
MWF/

English Dept Phone: (352) 392-6650

Course Description

This 2000-level literature course will explore American novels, short fiction, and drama loosely focused on issues of racial and/or national identity. Specifically, we will look at literature which directly or indirectly influenced or responded to the development of American culture from a wide range of cultural contexts. Reading such thematic works will help you examine the ways in which authors engaged with, critiqued, or imagined American identity from the turn-of-the-century to the present.

While historical and cultural contexts are crucial to analysis of the texts we will be reading and discussing this semester, the course will also give you an understanding of some of the core issues and literary movements as they relate to the development of American literature in the last 100 years. You will become familiar with several major literary moments, including realism, modernism, and postmodernism, as well as historical junctures that have shaped American literature. We will also explore developments in popular literary genres, such as science fiction.

The bulk of this course will focus on reading, class discussion, and lecture. Reading the assigned texts and participation are, as such, required to succeed in this course. You are also expected to spend considerable time working on essays and reading responses in order to meet the 6,000-word writing requirement set by the university.

The university's General Education student learning outcomes for this course are detailed in the Undergraduate Catalog at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggened.html> - requirements

Required Texts

(All books are available at the UF Bookstore. Additional texts will be marked on the schedule and made available online. All assigned texts are required reading for this course. You must bring them with you for class.)

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

Passing by Nella Larsen

The Forever War by Joe Haldeman

Golden Days by Carolyn See

Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers by Lois-Ann Yamanaka

Flight by Sherman Alexie

Falling Man by Don DeLillo

The Chickencoop Chinaman /The Year of the Dragon: Two Plays by Frank Chin

The American Play and Other Works by Suzan-Lori Parks

The Best American Short Stories of the Century edited by John Updike and Katrina Kenison

Course Policies

Attendance

This course is heavily oriented towards discussion and lecture. Therefore, attendance is crucial. Unexcused absences exceeding **six periods** may result in a failing grade for the course.

It is also expected that you will arrive on time for class. If you are five minutes late, you are counted as absent. This is non-negotiable. Arriving late for class disrupts the learning process.

Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed (at least a week before), or they will not be counted. Other absence-related issues should be discussed with your professor in advance.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are absent, it is still your responsibility to make yourself aware of all due dates. You are still responsible for turning assignments in on time. In class assignments and so on cannot be made up.

Participation

Participation is a crucial part of your success in this class. You will be expected to work in small groups, participate in group discussions, and complete various other activities. Writing workshops require that you provide constructive feedback about your peers' writing. In general, you are expected to contribute constructively to each class session.

Preparation

It is required that you complete and bring all readings to class; electronic texts are acceptable where available, but it is strongly recommended that you use a device which allows you to take notes. You must also be prepared to discuss the readings in class. If you cannot complete the readings, then do not take this course. You should take notes and you should read every text closely. It is okay if you are confused; you are encouraged to ask questions, no matter how simple.

Papers and drafts are due at the beginning of class on the day listed on the syllabus (unless specified otherwise). Late papers **will not be accepted** (they will receive an automatic zero). Acquire a Dropbox account or some other online, automated file-backup system to prevent loss of materials. Failure of technology is not an excuse for failing to turn in a paper.

Classroom Behavior

Please keep in mind that UF students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Likewise, some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and present controversial opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly, absence, from the class. You may criticize an idea in this course (indeed, you are encouraged to debate interpretations), as literary analysis is often about subjective interpretation, but you must remain civil and respectful.

Additionally, use of cell phones and other electronic devices for any purpose other than contributing to the class will not be tolerated. You may use laptops and you may do brief searches on the Internet to look for something we are discussing in class, but you may not text, take phone calls, hold separate discussions with your neighbors, surf the Internet, check your email, or any other activity which is not related to the course. Doing so is disruptive and may result in dismissal from the class, which will be counted as an absence.

If such devices become a problem in the course, I will ban them from class.

Paper Format

Your papers must conform to basic MLA format. This means your paper must meet the basic formatting guidelines:

- > Double-spaced
- > 12 point Times New Roman
- > 1 inch margins
- > MLA style headers w/ page numbers
- > MLA-style citations (in-text and end-text)
- > Your name and other relevant heading information

If you are not familiar with MLA format, find a copy of the *MLA Handbook* in the library or use [Purdue's OWL website](#). Final drafts should be polished and presented in a professional manner.

