

## AML 2070-3650—Survey of American Literature—Fall 2013 Matherly 107

Instructor: Rob Short  
Office: Rolfs 501

Email: [robshort@ufl.edu](mailto:robshort@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: M&W 3

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

As indicated by its title, the purpose of this class is to give you an overview of American literature. Since it is impossible to cover the entire history of American literature while still doing justice to individual texts in a single 16-week semester, the scope of the course will be limited to the period of around 1840 to the present. Readings will include poetry, short stories, and novels. Texts have been chosen both for their historical import as well as the interesting interpretive problems they present.

In addition to the readings, the class will also involve extensive writing instruction. Time will be spent during class periods covering different aspects of writing (both about literature and in general), and you will be expected to heavily revise and polish all major writing assignments prior to submission. To facilitate this, peer review sessions will be held in class, and I will set up times to meet with each of you to discuss your writing individually.

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

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx>.

This course can provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/gordon.aspx>.

### OBJECTIVES

The primary goals of this class will be to give you a working knowledge of the period of literary history under discussion as well as to aid in your development as a writer. Ideally, by the end of this course, you will have the tools necessary for writing about these (and other) texts in a knowledgeable, critical fashion. Additionally, student learning outcomes for this course are detailed in the Undergraduate Catalog:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggenerated.html#requirements>.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Bukowski, Henry Charles. *Ham on Rye*.

Miller, Henry. *Tropic of Cancer*.

Oates, Joyce Carol, ed. *The Oxford Book of American Short Stories*.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

### **5 x 500 word reading responses**

These will be posted on personal blogs that you will set up in the first week of class. The point here will be to give you a place to begin sketching out or working through ideas about the texts under discussion. These are informal and will be assessed based on completeness. A schedule of assigned due dates will be established during the first week of class. **10% of final grade**

### **2 x 1500 word take-home exams**

For these, you will respond to two or three prompts in short, 2-3 page critical essays. These will be graded on both the precision of your argument as well as the quality of your writing. Prompts will be handed out one week prior to the due date. Rough drafts will be due for peer reviews the class period before the final due date. **15% of final grade each**

### **1 x 3000 word critical research paper**

In this paper, due at the end of the semester, you will be expected to present a lengthy, sustained argument, supported by literary-critical research, on one or more of the texts read in class. Suggested topics will be provided, but you will also be free to craft your own. A working draft will be due one week prior to the final due date. **30% of final grade**

### **Oral Presentation**

Each student will be expected to lead one class discussion. Presentations should involve both your own thoughts on the day's reading, as well as questions designed to generate further discussion in class. **10% of final grade**

### **Participation and attendance**

Much of our time this semester will be devoted to discussing the texts we are reading in class. Active, engaged participation in these discussions is expected. **20% of final grade**

## **GRADING SCALE**

A = 93% = 4.0

A- = 90% = 3.67

B+ = 87% = 3.33

B = 83% = 3.0

B- = 80% = 2.67

C+ = 77% = 2.33

C = 73% = 2.0

C- = 70% = 1.67

D+ = 67% = 1.33

D = 63% = 1.0

D- = 60% = .67

E = >60% = 0.0

**NB:** You must pass this course with a “C” or better to satisfy the CLAS requirement for Composition (C) and to receive the 6,000-word University Writing Requirement credit (E6). You must turn in all papers totaling 6,000 words to receive credit for writing 6,000 words.

PLEASE NOTE: a grade of “C-” **will not** confer credit for the University Writing Requirement or the CLAS Composition (C) requirement.

**GRADE APPEALS:** Students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available in the English Department Offices. You will need to contact Carla Blount, Program Assistant to the Director of Writing Programs, for details if you wish to file an appeal.

### **GRADING RUBRIC**

A - Given to papers demonstrating original thought, careful reading, intelligent argumentation, and near-perfect mechanics.

B - Given to writing demonstrating strong analysis and solid argumentation, but which lack the level of polish and fine-tuning required for an A

C - Given to writing demonstrating a thorough engagement with the text, but which may lack focus, development, or fully-elaborated argumentation.

