



ENGL 2625 : American Literature Since 1865

2021 Winter Session	
Total Class Sessions: 25	Instructor: Staff
Class Sessions Per Week: 6	Classroom: TBA
Total Weeks: 4	Office Hours: TBA
Class Session Length (Minutes): 145	Language: English
Credit Hours: 4	

Course Description:

America is a place where people of different races, different creeds, and different political beliefs, live, work, and govern together. This course introduces the literature of the United States from mid-nineteenth century to the present in chronological order. Through reading major works of American literature since 1865, we will explore American literary identity through an examination of literary trends, themes, and historical and political contexts, and how Americans have understood, supported, and challenged the diversity in their culture. Topics include the major literary philosophies of the time through writers such as Whitman, Jack London, Robert Frost, T.S. Eliot, Earnest Hemingway, Langston Hughes, Robert Lowell and Thomas Wolfe.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion students are expected to develop:

1. An awareness of the emergence and growth of a uniquely American literature
2. A familiarity with some of American literature's most significant writers and their works, including an understanding of those characteristics of their works that distinguish them as important contributions to American literature
3. A strong grasp of the relationship between the literary works we will read in this course and the historical periods from which they emerged
4. Skills for competently drafting informal and formal written observations about literature, including essays and blog entries
5. Strategies for actively reading and interpreting literature
6. An opportunity to share reactions and ask questions about literature through interactions with classmates and instructor.

Course Materials

Baym, Nina, et al. *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Package 2: Volumes C,D, E
Ninth edition.

Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*



Additional reading materials chosen by the class.

Course Format and Requirements:

Attendance:

Your attendance is mandatory. You will be required to sign in at the beginning of each class session. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade.

Class Participation:

As this is a literature course, the assigned readings are required. You are expected to attend all class meetings, complete all assignments, participate in class discussions, and conduct yourselves in a professional and mature manner at all times. Come to class having read the assigned readings, prepared to take active part in class discussions.

Tentative Course Schedule:

<p>Module 1: Class 1-6</p>	<p>Syllabus and introduction;</p> <p>American Literature from 1865 to 1914 “Introduction” (1-15) Whitman’s “America” (poem online) Walt Whitman “Song of Myself” (23) Reading quiz 1</p> <p>Booker T. Washington “From Up from Slavery” (701-716) W.E.B. Du Bois “Of Mr. Booker T. Washington...” (927-936) Jack London “To Build a Fire” (1113) Theodore Dreiser “Sister Carrie” (987) Upton Sinclair “The Jungle” (1150)</p>
	<p>American Literature between the Wars, 1914-1945 “Introduction” (3-21) Edwin Arlington Robinson (29-30) Sherwood Anderson “Adventure” (267) Robert Frost “Home Burial” (225) Reading Quiz 2 Formal Essay 1</p>



<p>Module 2: Class 7-19</p>	<p>Wallace Stevens “The Emperor of Ice Cream” (272), “The Anecdote of the Jar” (276), “Of Modern Poetry” (280), and “The Plain Sense of Things” (281), T.S. Eliot “In a Station of the Metro” (297)</p> <p>William Carlos Williams “Spring and All” (286), “The Red Wheelbarrow” (288), “The Young Housewife” (283), “The Dead Baby”(289), “This is Just to Say” (289), and “Landscape with the Fall of Icarus” (292)</p> <p>Reading Quiz 3</p> <p>T.S. Eliot “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (355), Willa Cather “The Sculptor’s Funeral” (168) Earnest Hemingway “Hills like White Elephants” (803) F. Scott Fitzgerald “Babylon Revisited” (646)</p> <p>Mid-Term Exam</p> <p>Thomas Wolfe “The Lost Boy” (808) John Steinbeck “The Chrysanthemums” (846) Edna St. Vincent Millay “[I, being born a woman]” (605) and “Apostrophe to Man” (606) e.e. cummings “next to of course god America I” (612) and “somewhere I have never travelled...” (613) Langston Hughes “Silhouette” (843), “Theme for English B” (844), “Madam and Her Madam” (841), and “Song for a Dark Girl” (838) Zora Neale Hurston “How It Feels to Be Colored Me” (533) Richard Wright “The Man Who Was Almost a Man” (958)</p> <p>Reading Quiz 4 Formal Essay 2</p>
<p>Module 3: Class 20-25</p>	<p>American Literature since 1945 “Introduction” (3-20) John Cheever “The Swimmer” (140) Elizabeth Bishop “The Fish” (56) Robert Lowell “Skunk Hour” (301) Randall Jarrell “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner” (160) Eudora Welty “Petrified Man” (45)</p> <p>Reading Quiz 5</p>



	Ralph Ellison “Battle Royal” (197) James Baldwin “Going to Meet the Man” (392) Gwendolyn Brooks “Kitchenette Building” (306), “the mother” (307), “We Real Cool” (309) Lucille Clifton “Homage to My Hips” (696) Alice Walker “Everyday Use” (913) Anne Sexton “The Truth the Dead Know” (550) Sylvia Plath “Daddy” (626) Sharon Olds “Adolescence” (859) Rita Dove “Adolescence I/II/II” (1081-1082) Sandra Cisneros “Woman Hollering Creek” (1101)
Final Exam: TBA(Non-cumulative)	

Course Assessment:

Reading Quizzes	20%
Formal Essays	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale (percentage):

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
98-	93-	90-	88-	83-	80-	78-	73-	70-	68-	63-	60-	<60
100	97	92	89	87	82	79	77	72	69	67	62	

Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Chengdu University of Technology’s *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean’s Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.



Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.