All papers must be submitted in paper and electronic form by the beginning of class on the due date. You will be docked half a letter grade for each day your electronic copy is late; you will receive no credit whatsoever if your hard copy is not turned in at the start of class.

All papers submitted online must be in .doc (MS Word) or .rtf (Rich Text Format) and must be submitted via Sakai. Please do not send .docx files; while I do have the conversion pack for the older version of MS Word, .doc and .rtf are less buggy and better supported by my computer.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the [Student Honor Code](#). The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

a.) Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.

b.) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student. (University of Florida, Student Honor Code, 15 Aug. 2007 <<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>>)

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code.

Important Tip: You should never copy and paste something from the internet without also providing the exact location from which it came.

This class has a **zero tolerance policy** for plagiarism. If you plagiarize, you will fail the assignment; you may also fail the class and be reported to the University, depending on the severity of the theft. It is better to cite something incorrectly than to not cite at all.

Paper Maintenance Responsibilities

Students are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a resubmission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is the student's responsibility to have and to make available this material. *Do not throw away papers.*

General Education Requirement

Composition

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggened.html>

Writing Requirement (formerly Gordon Rule)

This course can satisfy the UF requirement for Writing. For more information, see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggordon.html>

University Policies

Disability Services

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom.

It is your responsibility to contact the school administration regarding any disability you may have, and to inform me so we can make any necessary arrangements.

For more information, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Academic Honesty

All students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php#s4041>

Assignment Descriptions

Participation (150 pts)

Participation includes speaking in class, group activities, quizzes, peer review, attendance, and all assignments assigned for the course.

Diagnostic Essay (1 x 500 words; 50 pts)

You will write one literary analysis which will be used to determine your weaknesses and strengths as a close reader and analytical writer. You will have the opportunity to rewrite this essay for full credit. The objective is to learn how to write better arguments about literature, and how to re-work your writing before submission, thereby teaching you good editorial skills which will be useful to you later in the semester.

Online Discussions and Responses (3 discussions x 500 words / 30 pts each; 6 responses x 200 words / 10 pts each)(120 pts total / 80 pts total)

Throughout the semester, you will be required to contribute four short literary analyses as discussion starters in Sakai. One discussion is due for each unit and must focus on a specific text (of your choice) and appear online the morning before we are set to discuss that text (or that particular section of a text). Additional guidelines about these discussions will be provided throughout the semester. These responses may be expanded for one of your longer papers and will be treated as exploratory writings.

You are also required to write ten short critical responses to your fellow classmates' discussions. These will also have a strict due date - by the evening prior to discussion of the text in question.

Short Literary Analysis (2 x 500 words; 75 pts each)

You will write two short literary analyses of a single short story, novel, or play. These papers must be specific, argumentative, and focused. More details will be made available in the first weeks of class.

Midterm Essay (1,000 words; 100 pts)

For this paper, you will write a sustained close analysis of one of the texts we read

during the first half of the semester.

Final Exam (150 pts)

The final exam will consist of text identification, multiple choice, and short answer questions, including brief close readings.

Final Paper (1,500 words; 200 pts)

This final paper will include an extensive analysis of any text we have read during the second half of the semester. You are required to research your topic and chosen text and use at least three *academic* sources in your analysis.

Grading Scale

A	930-1000	C	740-769
A-	900-929	c-	700-739
B+	870-899	D+	670-699
B	840-869	D	630-669
B-	800-839	D-	600-629
C+	770-799	E	0-599

Points Breakdown

Assignments	Word Count	Points	Percentage
Participation	N/A	150	15%
Diagnostic Essay	500	50	5%
SLAs (x2)	1,000 (total)	150	15%
Midterm Essay	1,000	100	10%
Discussions/Responses	2,700 (total)	200	20%
Final Exam	N/A	150	15%
Final Paper	1,500	200	20%

Grade Meanings

The following is a basic rubric which will be used to grade your papers:

- A An A paper is well-argued, well-supported, well-organized, and demonstrates thorough engagement with the text and its relation to the themes and/or concepts discussed in the course (if relevant). Papers at this level contain strong prose and are generally free of typos and mechanical errors.
- B AB paper falls noticeably short in **one** of the above areas, but still demonstrates a thorough engagement with the text and its relation to the themes and/or concepts discussed in the course (if relevant). Work in this range needs minor revision, but is otherwise stylistically and mechanically sound, with few errors.
- C AC paper falls noticeably short in **two or more** of the areas listed above. Work in this range needs significant revision in terms of its content and organization and may contain several spelling and/or mechanical errors. A C paper, however, shows potential.
- D AD paper is generally disorganized, poorly-argued, lacking in support, and simplistic in terms of its argument. Work in this range is in need of significant

rewriting and contains numerous spelling and/or mechanical errors that disrupt reading.