D - Given to writing demonstrating superficial engagement, poor organization, and weak argumentation.

E - Given to writing demonstrating a total lack of thought or planning.

### **GENERAL CLASSROOM POLICIES**

**Attendance is required. You are allowed three (3) absences. For every absence exceeding this, your final grade will drop by one letter. If you miss more than six (6) classes, you will automatically fail the course.** Exemptions from this policy will apply only for absences involving university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, and religious holidays. Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed.

Texting during class will not be tolerated. Anyone caught using their phone will be asked to leave and counted absent for the day.

**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.

**Tardiness:** Please do not come late to class; arriving late disrupts the entire class. If you enter class after roll has been called, you are late. Two instances of tardiness count as one absence. Tardiness will also lower your participation grade.

### **Plagiarism:**

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>

### **Classroom Behavior**

Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal and, accordingly, an absence.

UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

### **SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Week 1: 8/21 - 8/23

**W** Introduction / Syllabus Distribution  
**F** **Poe** "The Tell-Tale Heart"

Week 2: 8/26 - 8/30

**M** **Whitman** Selections from *Leaves of Grass*  
**W** **Clemens** "Cannibalism in the Cars"  
**F** **James** "The Middle Years"

Week 3: 9/2 - 9/6

**M** **Holiday** (Labor Day)  
**W** **Cather** "A Death in the Desert"  
**F** Writing Workshop - Developing Arguments

Week 4: 9/9-9/13

**M** **Hemingway** "Hills Like White Elephants"  
**W** Writing Workshop - Style and Revision  
**F** **Faulkner** "That Evening Sun"

Week 5: 9/16-9/20

**M** **Miller** *Tropic of Cancer*  
**W** **Miller** *Tropic of Cancer*  
**F** **Miller** *Tropic of Cancer*

Week 6: 9/23 - 9/27

**M** **Miller** *Tropic of Cancer*  
**W** **Miller** *Tropic of Cancer*  
**F** Writing Workshop - Introductions and Conclusions

Week 7: 9/30 - 10/4

**M Fitzgerald** "An Alcoholic Case"

**W PEER REVIEW OF FIRST EXAM**

**F Williams** "The Girl with the Pimple Face"  
**FIRST EXAM DUE**

Week 8: 10/7 - 10/11

**M Ellison** "Battle Royal"

**W O'Connor** "A Late Encounter with the Enemy"

**F Baldwin** "Sonny's Blues"

Week 9: 10/14 - 10/18

**M Updike** "The Persistence of Desire"

**W Roth** "Defender of the Faith"

**F Bukowski** *Ham on Rye*  
**MID-SEMESTER CONFERENCES**

Week 10: 10/21 - 10/25

**M Bukowski** *Ham on Rye*

**W Bukowski** *Ham on Rye*

**F Bukowski** *Ham on Rye*

Week 11: 10/28 - 11/1

**M Bukowski** *Ham on Rye*

**W Bukowski** *Ham on Rye*

**F Bukowski** *Ham on Rye*

Week 12: 11/4 - 11/8

**M Bukowski** *Ham on Rye*

**W PEER REVIEW OF SECOND EXAM**

**SECOND EXAM DUE**

**F Holiday** (Homecoming)

Week 13: 11/11 - 11/15

**M Holiday** (Homecoming)

**W Carver** "Are These Actual Miles?"

**F Barthelme** "The School"

Week 14: 11/18 - 11/22

**M** Oates "Heat"

**W** Proulx "The Mud Below"

**F** Proulx "The Mud Below"

Week 15: 11/25 - 11/29

**M** PEER REVIEW OF FINAL PAPER

**FINAL PAPER DRAFT DUE**

**W** Holiay (Thanksgiving)

**F** Holiday (Thanksgiving)

Week 16: 12/2 - 12/6

**M** Wallace "Good People"

**W** FINAL PAPER DUE