E An E paper falls short in **almost all** of the areas listed above OR may be incomplete/late/missing. Work in this range is full of spelling and mechanical errors, unclear, and usually close to unreadable. An E paper may also fail to follow the guidelines set up by your instructor.

Please note that the above rubric is not exact. Other factors, such as assignment requirements, obvious inaccurate textual references, and so on, will influence your grade.

Tentative Course Schedule

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change with advance notification. The page numbers are inexact and will change as we become aware of the editions used by students in the course.

(Page numbers will change as necessary to best reflect the editions students have purchased.)

Unit One: The Lost Generation & Harlem

Week 1: August 19-23

M: No Class
W: Introductions
Literary Analysis Crash Course (LACC; Day One)
F: LACC (Day Two)
"A Jury of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell
Assign: Diagnostic Essay

Week 2: August 26-30

M: LACC (Day Three)
The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway (Ch I - VI)
Due: Diagnostic Essay
W: Peer Review (Revised Diagnostic)
Hemingway (VI - X)
F: No Class
Continue Reading Hemingway
Due: Revised Diagnostic
Assign: Short Literary Analysis #1

Week 3: September 2-6

M: No Class: Labor Day
Continue Reading Hemingway

- W: *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway (Fin)
Lecture: The Lost Generation
F: "The Evening Sun Go Down" by William Faulkner
Lecture: Modernism

Week 4: September 9-13

- M: "Blood-Burning Moon" by Jean Toomer
W: *Passing* by Nella Larsen (1-50)
Lecture: The Harlem Renaissance
F: Larsen (Fin)
Peer Review (Short Literary Analysis #1)

Unit Two: The War to the Long Nineties

Week 5 - September 16-20

- M: "Theft" by Katherine Anne Porter
Due: Short Literary Analysis #1
W: "That in Aleppo Once..." by Vladimir Nabokov
F: Lecture: Postmodernism
"Lost in the Funhouse" by John Barth (online)
Assign: Midterm Essay

Week 6: September 23-27

- M: *The Forever War* by Joe Haldeman (3-100)
Lecture: Science Fiction 101
W: Haldeman (101-150)
F: Haldeman (151-200)
Lecture: The Vietnam War

Week 7: September 30-October 4

- M: Haldeman (Fin)
W: "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien
F: Peer Review (Midterm Essay)
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" by Joyce Carol Oates

Week 8: October 7-11

- M: *Ragtime* by E.L. Doctorow (1-100)
Due: Midterm Essay
Assign: Short Literary Analysis #2
W: Doctorow (101-150)
F: Doctorow (151-200)

Week 9: October 14-18

M: Doctorow (Fin)
W: "Greenleaf" by Flannery O'Connor
F: *Golden Days* by Carolyn See (1 -50)

Unit Three: The Long Nineties and 9/11
Week 10: October 21-25

M: See (51-150)
W: See (Fin)
F: "The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World" by Susan-Lori Parks

Week 11 : October 28 - November 1

M: *The Year of the Dragon* by Frank Chin (Fin)
Lecture: Asian American Literature
W: *Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers* by Lois-Ann Yamanaka (1 -50)
Lecture: Hawaiian History
F: Yamanaka (51-100)

Week 12: November 4-8

M: Yamanaka (101-200)
W: Yamanaka (Fin)
F: No Class; Homecoming
Start reading *Falling Man* by Don DeLillo

Week 13: November 11-15

M: No Class; Veterans Day
Continue Reading DeLillo
W: Peer Review (Short Literary Analysis #2)
DeLillo (1-150)
F: DeLillo (151-200)
Lecture: 9/11
Due: Short Literary Analysis #2

Week 14: November 18-22

M: DeLillo (Fin)
W: *Flight* by Sherman Alexie (1-50)
F: Alexie (51-100)

Week 15: November 25-29

M: Alexie (Fin)
W: No Class; Thanksgiving

F: No Class; Thanksgiving

Week 16: December 2-6

M: Peer Review (Final Essay)
Exam Prep

W: Conferences; No Class

F: Final Exam (TBA)

Week 17: December 9-13

M: **Due: Final Essay**